

Practice Greenhealth is leading change in the health care sector in more ways than one. In 2012, twelve health systems worked with Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and the Center for Health Design to launch the Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI). This three-year campaign served as a guide for hospitals to adopt environmental best practices such as reducing energy and waste, choosing safer and less toxic products, and purchasing and serving healthier food. More than 1,000 hospitals committed to this new health care model through this free program.

Due to the momentum and success of the Initiative, Healthier Hospitals (HH) continues beyond the HHI campaign as a free Practice Greenhealth program for both those just getting started in sustainability and for active members as a powerful use of aggregate data and market transformation.

The Healthier Hospitals program is a call to action for the entire industry. It is an invitation for health care organizations across the country to join the shift to a more sustainable business model, and a challenge for them to address the health and environmental impacts of their sector. By creating a collaborative setting which engages all stakeholder groups and gives each individual player the tools they need to succeed, HH has created a platform to help health care organizations get started and affect widespread, meaningful change—and measure their impact.

The success has been demonstrated. During the three-year campaign, more than 1,000 enrollees submitted data around the six challenges areas and confirmed the value of packaged goals and the accompanying data collection protocol, guidance documents and case studies.

“I believe there is nothing more important than the work to redefine human health to include a healthy environment. All of us must be advocates to help leaders in health care see the value of sustainable practices and to see environmental quality as preventive care.”

Lloyd Dean
President & CEO, Dignity Health

ORIGINAL FOUNDING SYSTEMS



THE HH Challenges

Six Challenges form the basis of the Healthier Hospitals program. Each Challenge consists of detailed metrics and an implementation plan that can be adapted by any hospital in the country. Through partnership with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the awards application process for Practice Greenhealth members, data is collected and reported on financial and environmental outcomes. Enrollees are required to sign on to a minimum of one Challenge but many are taking on all six!

CHALLENGE	CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES	MENU OF OPTIONS
 Engaged Leadership	Actively engage board, management, and physician leadership in the sustainability agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the case for a formal environmental stewardship program • Strengthening engagement
 Healthier Food	Promote healthfulness by increasing access to healthier, more sustainable food choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Meat, Better Meat • Increase procurement of local and sustainable food
 Leaner Energy	Reduce energy use to improve organizational performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with ENERGY STAR® for energy performance tracking and conservation
 Less Waste	Reduce overall waste and increase recycling rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather baseline data • Recycling • Red bag reduction • Construction and demolition debris recycling
 Safer Chemicals	Replace products that cause or exacerbate health problems with chemically safer alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury elimination • Green cleaning • DEHP and PVC reduction • Healthy Interiors
 Smarter Purchasing	Aggregate the purchasing power of the health care sector to accelerate innovation in the supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical kit reformulation • Greener electronics purchasing • Single-use device reprocessing

Practice Greenhealth

HH provides hospitals an accessible way to improve the health of patients, workers and communities, and yield savings that support the delivery of quality care. Once the value of environmental stewardship is recognized through this entry program, enrollees are urged to join Practice Greenhealth, for a deeper level of engagement, more extensive goals, awards and benchmarks and opportunities for increased engagement and collaboration. Practice Greenhealth offers additional goals and support around water, sugar-sweetened beverages, renewable energy, food waste, transportation and more. Participating hospitals realize the significant cost savings and the healthier outcomes for their patients, staff, hospitals and communities, and expand their successes as Practice Greenhealth members.

By leveraging the influence and visibility of the health care sector, positive changes will be timely and meaningful, and will reach far beyond the health care industry.

Enroll Now

By implementing proven environmental practices as standard processes and procedures, hospitals can improve patient outcomes and workplace safety, prevent illness, create environmental benefits and see significant costs savings. *Join us, and lead the change in your community.*

Learn more and enroll in the Healthier Hospitals Program at www.HealthierHospitals.org.