

Green hospitals: Making sustainability work

Hospitals have unique challenges as they strive to become more sustainable: 24/7 operations, high energy and water consumption and strict regulations regarding safety and infection control. While these challenges are tough, a variety of programs geared specifically toward hospitals can help.

ENERGY STAR® for Hospitals is a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that applies to general medical and surgical hospitals.

The ENERGY STAR score assesses the energy performance of a property relative to its peers using statistical analysis and the Portfolio Manager software. Analysis includes adjustments for the number of staffed beds, the size of operating rooms and the number of different types of equipment, among others. The energy use prediction for a building is compared to its actual energy use to yield a 1 to 100 percentile ranking of performance, relative to the national population.

Green Guide for Health Care is a project of the non-profit organizations Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) and Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems. The Green Guide is a voluntary, self-certifying metric toolkit to evaluate progress toward high-performance healing environments. The Green Guide borrowed the organizational structure from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system; its prerequisites and credits thus may apply to innovation credits in projects pursuing LEED certification.

Hospital Energy Alliance is now under the umbrella of the DOE's Better Buildings Alliance and is focused on improving energy efficiency by bringing leading hospitals and national associations together. Members of the Alliance's healthcare sector represent more than 500 million square-feet of hospital space and 28 percent of this sector. Members are connected with an experienced network of hospital energy experts.

LEED for Healthcare v4 is part of the latest version of LEED introduced in 2013. This includes a certification specifically designed for new construction in healthcare and focused on creating a healthier environment for patients and staff. In the category of Material and Resources, this includes the reduction of mercury and other harmful materials, like lead, in building materials.

Go green at your hospital. Contact your account manager, call 1-800-787-1706,
or email efficiency@nationalgrid.com.