



March 2009

# Maryland H2E News Round Up



## Surgical Green

Carol Ann Campbell, 2/23/09, Inside Jersey (excerpt)

Jersey hospitals are creating healthier environments, inside and out. Vegetative rooftop, solar panels, cogeneration units, giant sun-deflecting louvers, nontoxic paints. Could this be the latest headquarters for a high-tech start-up? Well, not exactly. There is one other item -- the biodegradable bed pan -- that tells you right away this is a "green" hospital.

New Jersey medical centers, some saddled with the country's oldest buildings, are making efforts big and small to be kinder to the environment. Hospital executives say measures to go green fit well with their mission to heal, and often make economic sense.

"The health of our patients and the health of our environment are both important to us," said Barry S. Rabner, president and CEO of Princeton HealthCare System, one of two new hospitals being built with technology that will make them among the greenest in the nation.

Rabner is overseeing creation of the new University Medical Center at Princeton, a \$442 million hospital in Plainsboro with all the latest environmentally conscious bells and whistles. For example:

- The building will face south to let natural light into hospital rooms. Sensors will reduce artificial light in each room based on how much natural light is present. A system of giant louvers will regulate how much sun comes into the building and reduce the amount of energy needed.
- Carbon dioxide sensors will adjust temperatures based on the number of people in a room.
- The hospital system will create a 32-acre park that will restore the shoreline of Millstone River, create a bike path and plant indigenous, low-maintenance shrubs. There will be no vast lawns in need of insecticide and fertilizer.
- The hospital will have a rainwater collection system and solar panels. No wonder other hospital executives with tight budgets and old buildings may be, well, green with envy.

For full article:

[http://www.nj.com/insidejersey/index.ssf/2009/02/surgical\\_green.html](http://www.nj.com/insidejersey/index.ssf/2009/02/surgical_green.html)

## MD H2E Presents:

### Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Thursday, March 19th, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Maryland Hospital Association, Elkridge, MD

Learn the answers to these questions:

- What is an EMS?
- How can an EMS help my hospital achieve better environmental/compliance results?
- What is the process for developing an EMS?
- Have other hospitals in Maryland developed an EMS?
- What resources does the Maryland Department of the Environment have that may be useful in this area?

**Laura Armstrong, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE):**

MDE has worked with over 45 manufacturers in the development of EMSs. Laura Armstrong will discuss the benefits and common pitfalls of EMS implementation as well as available resources.



**Angela Wood, GEMS Coordinator, Veterans Administration Hospitals – Baltimore and Perry Point:**

The VA requires all hospitals develop environmental management systems. In meeting this requirement, Angela has developed an EMS for the Baltimore and Perry Point sites and will present on developing an EMS as well as results that delineate the prioritized aspects and impacts of hospital operations.



**To register for the Free Event:** Send contact information to Joan Plisko, [plisko@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:plisko@son.umaryland.edu) or 410-706-2107.

Sponsored by:



<http://www.sageenergyconsulting.com/>

## Water Conservation: Common Targets for Waste (excerpts)

August 2008, By Thomas A. Westerkamp



<http://www.facilitiesnet.com/groundsmanagement/article/Water-Conservation-Common-Targets-for-Waste--9412>



As the demand and cost for water grows, maintenance managers are trying harder to eliminate water waste and incorporate technology that minimizes water use. This can involve large initial costs. So to secure financing for such projects, managers need to quantify the expected cost savings. The most common water-waste problems fall into three classes: behavioral, operational and equipment related. Behavioral problems occur because users are inattentive to waste. Operational problems occur because procedures themselves promote waste. And problems result from older, less efficient equipment that uses more water than newer, more efficient models.

- **Restrooms.** Many fixtures date back before 1992, when they consumed twice as much water as newer designs do today. They also might be worn out from normal cycling wear and tear and, as a result, tend not shut off as completely as they did when new. The associated piping also might have developed some less visible leaks hidden in wall panels.
- **Heating systems.** These systems include boilers that generate steam or hot water for heating. Some systems are once-through systems that connect to the sewer and discharge the used, chemically treated hot water or condensate as wastewater, which must be replaced as it is used.
- **Cooling systems.** These systems circulate heated water to cooling towers, where some of it must be replaced because it is lost through evaporation, spray into the atmosphere or leaks.
- **Landscaping.** Turf, plants, shrubs and trees require water, much of which is lost by evaporation or runoff without proper planning.
- **Operational procedures.** To the above water losses, add custodial activities that use water, including cleaning and sanitizing restrooms, cleaning floors, walls, vehicles, windows, walks, and other interior and exterior building surfaces.

## EPA Fines Med Center in IL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled with Gateway Regional Medical Center on hazardous chemical reporting violations at its Granite City, Ill., facility. Federal law requires that local authorities be notified of hazardous chemical storage. In the event of a fire or emergency, responders need to know what they are dealing with so they can take steps to protect people living or working in the area. Gateway Regional Medical Center paid \$12,900 and agreed to perform a supplemental environmental project costing \$38,899 to resolve an EPA complaint for **failure to submit to state and local authorities the required chemical inventory forms**. The facility exceeded the reporting threshold for fuel oil by 21 times. The fuel oil is used in backup power generation equipment. The environmental project will include purchasing and donating response equipment to the Madison County HAZMAT Team and the Granite City Fire Department. To view press release, go to:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/13B19BE9D13ACEC48525754400551563>

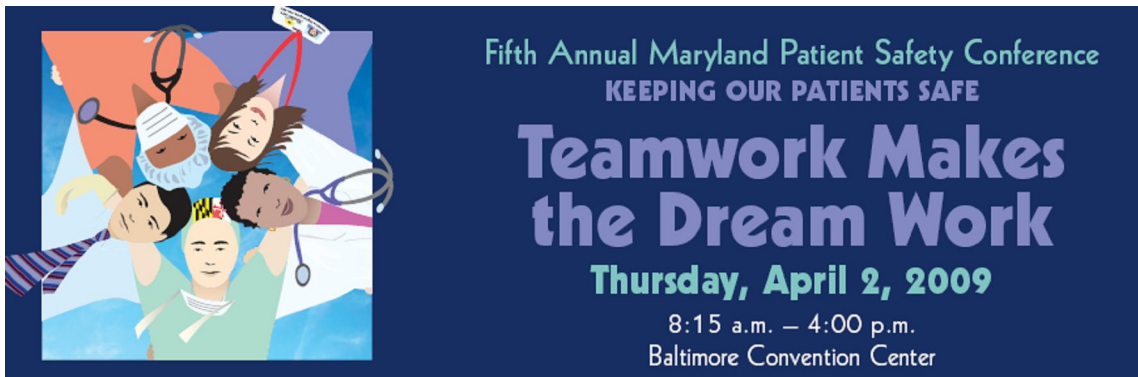
## Healthcare Energy Impact Calculator

Tools for Healthcare Providers

Programs of  PRACTICE Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth has launched a new web-based tool to calculate the public health impact and costs of electricity consumed by health facilities in the United States generated from non-renewable fossil fuel. The Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange Energy Impact Calculator (EIC) calculates sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and mercury emissions based on kilowatt (kWh) use by the facility and the fuel mix of the relevant power grid. Applying peer-reviewed data provided by Environmental Protection Agency and other experts, the EIC then estimates the health impact and costs of health incidents such as premature death, chronic bronchitis, asthma attacks, and hospital ER visits created by these emissions. **The Practice Greenhealth EIC is available free of charge on Practice Greenhealth's website:**

[www.practicegreenhealth.org/EIC](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/EIC)



## MD H2E Will Lead Panel at MD Patient Safety Conference

### Green Team Efforts: Promoting Health, Safety, and Sustainability

**Facilitator:**

**Joan D. Plisko**, PhD, Technical Director, Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

**Panel:**

**Victoria E. Stewart**, MBA, Director, Business Operations, Perioperative Services, University of Maryland Medical Center

**Denise Choiniere**, RN, BSN, Environmental Health Coordinator, University of Maryland Medical Center

**Colleen Cusick**, RN, Clinical Products Specialist, Materials Management Department, Johns Hopkins Health System

**Chris Seale**, BA, Director, Department of Environmental Services, Johns Hopkins Medical Institution

Recognizing that hospitals are a place for healing and that sustaining a healthy environment is essential to maintaining both personal and public health and safety, hospitals are now incorporating sustainable practices into their operating plans. Over 70% of Maryland hospitals are now working on issues related to environmental sustainability and one-third have a Green Team. During this session, representatives from The Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical Center will present information on their organization, priorities, and implementation of environmental programs as part of their Green Team effort. Particular emphasis will be on patient, worker, and community health and safety.

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.marylandpatientsafety.org/html/education/index.html>



## CleanMed: The Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care:

CleanMed 2009, Chicago, Illinois May 18-20, 2009 - Hyatt Regency Chicago. Go to: [www.cleanmed.org](http://www.cleanmed.org)



## Kaiser Permanente's Environmental Work in Congressional Testimony

Kathy Gerwig, Kaiser Permanente's VP for Workplace Safety and environmental stewardship officer, testified Feb. 26, 2009 before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, about Kaiser Permanente's efforts to curb the use of potentially toxic substances.

The committee is reviewing the Toxic Substances Control Act and is looking to organizations such as Kaiser Permanente for lessons learned regarding the environment, health and the impact of potentially toxic substances. The testimony was timely because environmental sustainability is a major focus of President Barack Obama's economic recovery and government reform efforts.

Kaiser Permanente has been working for years to curb its environmental impact and improve the health of the communities it serves by using safer chemicals, building greener hospitals, reducing waste and using less energy. The organization is also taking the initiative to "green" the health care industry by leveraging its purchasing power. For example, the organization has virtually eliminated mercury, a neurotoxin, from its operations, purging almost 1,400 pounds of mercury from its facilities over the last 10 years. In doing so, Kaiser Permanente helped create markets for alternative devices.

[Read Gerwig's full testimony:](http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090226/testimony_gerwig.pdf)  
[http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press\\_111/20090226/testimony\\_gerwig.pdf](http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090226/testimony_gerwig.pdf)

## Check Out OSHA Healthcare Advisor!

<http://blogs.hcpro.com/osha/>

If you are responsible for the health and safety of workers in a medical practice or other ambulatory healthcare settings, then this is your place. Here you can catch up on the latest OSHA standards or CDC guidelines, acquire employee training tips, monitor citations and fines, pose questions to experts in safety and infection control, participate a weekly poll, download OSHA tools and checklists, or weigh in on compliance issues specific to healthcare.



## Practice Green Health Webinars



**March 13, 1 pm (Eastern)**  
**Design and Construction Series: Healthcare Commissioning**

**March 20, 1 pm (Eastern)**  
**Greening Operations Series: Using ISO 14000 and Lean Six Sigma to Implement an Environmental Management Program**

**March 27, 1 pm (Eastern)**  
**Making Medicine Mercury Free FREE**

To Register for Webinars, go to:

[www.practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/)

Note: Access to Practice Greenhealth webinars is a fee-based service, and is one of many member benefits. You can learn more about the fees and benefits of membership by going to our website. See:

[www.practicegreenhealth.org/community/membership/](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/community/membership/)

## Who is Maryland H2E?

Maryland H2E is a technical assistance and networking initiative that promotes environmental sustainability in healthcare. Participants include hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other ancillary health care providers in MD.



Our staff now includes:

- ◆ Joan Plisko, PhD, Technical Director  
[plisko@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:plisko@son.umaryland.edu)
- ◆ Louise Mitchell, PT, Sustainable Foods Coordinator  
[lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu](mailto:lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu)
- ◆ Denise Choiniere, RN, Nursing Coordinator  
[dchoiniere@umm.edu](mailto:dchoiniere@umm.edu)
- ◆ Michaela Lindahl-Ackerman, MPH, Nursing Coordinator, [mlind006@umaryland.edu](mailto:mlind006@umaryland.edu)