



## Welcome New and Renewing Practice Greenhealth Facility Members!

You are part of a community of sharing – both providing and receiving information to help your organization improve its environmental performance. So now what?!

Practice Greenhealth will meet your facility wherever it falls on the greening spectrum. Whether leading the way, just getting started, or somewhere in between Practice Greenhealth is prepared to guide you, support you, listen to you and work together to figure out the right level of engagement that meets your expectations.

1. **Let us welcome your entire team!** – In order to get full access to the Practice Greenhealth website, webinars and various tools, Practice Greenhealth needs the contact information (including name, title, phone and email) of the sustainability lead and other team members for your site(s). Please email us this information so we can ensure all team members receive an official welcome with detailed information around membership access and benefits. Email your contacts to Andrea DeDominicis at [iamededo@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:iamededo@practicegreenhealth.org). The more the merrier! A Welcome Letter including instructions to create a username will be sent to each individual once they have been entered into our database.
2. **Educate** – One of our biggest challenges is to position sustainability in the strategic direction of the organization. We see it as the epicenter of quality, safety, community, wellness and mission! Leadership engagement is critical to its long-term success. This starts with arming your team with evidence around the connection between human health and the environment. *Here are links to helpful background resources and readings:*

[Practice Greenhealth's Sustainability Benchmark Report](#) – Based on data from Practice Greenhealth's Awards applications, Practice Greenhealth developed a sustainability report to give a snapshot of both qualitative and quantitative data around sustainability in health care. See where your facility falls on the greening spectrum and learn about trends in greening through reviewing this members-only document.

[Greenhealth eNews](#) – subscribe to Practice Greenhealth's free weekly e-newsletter, a digest of helpful and timely information about healthcare and the environment.

[Practice Greenhealth's archive of Greenhealth magazine](#)

[Business Case for Greening Health Care](#)

Sign up for Practice Greenhealth's List serve for connection to the community – both members and non at: <http://practicegreenhealth.org/tools/listserv/>.

[President's Cancer Panel Report](#)

## [Nurses Health - A Survey on Health and Chemical Exposure](#)

[Subscribe to "Environmental Health News"](#) a free email newsletter, published by Environmental Health Sciences, with updates of news around sustainability and health.

### **Other helpful sites:**

**Health Care without Harm** – [www.noharm.org](http://www.noharm.org)

**The Green Guide for Health Care** – [www.healthdesign.org](http://www.healthdesign.org).

**Health Care Design Magazine** – [www.healthcaredesignmagazine.com](http://www.healthcaredesignmagazine.com)

Janet Brown, Director of Sustainable Operations & Green Building for Practice Greenhealth is the Green Column Editor in 2011.

3. **Participate in Practice Greenhealth bi monthly “getting started”** webinar and peruse other webinar offerings: <http://practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/calendar>. Webinars require your facility’s Webinar ID #. If you are not sure what yours is, email Andrea at: [iamedo@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:iamedo@practicegreenhealth.org). Webinars are on a variety of topics, covering both construction and operations and share successes from membership facilities. All are archived for access after the fact. <http://practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/archive/>.

4. **Familiarize yourself with the Practice Greenhealth community:**

Full list of both facility and business **members** at:

<http://practicegreenhealth.org/community/members/>

**Regulatory compliance pages:** <http://practicegreenhealth.org/educate/regs/>

[Practice Greenhealth Resources on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing](#) Beth Eckl, Practice Greenhealth Director, Environmental Purchasing ([beckl@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:beckl@practicegreenhealth.org)) offers technical assistance and through consulting can develop specification language around products and services to help your facility meet its environmental goals

Check out our website’s [Tools and Education Pages](#) for our Energy Impact Calculator information (FREE) (to understand the health impacts of your facility’s energy procurement choices); Practice Greenhealth’s Greenhealth Tracker (FEE), our web-based waste tracking and management tracking tool; our member forum; our member toolbox for sample job descriptions, posters and environmental mission language examples and much more.

For Healthy Food in Health Care, please peruse the Health Care without Harm website at [www.noharm.org](http://www.noharm.org). We are happy to connect you with healthy food expertise to work closely with your organization. Get started by referring to the GGHC Food Credits at [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org).

5. **Initial Call with Practice Greenhealth** – the primary contact for your site or system will receive a call from Practice Greenhealth, to get to know each other, learn more about your program and strategize about going forward. This contact will lead your facility through the steps of facility engagement and connect you to others within the community. At that time, other experts will be identified around education, purchasing, healthy food and more.

6. **Develop or assess the sustainability infrastructure** and identify lead(s) on greening and committee members. Practice Greenhealth will support a Green Team Effectiveness assessment, meeting frequency, minutes formatting, reporting to other committees, to leadership, Board of Directors, Community, Staff and Patients. Check out the archived June 21 and July 28 webinars reviewing sustainability structure webinars from Kaiser, Cleveland Clinic, Bon Secours and Spectrum Health. <http://practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/archive/>. You will need your facility's webinar ID # to access this call.
7. **Baseline Assessment** – Qualitative and Quantitatively assess where your facility(ies) fall on the greening spectrum. Your facility can start out by filling out the Eco Check list from our Knowledge and Resources page <http://practicegreenhealth.org/educate/> or use the Partner for Change Award Application <http://practicegreenhealth.org/awards/> as an assessment tool. Keep in mind, though, that the award application is updated each year so make sure you get the latest version as it is released each November for due back in January. The award application is more thorough but helps to engage the diversity of the team and to gather baseline data around energy, water and waste, to name a few. This is being developed into a tool, as we realize its value as an assessment, tracking and documentation tool.
8. **Awards & Recognition** - Practice Greenhealth feels that awards are a very important part of our program. For example, if your facility has achieved mercury free status, the Making Medicine Mercury Free Award would be right for you. If your facility is part of a large system, you may consider the Systems for Change Award. There are also awards that give recognition for annual progress in a variety of areas and top honors through the Environmental Leadership Circle. Awards Season kicks off in December each year and applications are due back in the following January. Not sure which award is right for you? Read more about them on our awards pages - <http://practicegreenhealth.org/awards/> or contact Lin Hill, Practice Greenhealth Awards Program Manager and author of the annual Benchmark report at [lhill@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:lhill@practicegreenhealth.org).
9. **Education** is critical in creating or maintaining a culture of environmental excellence. Consider new employee and annual training, patient education, community events, lectures, Earth Day Activities and other ways to engage workers, patients and your community. Leads or Green Team members may benefit from Practice Greenhealth's Sustainability Training or through an onsite training for Green Team or leadership. To learn more, go to: [www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org) for a link from the main page or reach out to Cecilia DeLoach Lynn at [cdeLoach@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:cdeLoach@practicegreenhealth.org).  
  
Here are two examples of Green Web pages from Spectrum Health - [http://www.spectrum-health.org/body\\_tabs.cfm?id=1897](http://www.spectrum-health.org/body_tabs.cfm?id=1897) and Gundersen Lutheran - <http://www.gundluth.org/green/>. Catholic Health Care West shares their Sustainability Report on their website at: [http://www.chwhealth.org/Who\\_We\\_Are/Environment/index.htm](http://www.chwhealth.org/Who_We_Are/Environment/index.htm).
10. **Greening the OR** – Learn more about Practice Greenhealth's Greening the OR Program, to sign onto a sector's approach to tackling the largest departmental footprint in health care! <http://www.greeningtheor.org/>.
11. **Network** – Our annual conference offers educational, exhibiting and networking opportunities as well as the Environmental Excellence Awards Event. Learn more at [www.cleanmed.org](http://www.cleanmed.org).

12. **Ask for help!** Contact Practice Greenhealth for guidance, brainstorming, technical assistance or for connecting with other PGH community members.

<http://practicegreenhealth.org/about/staff>.

This should get you started! There are many ways that Practice Greenhealth can support your efforts. So let's get started and work together to create healing environments for both staff and patients.

Janet Brown  
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