



# Sustainable Procurement Directory

The sustainable procurement directory provides Practice Greenhealth members with guidance on over 120 products and services health care organizations can target for sustainable procurement. The directory identifies key environmental considerations for each product or service, where to obtain more information, and the rationale for purchasing sustainably. This resource supports anyone who purchases or makes decisions about purchasing in health care. Be sure to download the latest version. Please let us know of any questions or comments by emailing [procurement@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:procurement@practicegreenhealth.org).

## *Services*

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As part of the sustainable procurement directory, this section provides guidance on 15 services health care organizations can target for sustainable procurement.

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## Facilities

Service	Environmental ecolabel, standard, regulation	Environmental criteria	More information	Practice Greenhealth rationale	Practice Greenhealth goals/metrics
Batteries, recycling services	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a recycling service contract for batteries, and/or</li> <li>Utilize a manufacturer-run/ sponsored recycling program (when available), and/or</li> <li>Specify a “take-back” program where the suppliers take back and responsibly recycles and/or</li> <li>Purchase rechargeable batteries</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Practice Greenhealth battery recycling guides</a>  <a href="#">Call2Recycle</a>	Many types of batteries, if landfilled or incinerated, can have serious consequences on human health and the environment. Batteries contain toxic materials, such as cadmium, lead, and mercury.	n/a
Construction, remodeling, and demolition services	Achieve green building certification, such as <a href="#">LEED certification</a> , or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specify proper management of mercury-containing building materials and recycling of construction and demolition debris, and</li> <li>Integrate green/sustainable aspects into master specifications for all new buildings/renovations, or</li> <li>Require designers, builders, contractors to have experience in green building rating systems, such as LEED, or</li> <li>Specify building contractors follow LEED requirements and provide documentation</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Environmental considerations for construction, remodeling design services</a>	From the prevention of health care-associated infections to improving patient satisfaction to enhancing staff productivity and reducing injuries, the built environment has a critical role to play in supporting total health. Increasingly, the scientific literature is also drawing correlations between environmental attributes such as daylighting, access to outdoor space and indoor air quality to clinical metrics such as reduced medication errors, shorter length of stay and reducing patient and family stress.	n/a

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Construction and demolition recycling services	n/a	Specify proper management of mercury-containing building materials and recycling of construction and demolition debris	<a href="#">Less waste: How-to guide</a>  C&D recycling specifications <a href="#">example 1</a> , <a href="#">example 2</a>  <a href="#">Find a C&amp;D recycler</a>	Recycling construction and demolition debris reduces waste and associated waste costs and demonstrates responsible stewardship practices	<a href="#">Less waste goal: Recycle 80% of the construction and demolition debris</a>
Energy	n/a	<i>First choice:</i> Engage a retro-commissioning firm to optimize building performance	<a href="#">DOE - RCx and Cx</a>	Retro-commissioning is one of the most routine and sensible efficiency projects hospitals should do every five years. It helps the building(s) tune to recent codes, occupancy, and other changes. Typically, they yield an ROI less than two years.	n/a
Energy	n/a	<i>Second choice:</i> Renewable energy credits (RECs) that support renewable energy generation such as wind or solar.	<a href="#">EPA green power certificates</a>	This promotes investments in renewable energy, which then lowers the cost of future projects as generation increases.	n/a
Energy	n/a	<i>Third choice:</i> Install a combined heat and power cogeneration system	<a href="#">DOE combined heat and power (CHP) basics</a>	Combined heat and power is a capital piece of equipment that uses a variety of fuels to generate power in a small, efficiency footprint.	n/a
Energy	n/a	<i>Fourth choice:</i> Renewable energy infrastructure (onsite/offsite) such as solar, wind, geothermal, etc.	<a href="#">DOE renewable energy</a>	Renewable energy infrastructure can be a local solution with preferred engineers. Scale them to appropriate buildings/projects.	n/a

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Janitorial cleaning services	<p>Use certified <a href="#">Green Seal GS-42 commercial and institutional cleaning services</a>, or</p> <p>Require service contractors use Green Seal (<a href="#">GS-37</a>, <a href="#">GS-40</a>) certified products or UL ECOLOGO certified products (UL ECOLOGO <a href="#">2759</a> sustainability for hard surface cleaners, <a href="#">2795</a>, <a href="#">sustainability for carpet and upholstery care</a>)</p>	<p>Specify products meet the safer chemicals green cleaning goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select janitorial cleaners that are Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO certified</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Guidance to achieve the safer chemicals challenge for green cleaning</a></p> <p><a href="#">Green Seal certified products</a></p> <p><a href="#">UL ECOLOGO certified product</a></p>	<p>By switching to safe and effective alternatives, hospitals can create a healthier environment for patients, staff members, and communities. Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals can also lower disposal costs and limits liability.</p>	<p><a href="#">Safer chemicals green cleaning goal</a>: purchase 90% Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO certified cleaning products in the following categories- carpet, window, all-purpose, bathroom, and general floor care</p>
Landscaping	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green or living roof, and/or</li> <li>Green or living wall, and/or</li> <li>Healing garden, and/or</li> <li>Food-producing garden, and/or</li> <li>Flower garden</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Environmental consideration for roof products</a></p>	<p>Outdoor spaces provide areas of respite and restoration of biodiversity.</p>	n/a

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Laundry services	<a href="#">Green Seal GS-51</a> (laundry care products for industrial and institutional use), or <a href="#">UL ECOLOGO 2776</a> (liquid laundry detergent and fabric softeners)	(refer to standard/ecolabel)	Green Seal GS-51 <a href="#">certified products</a>  UL ECOLOGO 2776 <a href="#">certified products</a>	By switching to safe and effective alternatives, hospitals can create a healthier environment for patients, staff members, and communities.	n/a
Pest management service	n/a	Integrated pest management (IPM) service	<a href="#">Archived Practice Greenhealth webinar on integrated pest management (IPM)</a>  <a href="#">Ten-step guide to implementing integrated pest management program</a>  <a href="#">Purchasing guidance, integrated pest management</a>	Pest control chemicals can pose health risks to workers, patients and staff. Exposure can cause a wide range of symptoms and reactions in exposed individuals.	n/a
Water audit services	n/a	Use water auditing services for advice on strategic direction for water reduction.	<a href="#">Less water toolkit</a>	Service assesses water use, sets baseline water use, advises on strategic direction for water reduction. Provides baseline and planning information for water reduction opportunities	Less water goal to <a href="#">reduce water use intensity</a>

## Food

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Food waste audit	n/a	Consider auditing food waste (through a service or perform internally) to reduce food purchased and wasted.	<a href="#">Less food guide and toolkit</a>	A food waste audit will highlight ways to reduce food purchased and wasted	n/a
Food waste collection service	n/a	<p>Establish a service contract for food waste (i.e., compost, digestion or animal feeding).</p> <p>Establish MOU to donate leftover food to a local group.</p>	<a href="#">Less food guide and toolkit</a>	<p>According to Practice Greenhealth's Sustainability Benchmark Report, hospitals generate over 29 pounds of waste per staffed bed per day. About a third of health care's waste is comprised of food while statistics show many communities have populations that go hungry. Food degrading in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas, contributing to global climate change. Avoiding food to landfills is an important part of any health care waste management plan for all of these reasons</p>	n/a

Vending	<p>Sustainable: certified to the following third-party certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USDA organic or</li> <li>• Product specific certification depending on the product ingredients (refer to other food categories based on the product you're reviewing (i.e., meat, eggs, produce, etc.))</li> </ul>	<p>Buy local (farms, ranches, and production/ processing facilities located within a 250-mile radius of the facility)</p> <p>Note: For processed foods with multiple ingredients like breads, the product must have the majority of ingredients (&gt; 50% by weight) produced within the 250-mile radius.</p>	<p><a href="#">Environmental considerations for processed food</a></p>	<p>Ingredients may have been produced with synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics, or added hormones. Products may contain artificial food dyes or flavorings. Some of these additives raise health concerns.</p>	<p><a href="#">Healthier food challenge</a> may apply:</p> <p>Less meat, better meat: Part A: reduce by 10% per year or achieve the ultimate goal of an average 1.5 oz. per meal served. Part B: Increase by 5% per year or achieve the ultimate goal of 20% of meat and poultry purchases are raised without the routine use of antibiotics</p> <p>Local food and beverage: Goal 1, increase the percentage of local food purchases by 5% annually, or Goal 2, achieve the ultimate goal of 20% of the total.</p> <p>Sustainable food and beverage: Goal 1, increase the percentage of sustainable food purchases by 5% annually, or Goal 2, achieve the ultimate goal of 20% of the total.</p>
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## Medical

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Medical equipment disposal	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If using a donation service, incorporate Catholic Health Association's guidance on evaluating Medical Recovery Surplus Organizations (MSROs); or</li> <li>• Refurbish equipment; or</li> <li>• Resell for reuse</li> </ul>	<p>To responsibly redistribute supplies, utilize key questions to ask of an MSRO as suggested by the Catholic Health Association's <a href="#">"medical surplus recovery guidance"</a></p> <p><a href="#">Practe Greenhealth Purchasing Guidance for Asset Management</a></p>	<p>Surplus equipment and supplies can be donated with the assurance that the materials can be used properly to serve those in need. Following CHA's leading practices will increase responsible redistribution of materials and supplies and not result in sending unneeded or unusable items.</p>	n/a
Reprocessed single-use medical devices (SUDs)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase reprocessed devices, or</li> <li>• Specify products meet the smarter purchasing single-use device reprocessing goal: collect and purchase 20% reprocessed non-invasive devices compared to the total</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Medical device reprocessing: implementation module</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smarter purchasing single-use device goal: how to guide</a></p>	<p>Reprocessing single-use devices minimizes waste and associated waste costs (costs 6-10 times to dispose of as regulated medical waste) and effectively enables product reuse to reduce the demand for raw materials and the energy needed to manufacture and extract new materials. Reprocessed medical devices cost considerably less than original equipment manufacturers (OEM) devices. The reprocessing industry has safely reprocessed over 50 million devices and prevented over 10,000 tons of medical waste from entering landfills between 1997 and 2007.[2] Reprocessing is now common practice, with all of US News and World Report's "Honor Roll" hospitals choosing to reprocess single-use devices.</p>	<p><a href="#">Smarter purchasing single-use device reprocessing goal</a>: Collect and purchase 20% reprocessed non-invasive devices compared to the total</p>



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Reprocessing services	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and reprocess medical devices (invasive and non-invasive); and</li> <li>Purchase reprocessed devices, or</li> <li>Specify products meet the Smarter Purchasing Single-use device reprocessing goal: collect and purchase 20% reprocessed non-invasive devices compared to the total</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Medical device reprocessing: implementation module</a>  <a href="#">Smarter purchasing single-use device goal: how-to guide</a>	Reprocessing single-use devices minimize waste and associated waste costs (costs 6-10 times to dispose of as regulated medical waste) and effectively enables product reuse to reduce the demand for raw materials and the energy needed to manufacture and extract new materials. Reprocessed medical devices cost considerably less than original equipment manufacturers (OEM) devices. The reprocessing industry has safely reprocessed over 50 million devices and prevented over 10,000 tons of medical waste from entering landfills between 1997 and 2007.[2] Reprocessing is now common practice, with all of US News and World Report’s “Honor Roll” hospitals choosing to reprocess single-use devices.	<a href="#">Smarter purchasing single-use device reprocessing goal</a> : collect and purchase 20% reprocessed non-invasive devices compared to the total.
Sharps container services	n/a	Specify reusable sharps containers	<a href="#">Purchasing guidance for sharps containers, reusable</a>	Reduce sharps container waste and waste costs. Cost savings opportunity	n/a