


# Healthier Hospitals Announces Final Updates

As Practice Greenhealth members are likely aware, the Healthier Hospitals Initiative was a powerful movement to join together over specific environmental improvement activities and gather the aggregate data. As the new Healthier Hospitals becomes a permanent program of Practice Greenhealth, complete with a new logo, each challenge area has been evaluated, refreshed and rolled out over the past six months, culminating with Engaged Leadership, which released in January 2016.

Across the board, challenge baselines were also removed as analysis revealed that these were often skipped. Many of the challenges now have the baseline incorporated into the levels or pulled out as a separate level (such as mercury elimination in the Safer Chemicals challenge).

In addition to these updates for Healthier Hospitals, Practice Greenhealth will develop additional goals using a similar format as an exclusive membership benefit. Members will also receive support in achieving either or both goals—and if you are submitting applications for Practice Greenhealth’s Environmental Excellence Awards, that data can be used to participate in Healthier Hospitals.

The work of Healthier Hospitals is far from over. The program will remain a free space for new hospitals to become involved in sustainability work and for Practice Greenhealth members to organize their work and continue their contributions to the aggregate data set to support market transformation. 



A PRACTICE GREENHEALTH PROGRAM

Challenge	Updates
Leaner Energy	This challenge remained the same. Hospitals still participate by benchmarking and sharing data through ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 3 percent energy reduction.</li> <li>■ 5 percent energy reduction.</li> <li>■ 10 percent energy reduction (or 75 ENERGY STAR-rated facility).</li> </ul>
Smarter Purchasing	There were only small updates made to this challenge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Review and reformulate at least 80 percent of total OR kits.</li> <li>■ Collect and purchase 20 percent of reprocessed pulse oximeters and compression therapy devices compared to total.</li> <li>■ Specify, purchase and report expenditures on greener electronics with a goal of 80 percent registered as EPEAT.</li> </ul>
Healthier Food	This challenge had more significant updates, including moving Healthy Beverages over to the Practice Greenhealth award application: <p><i>Less Meat, Better Meat:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce meat by 10 percent per year or achieve ultimate goal of an average 1.5 ounces (.09375 pounds) per meal served.</li> <li>■ Increase by 5 percent per year or achieve ultimate goal of 20 percent of meat and poultry purchases raised without the routine use of antibiotics.</li> </ul> <p><i>Local and Sustainable Food:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Increase the percentage of local food purchases by 5 percent annually or achieve ultimate goal of 20 percent of total.</li> <li>■ Increase the percentage of sustainable food purchases by 5 percent annually or achieve ultimate goal of 20 percent of total.</li> </ul>
Less Waste	This challenge area had only very small updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce regulated medical waste to either less than 10 percent of total waste or less than 8 tons per operating room per year.</li> <li>■ Achieve a 15 percent recycling rate compared to total waste.</li> <li>■ Implement a construction and demolition debris recycling program for major renovations and new construction to achieve at least an 80 percent recycling or diversion rate.</li> </ul>
Safer Chemicals	This area had moderate updates to expand upon the existing levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Achieve mercury-free status or develop and implement mercury elimination plan.</li> <li>■ Inventory cleaning products and purchase 90 percent Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO-certified cleaning products in the following categories: carpet, window, all-purpose, bathroom, laundry and general floor care.</li> <li>■ Eliminate DEHP and PVC from at least two product categories.</li> <li>■ Ensure that 30 percent of furniture and furnishing purchases eliminate the intentional use of all flame retardants, formaldehyde, perfluorinated compounds, antimicrobials (triclosan, triclocarban and nanometals) and PVC (also known as vinyl).</li> </ul>
Engaged Leadership	Based on feedback from hospitals, we have made significant updates to this challenge structure: <p><i>Level 1: Making the Case for a Formal Environmental Stewardship Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Identify internal champions.</li> <li>■ Identify current stewardship successes.</li> <li>■ Develop sustainability program proposal for leadership.</li> </ul> <p><i>Level 2: Infrastructure for Environmental Stewardship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Implement 3 of the 5 sustainability infrastructure activities.</li> </ul>