

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) (now a part of Practice Greenhealth)

Program Overview: Hospitals for a Health Environment (H2E) began a national movement for environmental sustainability in health care. H2E was based on the vision of a healthy health care system—a system that embraces safer building products, clean air, energy and water efficiency, safe working practices, and a commitment to public health demonstrated through waste volume and toxicity reduction. The program became a part of Practice Greenhealth, “the nation’s leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. Members include hospitals, healthcare systems, businesses and other stakeholders engaged in the greening of healthcare to improve the health of patients, staff and the environment.”

Through a U.S. EPA grant in 2004, H2E was able to develop a comprehensive pharmaceutical waste management blueprint. The manual, published in April 2006, and updated in 2008, addresses the regulations related to pharmaceutical disposal, best management practices for non-regulated pharmaceutical waste, ways to minimize pharmaceutical waste, current disposal practices, as well as the next steps on how to launch a national program.

Key Motivation: H2E began its efforts regarding the reduction of pharmaceutical waste to increase the health of patients, workers, their communities, and the global environment.

Organizing Body: H2E was jointly founded by the American Hospital Association, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Health Care Without Harm, and the American Nurses Association.

Partners: Practice Greenhealth collaborates with multiple health care facilities throughout the United States. Education programs are now available through the Teleosis Institute at: www.teleosis.org

Level of Implementation: Practice Greenhealth is a nationally-coordinated membership program which seeks to provide education, tools, and information about best environmental practices to health care professionals in multiple states to improve operational efficiency, increase compliance, and improve the health of their communities.

Outcome: H2E published “Managing Pharmaceutical Waste: A 10-Step Blueprint for Health Care Facilities in the United States” in April, 2006 and the document was updated in August 2008. This manuscript, which is available to the public via the internet at http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/page_attachments/0000/0102/PharmWasteBlueprint.pdf can be used as a resource nationwide. Backed by the U.S. EPA, this document provides a credible guide that is applicable to any health care facility.

Contacts: **Practice Greenhealth**
1901 North Moore Street, Suite 509
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: 888-688-3332
info@practicegreenhealth.org