

SUSTAINABLE MEDICAL FACILITIES GUIDE

ABOUT

Medical facilities account for more than 8 percent of the total energy consumption in buildings across the U.S. and are estimated to generate more than 5 million tons of solid waste each year. This guide helps medical offices and hospitals evaluate their practices and take practical actions to increase their sustainability.



X-RAY FILM PROCESSORS

- Switch to **digital imaging** to eliminate the need for chemicals, films and water.
- Retrofit existing x-ray processors with **automatic shut off valves** and a rinse effluent recycling system.
- **Install flow regulators** to limit the rinse water flow rate.

For more resources on X-Ray Compliance, visit www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/brh/index.htm

Visit practicegreenhealth.org/topics/greening-operating-room/greening-or to learn more about sustainability in operating rooms.

STERILIZERS

- Switch to **steam sterilization** to reduce chemical use.
- Upgrade to sterilizers with **water recirculation** and automatic shut off features.
- Run sterilizers with **full loads only**.
- Install jacket and chamber condensate retrofit kits on older sterilizers to **reduce water use**.

WASTE

- Install **recycling bins** in offices and waiting rooms.
- **Go paperless**. Use electronic medical record systems and digital X-rays.
- Use **cloth lab coats and exam gowns**.
- Invest in **rechargeable batteries** for medical devices.

Visit recycle.nj.gov to learn about recycling requirements.

WATER

- Install **amalgam and fluoride separators** on dental office water disposal systems.
- Upgrade to **WATER SENSE®** products.
- Utilize **drought resistant landscaping** or smart-controllers for irrigation systems.

Visit www.epa.gov/water-sense to learn more about water conservation.

ENERGY

- Upgrade to **LED lighting**.
- Track **monthly energy use**.
- **Turn off equipment** when not in use, including medical equipment, computers and lights.
- When replacing equipment, look for **ENERGY STAR® ratings**.

Visit www.njcleanenergy.com to learn more about financial incentives.

CHEMICALS

- **Avoid plastics** or other products that contain PVC and BPA.
- Avoid purchasing equipment and furniture that contain **halogenated and brominated flame retardants**.
- Eliminate the use of **mercury containing equipment**.
- Switch to **non-medicated hand soap**.

To learn more, visit

practicegreenhealth.org/topics/safer-chemicals.

PURCHASING

- Adopt a **green purchasing policy**.
- **Buy recycled-content** and low-toxicity products.
- Choose products with a **minimum amount of packaging** and buy in bulk.
- Select products that are certified to meet reputable **third party standards**.

For more resources, visit

www.epa.gov/greenerproducts.

CLEANING

- Convert to green cleaning products certified by **Safer Choice, GreenSeal, UL EcoLogo or GreenGuard**.
- Select cleaning equipment that is **energy efficient** and uses less water and chemicals.
- Look for products that can be used in cold water to **conserve energy**.

To learn more, visit

www.epa.gov/saferchoice.

LEADERSHIP

- Adopt a company sustainability **policy statement**.
- Set annual environmental **goals** and advertise **results**.
- Create a green team to **engage employees** on how to conserve & use resources more efficiently.

Join the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry. Visit registry.njsbdc.com.

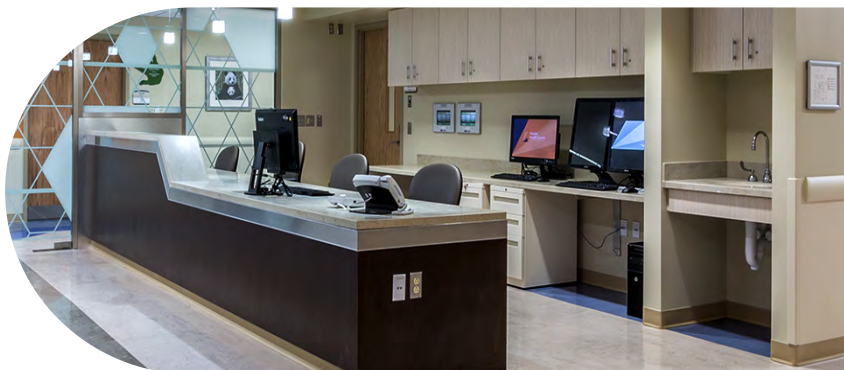
CASE STUDY



Atlantic Health System (AHS) Atlantic Health System (AHS) is dedicated to building healthier communities through its Trusted Network of Caring®. AHS is designated as a New Jersey Sustainable Business due to its sustainability programs focused on:

- **energy efficiency**
- **recycling**
- **safer chemicals**

At Atlantic Medical Group (AMG), many small medical practices have chosen to transition to non-medicated hand soap without triclosan. As remaining AMG facilities deplete their existing hand soap inventory, they will transition to purchasing non-medicated hand soap too, proving even small steps can make a big impact. [Learn More!](#)



RESOURCES

Practice Green Health
practicegreenhealth.org

NJ Sustainable Business Registry
registry.njsbdc.com

Sustainability Roadmap for Hospitals
aha.org/sustainability

Healthier Hospital Initiative
healthierhospitals.org

