



Transforming
Healthcare
Together®

GreenHealthy®
Environmental Leadership for Healthcare

PREMIER

Committed to protecting the environment and maintaining a safe and healthy climate for our patients, workers and communities.

Serving 2,300 U.S. hospitals and 66,000-plus other healthcare sites, the Premier healthcare alliance is working to transform healthcare.

The Premier Safety Institute® (www.premierinc.com/safety) provides resources and tools to promote a healthy, safe and sustainable healthcare delivery environment for patients, workers and their communities.

Premier continues to lead the industry, being named a “Champion for Change” award recipient by Practice Greenhealth eight years in a row – firmly establishing Premier and its members as leaders in healthcare and setting the bar in the industry for commitment to environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) and healthcare practices.

Premier’s award-winning environmental leadership platform – GreenHealthy® – includes our **EPP** (Environmentally Preferable Purchasing) program; our internal corporate-wide **Yes to Green** program; and **SPHERE™**, a collaborative climate and energy initiative to reduce the healthcare industry’s carbon footprint.

SPHERE™

Securing Proven Healthcare Energy Reduction (for the Ecosystem builds on Premier’s commitment to a healthy environment, focusing on reducing industry energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Healthcare ranks as the country’s second most energy intensive industry, spending more than \$8 billion each year while experiencing double-digit cost increases. Volatile energy prices are squeezing operating margins and diverting money needed for critical healthcare quality and safety improvements. Hospitals are the sector’s largest energy consumer and producer of greenhouse gases (GHG). The industry’s reliance on conventional, non-renewable energy sources contributes disproportionately to the emission of GHG, driving climate change and impacting public health from air pollution.

The SPHERE program’s primary goals are to help Premier alliance members reach measurable targets to:

- ▶ Reduce energy cost;
- ▶ Reduce overall energy usage, GHG emissions, and public health impact; and
- ▶ Increase use of cleaner, renewable energy.



SPHERE™ is led by the Premier Safety Institute in partnership with group purchasing services. The SPHERE program incorporates input and guidance from alliance members, industry experts, Premier contracted suppliers with energy-related solutions, and collaborative and strategic partner organizations that share common goals to bring best practices, solutions and programs to members.

As part of SPHERE, Premier collaborates with **Practice Greenhealth** and its Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange (HCEE) to offer the opportunity to participate in reverse auction for energy procurement to help healthcare organizations reduce the cost of energy, lock in more stable pricing and increase their percentage of green/renewable energy purchases. Since 2008, successful reverse auctions produced an estimated combined savings of nearly \$10 million and avoided more than 10,500 tons of CO2 emissions.

The SPHERE program also includes the Energy Leadership Forum - a series of programs and teleconferences designed to educate healthcare leadership on all levels about the need to provide support for energy conservation and renewable energy solutions. Topics include:

- ▶ Improving operation margins and revenues
- ▶ The business case
- ▶ Cost-effective solutions
- ▶ Financing, funding options
- ▶ Reverse auctions for low cost and green energy
- ▶ Benchmarking, recognition, and awards

Resources for Premier's energy initiative are available on its publicly accessible energy Web site – www.premierinc.com/sphere with best practices, tools, programs, management plans and energy efficient products, equipment and designs from Premier contracted suppliers.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

Partnerships – Premier Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program is a partnership between the Premier Safety Institute and Premier's group purchasing program to identify environmentally friendly products, packaging and services. In collaboration with our contracted suppliers and group purchasing contracting teams and committees, Premier helps to ensure the availability of those products and services for our members.

Product characteristics – EPP encompasses products and packaging that are less toxic, prevent pollution, are more energy efficient, and are safer and healthier for patients, workers and the environment when compared to competing products and services. These include products that can be recycled or are biodegradable, contain less toxic and less hazardous chemicals and additives, do not contain mercury, promote good indoor air quality, can be reused or recycled to minimize waste, and reduce risks for patients, workers and the community.

EPP Guidelines – Premier incorporates EPP guidelines in its group purchasing contract portfolio and collaborates with companies seeking to provide EPP products. Premier gives special consideration to suppliers that support environmentally friendly products and packaging, and works actively to identify companies that can provide EPP solutions. Premier also has incorporated environmental criteria in its contract sourcing process, including all requests for proposal and requests for information.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Supplier review

Premier collects and reviews our suppliers' corporate environmental programs, and also reviews the environmental friendliness of their products and packaging as part of the sourcing process. Information on Premier's EPP program is available on our supplier Web site. A checklist of EPP considerations is also available on the Premier Safety Institute's® public Web site for any company interested in conducting a self-assessment.

Mercury-free pledge

Premier has pledged to eliminate mercury-containing products from its group purchasing contract portfolio and provides a list of contracted products that do not contain mercury.

Product information

Premier provides lists of suppliers and contracted products that are environmentally preferable on its Safety Institute Web site at www.premierinc.com/saferproducts and in the electronic Supply Chain Advisor member catalog. Premier also offers a latex-free product list with 16,000 items. In addition, Premier has standardized the nomenclature of key environmental attributes to enhance search capability in Supply Chain Advisor for specific products that are latex-free, PVC-free, DEHP-free and mercury-free.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

The Premier Safety Institute Web site offers a wide array of resources for environmentally preferable purchasing and green healthcare practices, including:

- ▶ Comprehensive articles on green and safety topics, A to Z.
- ▶ CEO self-assessment tool – for CEOs to rate their organizations' pollution prevention, purchasing and waste management/reduction programs.

- ▶ Green Corner® Web site featuring more than 90 case studies from members and suppliers on green purchasing, products and healthcare practices.
- ▶ E-newsletters – Premier provides two free periodic e-newsletters:
 - ▶▶ **GreenLink®**, with news about green purchasing and healthcare practices; and
 - ▶▶ **Safety Share®**, with news about patient, worker and environmental safety with 55,000 combined subscribers.
- ▶ SPHERE Web site featuring educational resources, tools to measure and benchmark energy utilization, case studies, energy management plans and energy efficient products, equipment and designs from Premier contracted suppliers.

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

- ▶ Premier provides testimony and communications with federal agencies and Congress on key issues, such as the need for DEHP labeling of products, advocating a science-based approach for federal guidance on reuse of single-use devices, and more oversight of industrial chemicals with increased disclosure and promotion of safer alternatives.
- ▶ Premier has established partnerships with the CDC/NIOSH, AHA, Health Care Without Harm, and Practice Greenhealth (the successor organization to Hospitals for a Healthy Environment and Green Guide for Health Care), and other organizations that share our concern for a safer healthcare environment.
- ▶ Premier led the industry as one of the first organizations to use the Green Electronics Council's newly established Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) as part of its evaluation criteria in awarding new computers and electronics contracts.





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- ▶ Premier offers a comprehensive series of ongoing education programs, including various educational tracks at our annual Breakthroughs Conference, Governance Conference, and our Advisor Live series. Free CDs, MP3 recordings, slides and resources from these programs are available in Premier's Safety Store.



IMPLEMENTING GREEN PRACTICES ACROSS PREMIER

Corporate initiative

Premier's Yes to Green initiative supports and promotes environmentally preferable and green practices in purchasing, operations and maintenance throughout the Premier organization. Green and environmentally preferable considerations guide the acquisition, use, maintenance, reuse, recycling and disposal of all products and services throughout Premier corporate offices and business operations. Led by our internal "Green Team," Premier is committed to reducing the amount of waste from its own offices and currently has a recycling program for paper, plastic, bottles, cans, fax toner, ink/printer cartridges, office supplies and electronics. With electronics recycling as an ongoing process, Premier has thus far recycled 10 tons of IT equipment and is a member of the e-Stewards® Enterprises, committed to using electronics recyclers that meet the world's highest standards for responsible recycling.

Our green practices extend beyond our corporate offices to Conference Services and individual employees. When scheduling external meetings and conferences, we pursue contracts with hotels with green offerings, such as recycling, water and energy conservation or other green initiatives. Our employee led green team provides staff education, special parking for fuel-efficient cars and car pooling, and maintains an internal 'Yes to Green' Web site.

Yes to Green employee pledge

Premier launched an employee "Yes to Green" pledge program asking employees to make a personal commitment to reduce their carbon footprint, including use of reusable shopping bags, turning off water while brushing teeth, replacing 4 light bulbs with CFL bulbs and planting or caring for one tree. If **all** employees take the pledge, we will eliminate about 1,190 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; keep 176,000 plastic bags out of our landfills and save nearly 1.2 million gallons of water. To date, more than 950 employees, representing 85% of Premier's staff, have taken the pledge.