



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 more than 2,100 U.S. hospitals and 53,000-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 seven 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. This award is given by Practice Greenhealth, formerly Hospitals for a Healthy Environment.

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 (GHG) emissions.

Healthcare ranks as the country’s second most energy intensive industry, spending more than \$6.5 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 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 in leading the first large-scale healthcare reverse auction for energy. The healthcare focused, Web-based reverse auction establishes competition among energy suppliers to reduce prices of energy and environmental commodities (e.g., renewable energy certificates and carbon offsets), enabling hospitals to lock in more stable pricing and increase their percentage of green/renewable energy purchases. During 2008, nine successful reverse auctions for eight facilities produced an estimated combined savings of more than \$2.4 million and avoided 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

Premier has launched a publicly accessible energy Web site – www.premierinc.com/sphere to share 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 Premier'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.
- ▶ GreenCorner™ 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
 - » **SafetyShare™**, with news about patient, worker and environmental safety with 45,000 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 and advocating a science-based approach for federal guidance on reuse of single-use devices.
- ▶ Premier has established partnerships with the CDC/NIOSH, AHA, the Global Health & Safety Initiative, Health Care Without Harm, and Practice Greenhealth (the successor organization to Hospitals for a Healthy Environment and Green Guide for Health Care).





• 12255 El Camino Real
Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92130

• T 858 481 2727
F 858 481 8919

• 2320 Cascade Pointe Blvd (28208)
P.O. Box 668800
Charlotte, NC 28266-8800

• T 704 357 0022
F 704 357 6611

• 3600 Market Street
7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

• T 215 387 9401
F 215 387 9406

• 444 N Capitol Street NW
Suite 625
Washington, DC 20001-1511

• T 202 393 0860
F 202 393 6499

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- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Premier offers a comprehensive series of ongoing education programs, including various educational tracks at our annual Breakthroughs Conference, Governance Conference, and our Advisor LiveSM 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 five tons of IT equipment.

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 in 2009, including use of reusable shopping bags, turning off water while brushing teeth, replacing four 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. As of March 2009, more than 950 employees, representing 85% of Premier's staff, have taken the pledge.