



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 2,000 U.S. hospitals and 50,000 other healthcare sites, the Premier healthcare alliance is working to transform healthcare.

Premier's 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 six 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) will build 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 \$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 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.

Through advice and guidance from an advisory panel of industry experts and alliance members, SPHERE will establish measurable energy-related metrics, targets and timelines.

Through collaboration in SPHERE, members of the Premier alliance will demonstrate their leadership through cost-effective, environmentally sensitive energy procurement and use, and energy efficient equipment and operating practices. The program will also bring hospitals together to share best practices and benchmark their energy use to positively impact climate change and public health.

The SPHERE program will drive collaboration between Premier alliance members, other national initiatives and organizations that share common goals to bring best practices, solutions and programs to its members.

As part of SPHERE, Premier will collaborate with **Practice Greenhealth** and HCEE to lead the first large-scale healthcare reverse auction for energy. The healthcare focused, Web-based electronic energy 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.

Premier has launched a publicly accessible energy Web site – www.premierinc.com/safety. It describes SPHERE's goals and strategies and will become a source for sharing best practices, tools, programs, management plans and energy efficient products, equipment and designs.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

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. 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. 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.

Mercury-free pharmaceuticals

Premier has developed a publicly available, comprehensive list of all mercury-containing pharmaceuticals (by NDC number) that are still in use, for purposes of handling and disposal.

Product information

Premier provides lists of suppliers and contracted products that are environmentally preferable on its Safety Institute Web site 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 60 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 45,000 combined subscribers.

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).
- ▶ 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 (such as paper folders and three-ring binders) and electronics. With electronics recycling as an ongoing process, Premier has thus far recycled 5 tons of IT equipment.

Our green practices extend to our Conference Services as we pursue contracts with hotels with green offerings, such as multiple recycling options; water and energy conservation; and other green initiatives.