

SAMPLE HIGH-IMPACT PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Practice Greenhealth and Health Care Without Harm have identified high-impact procurement opportunities based on input from a wide range of health care organizations. “High-impact” means the category can play a significant role in the health and safety of patients, staff, and the environment. The list is not in priority order, it is sorted by the primary topic: Climate Change, Safer Chemicals, Resource Conservation and Food.

Make significant strides toward integrating industry-leading sustainable procurement practices that will save your facility money, maximize the efficiency of your operations, and distinguish your organization as a leader in the field.

Learn more: practicegreenhealth.org/sustainableprocurementguide

#	PROCUREMENT CATEGORY	SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES	SUSTAINABILITY GOALS, MEASURES (WHEN APPLICABLE), RESOURCES
CLIMATE CHANGE: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION: REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS BY 45% BY 2030; CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050			
1	Renewable energy	Renewable electricity	100% renewable electricity by 2030. Greenhouse gas reduction toolkit
2	Air conditioning and cooling	Energy-efficient, low hydro- fluorocarbons (HFC) cooling	Reduce GHG emissions from HFCs in air conditioning and improve energy efficiency by decreasing weather-adjusted energy intensity from metered energy use by ten percent from baseline over a five year period.
3	Anesthetic gases and equipment	Closed anesthetic systems, intravenous anesthesia, remove desflurane, minimize nitrous	Conduct a baseline assessment. If desflurane has not been eliminated, reduce GHG emissions from anesthetics by 20% or 50% from baseline. If desflurane has been eliminated, reduce by 5% from baseline/maintain 5% reduction from baseline. Anesthesia gas toolkit
4	Lighting	Energy-efficient lighting (LEDs)	Reduce greenhouse gases by decreasing weather-adjusted energy intensity from metered energy use by 10% from baseline over a five year period.
5	Transportation fleet vehicles	Alternative fuel vehicles, low/ zero-emission vehicles, fuel-efficient vehicles	Reduce fleet vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by 3-5% per year from the baseline for a 15% reduction over five years. Take action on a checklist of identified transportation strategies to reduce GHG emissions. Implement idle-free campus policies and practices. Greenhouse gas reduction toolkit
6	Shipping, distribution of product	Alternatives to air freight (rail) Fuel-efficient distribution	Increase the percentage of EPA SmartWay partners among the top 10 distributors (by annual expenditure) to 80% or greater. RFP questions to reduce impacts from freight

#	PROCUREMENT CATEGORY	SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES	SUSTAINABILITY GOALS, MEASURES (WHEN APPLICABLE), RESOURCES
TOXICITY REDUCTION/SAFER CHEMICALS			
7	Disinfectants	Safer high-level disinfectants	Eliminate glutaraldehyde and bleach as on-site disinfectants. Alternatives include peracetic acid (acetic acid and hydrogen peroxide), steam sterilization, OPA (ASP Cidex OPA, Metrex MetriCide OPA), hydrogen peroxide.
8	Sterilants	Safer sterilants	Eliminate the use of ethylene oxide . Alternatives include steam sterilization, ozone plasma (3M Optreoz with TSO3 Sterizone technology), low-temperature hydrogen peroxide gas plasma (Sterrad), peracetic acid (Steris 1 or 1E).
9	Furniture and furnishings (sofas, chairs, work surfaces, built-in and modular casework, storage walls, shelving, panels, beds, window coverings, and cubicle curtains)	Furniture without chemicals of concern	30% of annual purchasing volume (based on cost) eliminates the use of formaldehyde, per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), polyvinyl chloride, antimicrobials, and flame retardants. Practice Greenhealth healthy interior resources
10	Janitorial cleaners and services	Sustainable cleaners	Inventory cleaning products and purchase 90% Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO-certified cleaning products in the following categories: carpet, window, all-purpose, bathroom, and general floor care. Nordic Swan ecolabel applies outside of United States Practice Greenhealth green cleaning resources
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breast pumps and accessories 2. Enteral nutrition products 3. Enteral tubes 4. General urological 5. Gloves 6. Parenteral infusion devices and sets 7. Respiratory therapy products 8. Vascular catheters 	PVC/DEHP-free ¹ medical products	Eliminate PVC and DEHP from at least two product categories. Practice Greenhealth safer medical device resources Health Care Without Harm SHiPP Fact sheets with procurement criteria
12	Hand hygiene products	Hand hygiene products without triclosan and triclocarban	Eliminate triclosan and triclocarban-containing hand hygiene products throughout the facility. Achieve 80% of hand hygiene products that do not contain triclosan and triclocarban. Practice Greenhealth hand hygiene resources Health Care Without Harm SHiPP tools and resources

¹ PVC is polyvinyl chloride. DEHP is di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate.

#	PROCUREMENT CATEGORY	SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES	SUSTAINABILITY GOALS, MEASURES (WHEN APPLICABLE), RESOURCES
13	Flooring	Resilient flooring and carpet without chemicals of concern	Resilient flooring: At least 25% of flooring (based on square footage) installed per year meets the healthy flooring silver or gold-level criteria. Practice Greenhealth healthy resilient flooring resources Carpet: At least 25% of carpet (based on square footage) installed per year meets the healthy carpet silver or gold-level criteria. Health Care Without Harm healthy carpet criteria
14	Products containing mercury (thermometers sphygmomanometers, etc.)	Mercury-free	Achieve mercury-free status or develop and implement a mercury elimination plan. Practice Greenhealth mercury elimination resources Health Care Without Harm mercury elimination guide for hospitals (in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese). Health Care Without Harm Asia mercury phase-out and mercury-free alternatives
15	Pesticide/pest management services	Integrated pest management	Implement an integrated pest management program. Eliminate the use of high-hazard pesticides. Avoid pesticides defined by WHO as highly hazardous. Practice Greenhealth integrated pest management resources
16	Electronics	Sustainable electronics	Specify, purchase, and report expenditures on sustainable electronics with a goal of 80% registered with EPEAT. Practice Greenhealth sustainable electronics

RESOURCE CONSERVATION²

17	Medical and surgical devices	Reusable medical and surgical devices; collect and purchase reprocessed single-use devices	Collect and purchase 20% reprocessed non-invasive devices compared to total. Practice Greenhealth reprocessing single use devices
18	Instruments, equipment, clothing, gowns, aprons	Reusable, reprocessible; avoid single-use disposable supplies	See “ Strategies to reduce GHG emissions from laparoscopic surgery ” in the American Journal of Public Health Practice Greenhealth reuse and equipment
19	Custom surgical kits	Review and reformulate kits for efficiency	Review and reformulate 80% of total operating room kit types.
20	Construction and demolition services	Recycle construction and demolition debris	Recycle 80% of construction and demolition debris. Practice Greenhealth How to divert construction and demolition debris
21	Fluid suction canisters and associated consumables	Fluid management system with reusable canisters	Fluid management resources and RFP questions

² Resource conservation includes waste reduction and rainwater harvesting. The waste reduction hierarchy is first to reevaluate need, then reuse, recycle, and buy recyclable products. It includes minimizing packaging or seeking recyclable packaging.

#	PROCUREMENT CATEGORY	SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES	SUSTAINABILITY GOALS, MEASURES (WHEN APPLICABLE), RESOURCES
22	Waste treatment equipment	Use non-burn treatment technologies including autoclaves, microwaves, alkaline hydrolysis, biodigesters	See “ Alternative waste treatment technologies: a global inventory ,” which offers a vendor list of suppliers of alternative technologies around the globe. Health Care Without Harm’s health care waste treatment technologies database
HEALTHIER FOOD			
23	All food products	Locally produced and processed food	25% of the total food budget is allocated to locally produced and processed food items. Recommend a higher portion of the food budget is allocated to local sourcing if the facility is in a region with year-round production. Sustainable food definitions and label claims
24	Plant-based proteins: beans, lentils, nuts, and more	Sustainable	A minimum of 15% of all products are produced using sustainable production practices based upon verifiable certifications and label claims. Increase sourcing and menuing of whole food, plant proteins for human and environmental health benefits. Sustainable food definitions and label claims Redefining protein purchasing considerations
25	Meat: beef, pork, and poultry	Sustainable	A minimum of 30% for all animals minus chicken; 75% for chicken are raised without the routine use of non-therapeutic antibiotics based upon verifiable certifications and label claims. A minimum of 15% of all animal products are raised using sustainable production methods based upon verifiable certifications and label claims. Understanding meat and poultry label claims
26	Beef, pork, poultry, and dairy	Reduction	Reduce procurement of animal products by 5% per year for a total reduction of 25% from baseline by 2030. Cool food pledge Redefining protein purchasing considerations Greenhouse gas reduction toolkit
27	Food service ware	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reusable food service ware; 2. Compostable, PFAS-free, and polystyrene-free food service ware; 3. Recyclable food service ware 	Practice Greenhealth sustainable procurement digest (food service products and services)