

PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Biomedical Facility Design and Operations



Offices

- Use natural light.
- Purchase recycled content paper, print on both sides and recycle waste paper.
- Better yet, avoid paper use by distributing and storing documents electronically.
- Put computers to sleep when not in use to save energy.



Clinics

- Use mercury free thermometers and blood pressure devices.
- Return unused pharmaceuticals to the manufacturer.
- Donate or recycle useable surplus medical supplies.
- Collect, store and dispose of regular and medical waste separately.



Laboratories

- Use mercury-free thermometers and apparatus.
- Avoid over-ordering chemicals to reduce waste.
- Where feasible use alternatives to radioactive materials in research.
- Use microscale research techniques to minimize waste.
- Keep chemical waste containers closed, labeled and in trays.
- Dispose of hazardous materials safely and properly.



Buildings

- Employ "green roofs" to slow stormwater flows, reduce erosion and improve water quality.
- Use building materials with recycled content.
- Use renewable energy from sources like solar cells and wind turbines.
- Maximize use of conventional energy and water conserving features.
- Use pervious paving to reduce runoff, recharge groundwater and improve surface water quality.



Surroundings

- Use public transportation to reduce air pollution and conserve land.
- Avoid building in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.
- Reduce use of toxic chemicals to prevent pollution of lakes and streams.
- Practice environmental stewardship at home, school and work.



Division of Environmental Protection

Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations
National Institutes of Health
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