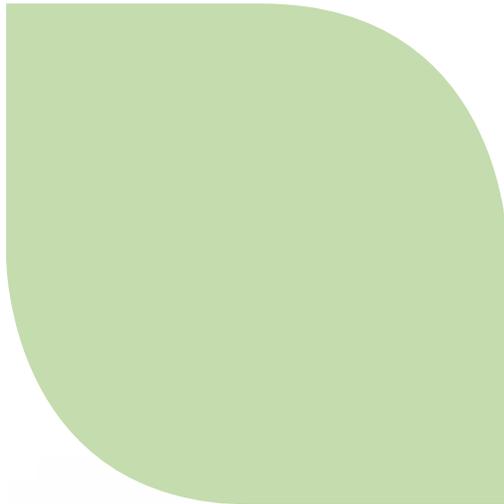




Environmental Sustainability CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

LEADING THE WAY TO SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS



You've made a career out of caring for the environment.

You've made a difference.

Honor your effort, celebrate your achievements, be recognized.

Sponsored in part by:



Prevention. Education.
Standards. Management.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE
HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

A personal membership group of the
American Hospital Association

As an environmental services professional, you have made a career out of caring for the environment.

You were thoughtful and intentional about “being green” and “maintaining sustainable operations” long before they were trendy terms.

You work hard

and take pride in the contributions you and your Environmental Services team make to the overall quality outcomes in your healthcare facility and the instrumental role you play in fostering healthy communities in the region you serve.

Take your pride public and distinguish your sustainability program amongst others in the nation.

The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE) of the American Hospital Association established the Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program to honor the passion and dedication of the profession in caring for the healthcare environment. This new metrics and performance improvement based recognition opportunity is available to all Environmental Services Departments across the continuum of care.



The Certificate Program is part of AHE's overall sustainability initiative, which includes education offerings and publications as well as the Sustainability Roadmap for Hospitals (sustainabilityroadmap.org). The Roadmap provides comprehensive resources for environmental services professionals to improve sustainability performance. Visit the

Roadmap to download complimentary tools that can help you prepare for application to the Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program.

To qualify for the Certificate Program, healthcare facilities must show proof of the organization's sustainability strategy, baseline data that to validate the level of improvement, and achievements in areas ranging from waste to re-use to environmentally preferred purchasing. AHE's Sustainability Committee designed the program to provide guidance in what is required to be an exceptional example of successful sustainability endeavors in addition to recognizing excellence in caring for the healthcare environment.

Real change is hard, and it deserves special recognition. Honor the efforts of your healthcare team and underscore the value proposition of the Environmental Services Department by applying to AHE's Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program today.

You've made a career out of caring for the environment.

You're making a difference.

That deserves recognition and respect.

Apply to AHE's Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program and shine a light on the professional achievements of your Environmental Services Department

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for one of the four levels of recognition, please visit ahe.org and click on the Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program logo. The online application enables the users to upload referencing documents to achieve the next level status. On its website, AHE will highlight facilities that reach new levels of recognition.

AHE's Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program allows your organization to demonstrate its accomplishments around sustainable operations, sustainability and highlight the value your Environmental Services Department brings to your healthcare facility.

ORGANIZATIONS CAN RECEIVE RECOGNITION IN FOUR LEVELS:

BRONZE

Department meets the following minimum standards, which is considered the minimum requirement level:

- Currently working toward developing a sustainability committee/team
- Conducted and submitted a sustainability assessment
- Facility is mercury-free

Facilities demonstrating Bronze level will receive a letter recognizing their progress.

- Currently working towards developing a facility-wide sustainability policy, including mission and vision statements
- Developed an employee recognition program for submission of sustainable suggestions
- Identified a time frame for implementing Silver Standards

SILVER

Meets Bronze standards and...

- Currently recycles 25% of their total waste volume
- Implemented a sustainability committee/team that includes Administration and a minimum of four other departments
- Completed a facility-wide hazardous chemical assessment
- Developed a facility-wide sustainability policy
- Provides documentation of having changed at least one purchasing practice that reduces waste volume (e.g. replaced disposables with reusables)
- Provides documentation for having corrected one negative environmental impact disposal practice (e.g.. chemical recycling, battery recycling, e-waste disposal program, light bulb recycling)
- Developed, or is currently employing, appropriate signage

to communicate the sustainability program to staff, patients and visitors

- DOT training completed for all staff handling waste and provides documentation that staff has been trained, tested and certified
- Converted one disposable item to reusable (e.g. dietary utensils, cups, flatware)
- Implements sustainable cleaning protocols using three major and three minor items from the *Environmental Friendly Initiatives list
- Can document having reduced the facility carbon footprint by reducing truck traffic or vehicles idling at facility (i.e. via a facility policy and/or staff announcement communication)

GOLD

Meets Silver Standards and...

- Recycles 30% of their total waste volume
- Validates having improved utilization of waste equipment, thus reducing truck traffic
- Corrected two negative environmental impact disposal practices
- Converted more than two disposable items to reusable items

- Began implementation of CRI certified equipment in facility (where applicable and available)
- Increased sustainable cleaning protocols by using five major and five minor items from the *Environmental Friendly Initiatives list, or can document a validated reduction in chemicals related to technology or process
- Developed purchasing policies that evaluate impact on waste

PLATINUM

Meets Gold standards and...

- Recycles 35% of their total waste volume
- Corrected all negative environmental impact disposal practices noted in the environmental assessment
- Provides documentation for having converted all applicable disposable items to reusable items
- Fully implemented (where applicable and available), CRI certified equipment in the facility and included the same in all specifications for future equipment purchases
- Increased sustainable cleaning protocols by using seven major and seven minor items from the *Environmental Friendly Initiatives list (consolidating a number of products to a single environmentally friendly product is acceptable)

- Developed and completed an executive summary on sustainability activities and future opportunities for enhanced sustainability performance (summary must be submitted with the application)
- Implemented a donation program or employee take-home program for unwanted equipment and furniture; submits supporting documentation on the program
- Written a business case for sustainability (business case must be submitted with the application)
- Developed and implemented a community-based program for managing homecare waste (program elements must be submitted with the application)



ASSOCIATION FOR THE
HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

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