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Office of Environmental Assistance Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation



Practice Greenhealth

**Sustainability
in the
Healthcare Industry**

**Sumner Hospital
August 14, 2008**



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Sustainability 101

“Make less, buy less, use less, throw away less.”

Akiko Busch





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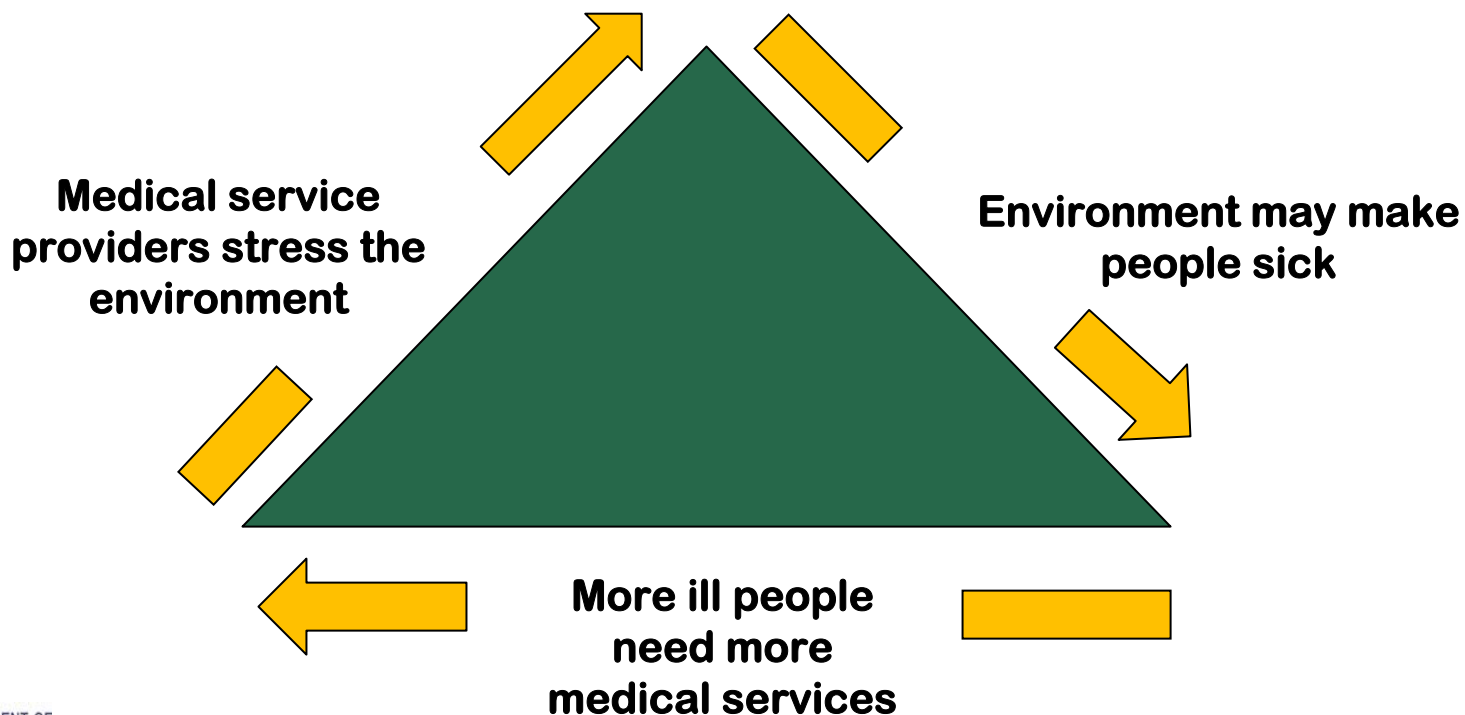


PRACTICE
Greenhealth™



ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE: COMPLIANCE AND BEYOND...

Cause and Effect





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ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE: COMPLIANCE AND BEYOND...

Who we are

- Formerly known as Healthcare for a Healthy Environment – H2E
- American Hospital Association
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Healthcare without Harm
- American Nurses Association



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Practice Greenhealth's Vision

- A healthy healthcare system
- Recognize the link between our health and the choices we make



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Practice Greenhealth's Goals

- Virtual elimination of mercury
- Reduction of quantity & toxicity of healthcare waste
- Minimize use & exposure to hazardous chemicals
- Improvement of resource conservation
- Integrating sustainable design & environmentally sound operational practices



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State Partnerships

- Assist hospitals obtain the information & technical resources necessary to implement new & improved environmental programs
- Identify barriers to implementing programs
 - No need to reinvent the wheel
 - Opportunity for collaboration
 - Help in measuring progress



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So Why Bother

- Mercury
- Dioxins & PBTs
- Waste
- Compliance



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So Why Bother

**“Increasingly, the world around us looks as if
we hated it.”**

Alan Watts



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5 phases of “going green”

- Desire
- Pride
- Satisfaction
- Depression
- Collaboration



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**“Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s
nut that held its ground.”**

Anonymous