

Checklist: Sustainable Community Health Center Renovations



This checklist consists of no- or low-cost sustainable principles for implementation into health center expansions and renovations. Use this checklist in the earliest stages of planning your project to initiate discussion with the entire project team. Information is provided for further independent research.



MAXIMIZE SITE

- SITE SELECTION** Locate the health center in proximity to public transportation.
- BUILDING SELECTION** Select a building that is already LEED® certified.
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION** Support the use of bicycles, alternative fuel vehicles, carpooling and public transportation. Example: Provide bicycle rack(s) and priority parking for carpool vehicles.

For more information please explore the U.S. Green Building Council, keywords: "site selection".



CONSERVE WATER

- LOW FLOW FIXTURES** Select plumbing fixtures that control the flow of water to reduce water consumption and cost. Example: Replace the flushing mechanism on toilets.
- WATER FILTERING / PURIFICATION** Integrate a water filtration or purification system to reduce bottled water consumption and waste from discarded plastic bottles. Example: Attach a water purification mechanism to an existing faucet.
- NATIVE LANDSCAPING** Select and grow plants that are native to your region to avoid the need for irrigation systems.

For more information please explore PlantNative, keywords: "regional plant finder".



CONSERVE ENERGY

- BUILDING SKIN/SHELL** Improve insulation of walls, roofs, floors, doors and windows.
- HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS** Assess energy efficient systems for long-term efficiency and operational cost savings. Example: Select air conditioning system with modulation controls.
- OCCUPANCY SENSORS** Install power strips with occupancy sensors at all work stations. Use occupancy sensors in offices and conference rooms to control light and HVAC.
- DAYLIGHT SENSORS** Maximize daylight opportunities by installing controls to modulate / turn off lights.
- EFFICIENT LIGHTING** Utilize efficient lighting, task lighting and lighting controls. Example: Purchase LED or compact fluorescent bulbs rather than incandescent bulbs.
- ENERGY STAR EQUIPMENT** Install Energy Star-rated appliances and equipment.

For more information please explore U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, keywords: "Energy Star", "HVAC" and the Whole Building Design Guide, keywords: "energy efficient lighting" and "HVAC".

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MANAGE MATERIALS

- REGIONAL MATERIALS** Purchase materials, supplies, furniture and artwork manufactured within the community, which supports local jobs and reduces emissions related to shipping and transportation.
- REUSED MATERIALS AND FURNITURE** Reuse fixtures and furnishings and salvage existing materials to conserve physical and capital resources, divert waste from landfills and reduce the demand for raw material. Examples: Reuse doorknobs; donate used doors to other community organizations; convert historic bank teller booth to an intake booth.

For more information please explore the Green Guide for Healthcare, keywords: "furniture and furnishings".



IMPROVE OCCUPANT EXPERIENCE

- AIR QUALITY** Provide increased filtration to improve indoor air quality.
- NO VOCs** Select materials (such as paints, adhesives, coatings, glues, flooring, composite wood and furniture) that are shown to contain no VOCs.
- NATURAL LIGHT** Provide natural light to routinely occupied spaces.
- LIGHTING LEVELS** Match lighting levels with space use requirements. Example: Discuss with engineers and designer professionals the tasks performed within the space to determine appropriate lighting levels.

For more information please explore U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, keywords: "Volatile Organic Compounds", "indoor air quality" and the Advanced Lighting Guidelines, keywords: "health and performance", "lighting and human health", "applications directory".

GLOSSARY

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The program set standards for energy efficient consumer products. Appliances and equipment meet these standards by using less energy than required by federal standards and receive the Energy Star Certification and Logo.

HVAC (HEATING VENTILATION and AIR CONDITIONING) is an engineering discipline that focuses on indoor environmental comfort.

LED (LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE) is an efficient, compact semiconductor light source.

LEED (LEADERSHIP in ENERGY and ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN) is the sustainable building certification program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

LOW COST means adding up-front project cost to the capital improvement budget with potential for long-term operational cost savings of building decisions.

NO COST means not adding project costs to the capital improvement budget as compared to the alternative facility options.

SUSTAINABILITY is the balance of environmental, fiscal and social responsibility related to facility infrastructure.

VOCs (VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS) are gases emitted from products and materials that result in adverse health effects.