Green Purchasing Guide in Health Care Offices and Clinics

Introduction:

According to researchers at Northeastern University and Yale, the U.S medical facilities are nearly responsible for 10% of greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these institutions require significant amount of resources such as water, paper, plastic, and electricity but they are at often at a high cost, inefficient, and wasteful when inspecting at them closer. My project will will provide a purchasing guide that will encourage to adopt environmentally, sustainable products that will save money and create a healthier environment. Through the collaboration of The My Green Doctor, a free nonprofit service whose main's goals is to include environmental sustainability in offices & homes, I will create an essay and a visualized table for an open access page on the My Green Doctor's Website for health care offices and clinics to utilize.

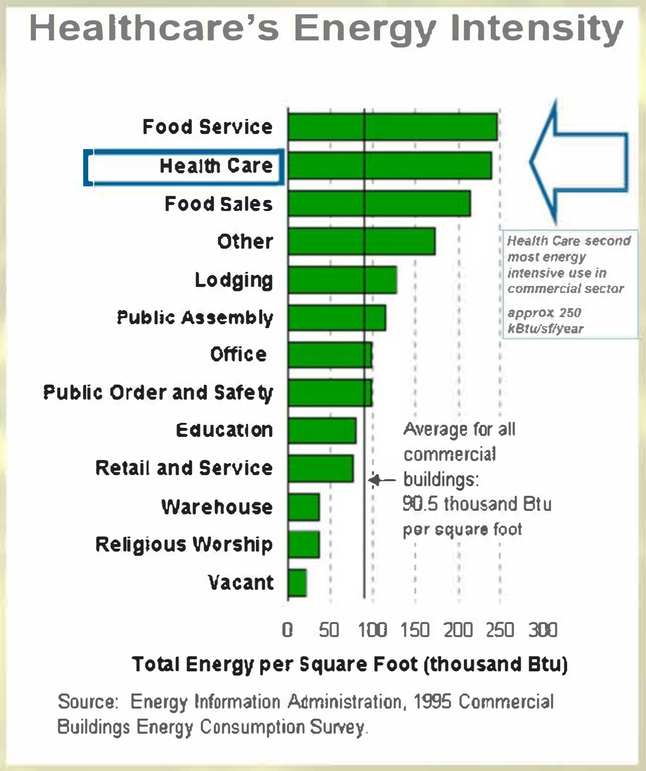
Mission:

- Creating an essay for an open access page on the My Green Doctor's Website that helps to educate others about what is green purchasing and how can individuals foster this practice into health care offices and clinics.
- Creating a visualized table of specific products and vendors, ecolabel programs of certified services and standards for products, and an ecolabel from third party programs of certified products.

Significance:

- Help to reduce green house gas emissions from medical facilities
- Reduce carbon footprint left behind by people
- Reduce amount of waste products that are not correctly disposed of
- Emphasize importance of toxicity levels found in products and how to avoid them
- How to create policies behind green purchasing in health care institutions

Examples of sustainable vendors for specific resources and databases of products



Examples of Ecolabel Programs of Certified Services and Standards for Products

Methodology:

- Research on sustainability and the relationship it has with the health care field
- Delve into what makes a product sustainable and factors to take in consideration such as
  - The source of materials, manufacturing process, packaging and shipping, reuse and recycling potential and disposal, etc.
- Create a table of alternate vendors that supply buying managers may use as well as a table on ecologos that help to certify resources and products.

Volunteer Log

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Background Research	20
Planning and Structuring the project	5
½ of the Written Portion	15
2/2 of the Written Portion	10
Creating table of alternative vendors and certification to look for	15
Revisional and Critic	5
Total # of hours achieved	100

Acknowledgement:

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UNF Environmental Center

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