

Creating Healthy Buildings:

How Does Building Design Minimize Harm to Air and Water Quality, Protect Natural Ecosystems and Make Business Sense?



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Green Health Care

- Green Health Care is medicine that does no harm to people and the global environment.
- Green Health Care is more sustainable than high-tech hospital-based medicine.
- Green Health Care can be more equitably distributed.

With Green Health Care we achieve sustainable levels of personal and Global health and vitality.

Primary Health Care

- Participation

- Participation of the population in health decision making: moving towards and interaction between people and professionals.

- Equity

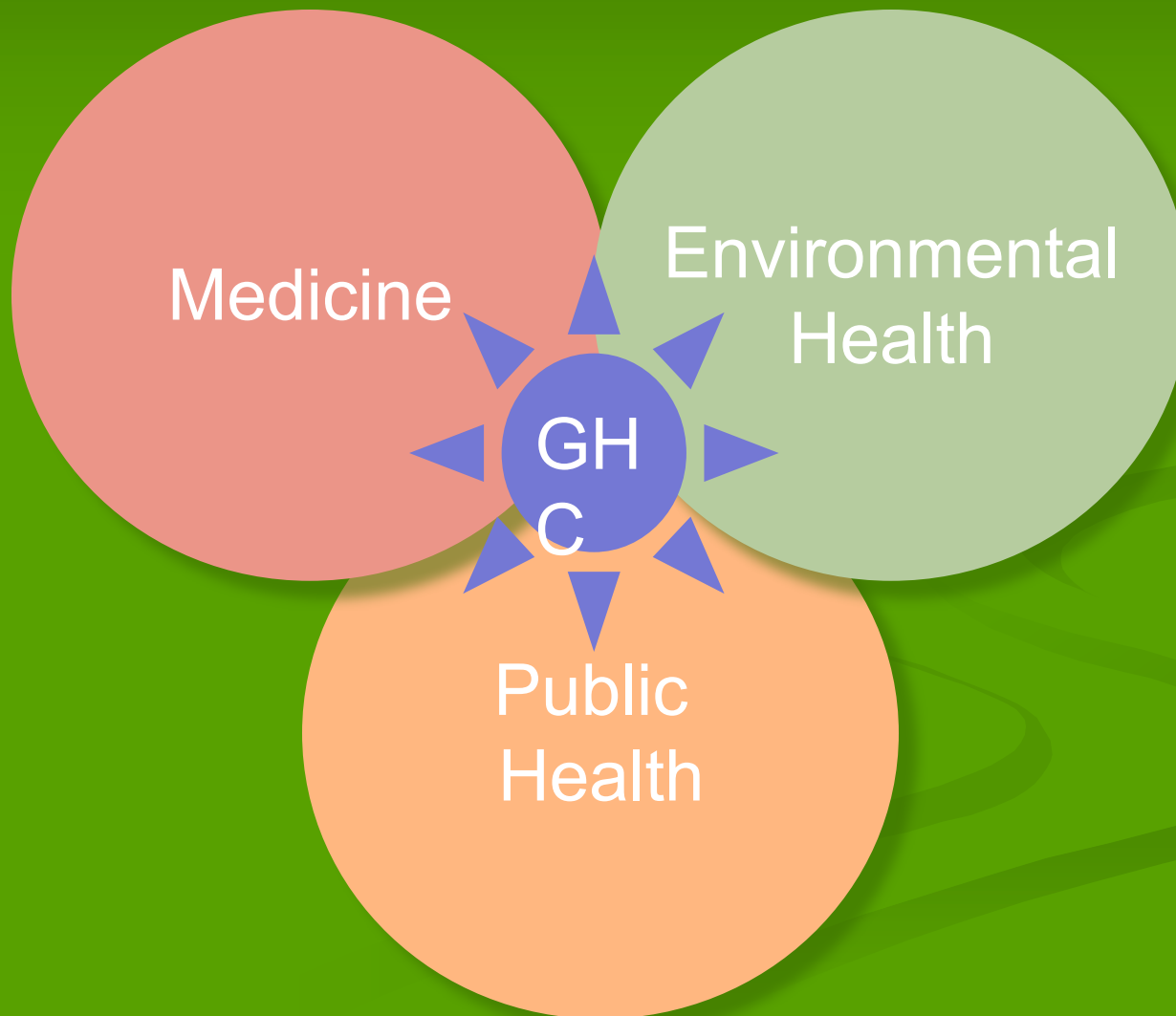
- People have the right to health care and inequalities in health and health status are unacceptable.

- Intersectorial collaboration

- Adopting an understanding of health as being something created in the social domain.

- MacDonald, J (2005) Environments for Health

Green Health Care Worldview



Green Health Care



A Green Medical Clinic



Principles of Green Buildings

- Protecting the immediate health of the building occupants
- Protecting the health of the surrounding community
- Protecting the health of the global community and natural resources
 - Green Guide for Health Care

Rationale for Green Health Facilities

- Green building design is more than just energy savings. It takes into consideration
 - Financial gains
 - Improved patient outcomes
 - Better staff health
 - Reduced turnover
 - Reduced environmental impact
 - www.practicegreenhealth.org

Costs Savings

- A cost benefit analysis of green buildings in CA determined that “a minimal upfront investment of 2% of construction costs typically yields life-cycle savings of over ten times the initial investment
- When the cost of environmental pollution is taken into account, the LEED certified building only costs 1% more than traditional building
 - Packard Foundation

Impact of the Built Environment on Occupants

■ Staff

- Reduces sick-building syndrome
- Improves air quality- reducing employee absenteeism

■ Patients

- Decrease length of stay for occupants with sunlight rooms

Integrated Design

- Early close collaboration among architects, engineers, contractors, construction managers and operators and medical staff results in better-functioning green building at lower costs.
- Reducing the overall footprint of building resources

Environmentally Sensitive Operations

- Americans spend over 90% of their time indoors.
- Thousands of chemicals and biological pollutants are found indoors. (EPA)
- Use of nontoxic cleaning products

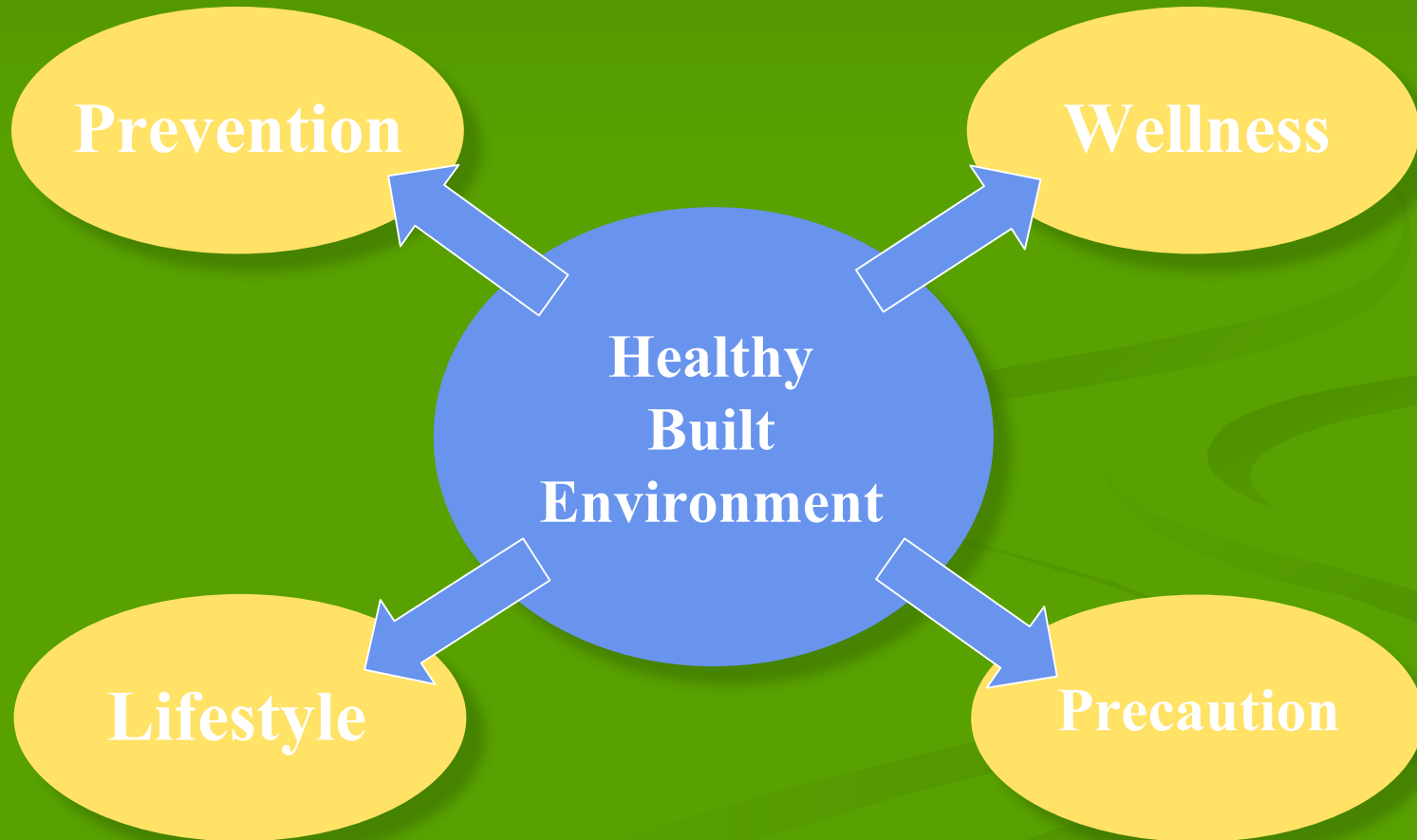
Opportunities

- %68 or respondents agree that green hospitals “have a marketing or public relations advantage over comparable conventional hospitals.”
- %56 agree that green hospitals “are more desirable to patients than standard facilities.”
- %49 believe that going green “would give their hospital a competitive edge over conventional hospitals in their service area.
 - “Where Building Owners, End Users, and AEC Professionals Stand on Sustainability and Green Building,” *Building Design + Construction*, Nov. 200&)

Incentives

- Foundation grants and state initiatives
 - Providence Newberg Medical Center- Green design shortened the payback period by 14 months
 - Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority
 - www.depweb.state.pa.us
 - Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program
 - www.depweb.state.pa.us/energy
 - Sustainable Development Fund Grant Program
 - Reinvestment Fund
 - www.trfund.com

Sustainable Medicine



A Green Clinic

- Reduce the environmental impact of the office.
 - Conserve resources
 - Reduce waste
 - Monitor environmental performance

Green Clinic Assessment

- Our comprehensive audit covers:
 - Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
 - Energy Conservation
 - Water Conservation
 - Pollution Prevention
 - Medical Technology & Services
 - Healthy People

Benefits of Green Health Care

- Reduced operating costs
- A safer and healthier clinical environment for clients and staff
- Stronger workplace culture based on values of prevention, wellness, and environmental responsibility
- Recognition as leaders in Green Health in your community



Find Out More

Teleosis Institute

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Practice Green Health

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