

CANADIAN COALITION AND ENERGY STAR LEADING THE WAY



By Kent Waddington

In 2012, the **ENERGY STAR** Health Care Energy Leadership Program (HELP) (www.energystar.greenhealthcare.ca/help), with the assistance of CHES National and CHES Chapters, surveyed healthcare facilities across Canada to discover levels of awareness of ENERGY STAR and the degree to which ENERGY STAR qualified products are purchased.

The survey found that few healthcare facilities include ENERGY STAR in their procurement policies, despite its ability to save money in the long-term, according to the Canadian Green Health Care Digest (December 14, 2012). Only 14% of respondents reported that they include ENERGY STAR in their procurement policies. Of HELP survey respondents, 86% indicated an awareness of ENERGY STAR, in line with awareness among the general public.

Roughly 69% of respondents indicated they had purchased an ENERGY STAR qualified product in the past year, with 90% of respondents stating ENERGY STAR was either “somewhat” or “very influential” in their purchasing decision. The most popular ENERGY STAR qualified purchases were washing machines (clothes and dishes), refrigerators and freezers, televisions, and lighting.

CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS

HELP is an initiative of the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care www.greenhealthcare.ca, and My Sustainable

Canada (www.mysustainablecanada.org) to promote energy efficiency within Canada’s health services sector. The HELP Team provides participating institutions with educational webinars, ENERGY STAR training, 'Spot the ENERGY STAR Opportunities' walkthroughs at host facilities, sample ENERGY STAR procurement language, and a peer-to-peer network. The team also assists healthcare organizations wishing to obtain ENERGY STAR Participant status, which allows them to use the ENERGY STAR Participant logo to demonstrate a commitment to energy efficiency and ENERGY STAR.

The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) recently became Canada’s first health care ENERGY STAR Participant, agreeing to use its formal alliance with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and ENERGY STAR to promote energy efficiency as a simple and desirable option for organizations and consumers who wish to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, protect the environment, and save on their energy bills. Since then, Mackenzie Health (Richmond Hill, ON) and London Health Sciences Centre (London, ON) have also become ENERGY STAR Participants.

Mackenzie Health includes ENERGY STAR as a criterion of their purchasing policy, ensuring high-efficiency ENERGY STAR qualified product options are considered as often as possible in the procurement process. London Health Sciences has a long history of involving its

employees in campaigns to reduce energy use and environmental impacts (through the CHESTER Network), and encourages employees to choose ENERGY STAR when replacing appliances at home.

As ENERGY STAR Participants, they are working to increase public awareness of the growing list of opportunities for ENERGY STAR qualified products which meet efficiency specifications set by NRCAN’s Office of Energy Efficiency. TOH is also implementing internal purchasing policies and educating staff and suppliers on the necessity to consider ENERGY STAR qualified products whenever product replacement or new purchases are discussed.

Together with their IT Team, TOH has made tremendous progress in upgrading the majority of their computers and peripherals to ENERGY STAR qualified products, and they continue to educate and incite careful consideration of energy efficiency in all redevelopment and purchasing initiatives throughout their three campuses. ■

For the full case study, and more, visit www.energystar.greenhealthcare.ca/docs. To learn more about ENERGY STAR HELP, visit www.energystar.greenhealthcare.ca/help

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