



The Joint Commission (TJC) Launches Environmental Sustainability Certificate

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No Environmental Sustainability Standards from TJC

Last July, the Sustainability & Energy Committee shared an article discussing the Joint Commission's proposal for new environmental sustainability standards (LD.05.01.01). Since then, these standards have failed to officially launch, due to administrative concerns from the healthcare industry. The goal of these standards was to promote sustainable practices and strategies within hospitals. Although these standards failed to strive, the Joint Commission did not stop its mission to promote sustainable practices and strategies in healthcare. Instead, the Joint Commission is now introducing an environmental sustainability certification program.

TJC Introducing an Environmental Sustainability Certificate Program

This optional environmental sustainability certificate program “aims to lay the groundwork for decarbonization in hospitals.” This program, unlike the proposed standards, not only encourages hospitals to tackle environmental sustainability within their own means but also offers hospitals the opportunity to learn sustainability strategies from others also completing the program. Making the goal of environmentally sustainable hospitals possible for all facilities no matter what stage of the journey they are in.

So how does the program work? Healthcare facilities that register for the program must start by appointing a leader to oversee all sustainability efforts. These efforts must include tracking three sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the facility and curating a plan to reduce them. The hospital must report a decline in its emissions within two years of the certification.

Starting January 1, 2024, this new optional program will certify hospitals that give priority to their environmental sustainability practices in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Promoting environmental sustainability practices in hospitals not only promotes a healthy planet but also healthier living. To learn more, visit the link below

[Sustainable Healthcare Certification | The Joint Commission](#)