

Green+ Hospitals from Siemens: Sustainability is more than just ecology

Sustainability is a key issue for Siemens, the company already having committed to supporting the GreenBuilding Program, a European Commission initiative to enhance the energy efficiency in non-residential buildings. However, while Greenbuilding recognizes the considerable contribution that cost-effective energy efficiencies can make in reducing the final energy demand in Europe, it is not specific to the healthcare sector and, by its very nature, focuses predominantly on ecology.

Sustainability, in its truest sense, essentially includes ecological, social, and economic factors. This also applies to healthcare and its service providers. The modern day healthcare environment demands that hospitals are more than just hospitals. Today's physicians and hospitals are expected to be environmentally sensitive and to continually improve patient care, while simultaneously lowering costs. For this reason, Siemens has introduced the "Green+ Hospitals" program. The "plus" in the name means that sustainability in healthcare does not simply equal ecology. In this industry it has far more to do with increasing workflow efficiencies, improving the economic sustainability of healthcare companies, and simultaneously optimizing the quality of patient care, all while taking environmentally-relevant aspects into consideration. For this reason, Green+ Hospitals brings together all solutions that help hospitals to meet these three criteria.

The hospital benefits from Green+ Hospitals because workflows are optimized and service processes are designed to be more efficient. Innovative medical systems and high-tech building infrastructure reduce energy costs and help to improve patient care. Patients benefit, for example, from shorter waiting times and new diagnostic and treatment methods that put less strain on the body while improving the quality of treatment. In addition, as part of the Green+ Hospitals initiative, Siemens advises its customers on optimizing workflows, building management, energy management, control systems, as well as IT and communications infrastructure.

"There are of course many approaches in the hospital that include critical aspects of sustainable development for the organization, such as promoting preventive care, patient orientation, and

quality and environmental management. However, these tend to be viewed as separate, isolated issues. With Green+ Hospitals, Siemens wants to turn the individual aspects into a comprehensive picture to help our customers operate sustainably“, said Heinrich von Wulfen, CEO of Sales Regions Europe, Africa & Middle East, and Customer Relationship Management at Siemens Healthcare.

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