

Greening Health Care: How Hospitals Can Heal the Planet

Kathy Gerwig

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Kathy Gerwig : Greening Health Care: How Hospitals Can Heal the Planet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Greening Health Care: How Hospitals Can Heal the Planet:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. And it's beautifully written, in a compelling personal voiceBy Howard FrumkinThis book combines a broad vision of sustainability with extensive practical experience, case studies, and and concrete recommendations. It distils long experience at Kaiser into a highly accessible, user-friendly form. And it's beautifully written, in a compelling personal voice. All in all, an invaluable contribution to the literature, from

one of the nation's leaders of green health care. Five stars. Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH, Dean University of Washington School of Public Health
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By Nicola Very interesting book for those who wish to make the Healthcare system in which they work a better place.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Greening Health Care deserves serious attention. Read this book and act on it.
By Bill Ravanese Greening Health Care is a perfectly timed and well-written portrait of how the health care sector can contribute to the environmental health of people, their communities, and the planet. As a writer and Kaiser Permanente executive, Kathy Gerwig is well-positioned to offer her insights and her leadership on how to achieve environmental stewardship from within the health care sector, which represents one fifth of U.S. GDP. Greening Health Care deserves serious attention. Read this book and act on it.
Bill Ravanese MA, MPH Senior Director of Health Care Green Building and Energy Program Health Care Without Harm- Boston

The relationship between hospitals and the environment is defined by a glaring contradiction: as health care facilities deliver care at any cost, their environmental footprint -- pollution, waste production, unsustainable food services -- contributes to harming community health. Greening Health Care examines the intersections of health care and environmental health, both in terms of traditional failures and the revolution underway to fix them. Authored by one of the pioneers in health care's green movement, it presents practical solutions for health care organizations and clinicians to improve their environments and the health of their communities. Topics include: making food services sustainable, managing hospital waste, and relevant impacts/mitigating measures related to climate change. As environmental protection grows into an imperative for all aspects of society, Greening Health Care offers an historical and practical approach to sustainable health care delivery.

"Greening Health Care explains the impact of health care on the environment, argues for why you should care, and provides a clear path forward for effecting positive change." --Jeff Thompson, MD, CEO of Gundersen Health System
"For years, Kathy Gerwig and Kaiser Permanente have led the green health care revolution by demonstrating how hospitals and providers can align the health of patients and the public with the health of the planet. In GREENING HEALTH CARE, Gerwig shares the insights and wisdom of her remarkable journey - the products, practices and principles that are essential for success. The result is a comprehensive roadmap for all health care institutions - the definitive guide for the industry." --Joel Makower, Executive Editor, GreenBiz.com and author, Strategies for the Green Economy
"Fascinating insights for anyone interested in environmental protection and its impact on human health." --Wall Street Journal
"It's just one example of a troubling paradox: an industry devoted to health produces more than its share of waste, greenhouse gases and toxic air emissions - all of which make people sick. What's more, some hospitals still feed sugary soft drinks and Jell-O to patients and employees alike. That makes no sense, argues Gerwig, who has worked on sustainability issues at Kaiser for more than 20 years." -The Guardian
"Greening Health Care could not have arrived at a more important time. Physicians, nurses, health care executives, and boards of trustees will find that this well-written book provides an excellent way forward and a clear blueprint for change." - The Hastings Center Report
About the Author Kathy Gerwig is Vice President of Employee Safety, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Stewardship Officer for Kaiser Permanente, one of America's leading not-for-profit providers of health care. Ms. Gerwig is responsible for developing, organizing and managing a nationwide environmental initiative for the organization, and under her leadership Kaiser Permanente has become widely recognized as an environmental leader in the health care sector. She has twice testified before Congress on the need for federal chemical policy reform, and has appeared at numerous hearings on environmental issues. Ms. Gerwig is also Kaiser Permanente's national leader for Employee Safety, Health and Wellness, responsible for eliminating workplace injuries, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, and reducing health risks for the organization's 174,000 employees and nearly 17,000 physicians. She is on the boards of several leading non-governmental organizations focused on safety and environmental sustainability in health care.