



Draft Abstract for Nurses Presenting at Conferences

This draft abstract is designed to accompany the CNA educational module *The Role of Nurses in Greening the Health System*. You may use this draft abstract as the basis for your submission to a conference's Call for Abstracts.

Abstract to the **TITLE OF CONFERENCE**
NAME OF THEME

Greening the health sector
NAME, CREDENTIALS

The health system is designed to benefit Canadians. Unfortunately, it also uses natural resources and produces wastes that can have a negative impact on the health of the environment and ultimately on the health of Canadians. This presentation will provide an overview of the key issues involved in moving toward a greener health sector, and what nurses can do to move that process forward.

Canadian hospitals use six times more energy than those in Switzerland and 2.5 times more than the average of hospitals in countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Health-care organizations also tend to generate a phenomenal amount of waste and to use products that contain toxic substances.

Nurses in many settings have been active in “greening” the Canadian health system through initiatives that support energy conservation, waste reduction and the use of environmentally preferable products.

The purpose of this presentation is to:

1. Provide information on the health system's use of energy and of toxic substances;
2. Use recent statistics, research and examples to describe in detail the health system's generation of waste and waste streams; and
3. Offer concrete ideas about what nurses can do to decrease the environmental impact of hospitals and other health-care facilities.

Participants will leave the session with a deeper knowledge of the environmental hazards associated with the health system and a sense of the concrete actions they can take to effect change in their own settings.

Word count: 238

Note to Potential Conference Presenters

To increase your chance of being accepted as a presenter, you may need to slightly modify the title or body of the abstract to better reflect the conference's theme and sub-themes. You might also consider adding a personal example from your own nursing practice. Congratulations on taking this step and good luck with your presentation!