

National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Health Sector

Certification of Authorisation

The National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Health Sector was published by the Ministry of Health Care and Nutrition, with collaboration of Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources in 2007.

1. Preamble

Health sector is one of the largest sectors which addresses preventive, curative, laboratory services and health promotion under which there are many activities which include inter-alia administration, patient care, food supply to patients and cafeteria, cleaning and disinfection, energy usage, garden and outdoor management, laboratories, laundry, pharmacy, healthcare waste management, water & electricity consumption.

Over the past few decades, the environmental pollution has increased causing more health impacts adding to the health care cost. In addition, depletion of natural resources like insufficiency of potable water, directly affects human health and productivity. Depletion of other resources too will adversely affect the quality of life of the people. Healthcare institutions themselves can cause health risks if the healthcare waste is not managed properly.

Sri Lanka has a good healthcare delivery system when compared with other developing countries in the South Asian region. It has been observed that the demand for services has increased as a result of epidemiological and demographic transition. Therefore, it is important to ensure optimal utilization of available resources.

Incorporation of cleaner production* concept can improve environmentally friendly practices, life cycle management of products and provision of services and optimal use of resources. It continually applies integrated preventive environmental strategies to processes, products, and services to increase efficiency and reduces risks to humans and the environment.

*cleaner production is the continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

2. Vision

Highest environmental quality and living standards in place to ensure a healthy nation

3. Mission

Adopt cleaner production concept and practices into the health care systems and services to achieve sustainable consumption and production in order to improve eco-friendly and healthy living.

4. Policy Goals

- 4.1 Ensure sustainable socio-economic development in Sri Lanka.
- 4.2 Ensure highest quality of health care for the people of Sri Lanka.
- 4.3 Ensure high quality of human resources.
- 4.4 Achieve highest productivity through efficient and optimal utilization of resources in an eco-friendly manner

5. Policy Objectives

- 5.1 Establish eco-efficient consumption patterns for optimum resource management in the framework of the health care system.
- 5.2 Establish environmentally sound waste management practices emphasizing preventive measures in the health care system.
- 5.3 Promote social responsibility and community participation through eco-friendly consumption and production in the health sector.
- 5.4 Inculcate CP consciousness among health care workers and professionals for better curative and preventive services.

6. Policy Statements

- 6.1 Healthcare institutions to adopt CP principles by strengthening existing institutional mechanisms for efficient utilization and mobilization of resources.
- 6.2 Healthcare institution to establish and implement waste management systems prioritizing waste prevention strategies.
- 6.3 Ensure sustained dissemination of information to the public on pollution of water, air and land and their impact on environment, food safety and human health
- 6.4 Strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers at all levels on health and environmental impacts due to improper and inefficient use of natural resources.

- 6.5 Accredite health care institution to incorporate quality assurance management systems.
- 6.6 Establish a continuous sustained monitoring system for CP related activities.
- 6.7 Integrate CP principles in health promotion to empower community for better quality of life.

7. Strategies

- 7.1 Secure and sustain political and administrative commitment to establish an effective institutional mechanism at all levels.
- 7.2 Incorporate teaching of CP concept and principle into the curricula of schools training institutes, academic institutions including post graduate institutions.
- 7.3 Incorporate CP practices into the in-service training for all health sector employees.
- 7.4 Strengthen institutional capacity for implementation of CP policies, strategies, and action plans.
- 7.5 Develop and implement a rewarding system.
- 7.6 Establish evaluation and monitoring systems.
- 7.7 Create awareness among general public on relationship between health, quality of environment and resource consumption through social marketing.
- 7.8 Supply chain management to improve overall eco-efficiency of the system.
- 7.9 Develop administrative and financial instruments to facilitate implementation of CP policies and practices.
- 7.10 Develop and implement an efficient and sustainable information system to mobilize and share resources and disseminate information including success stories and failures of CP activities.