



# Homewood Health Centre Validates Good Stewardship By Conducting A Comprehensive Waste Audit



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dian Green Sustainability Program (CGSP).

Homewood was very proud to receive the highest recognition (Platinum status) through the CSSA program. However, the Green team pushed to maintain our sustainability momentum, and continues to strive to accomplish more.

In June 2011, we retained the services of Waste Reduction Group Inc. to conduct a solid non-hazardous waste audit for the entire facility. The objective of the audit was to examine the quantity and nature of waste coming from various waste generating areas within Homewood.

We conducted this audit to validate our volume statistics related to our solid waste reduction program and, more important, to identify potential areas of improvement.

The waste audit conducted by Waste Reduction Group Inc. would also satisfy the requirements of Regulation 102/94. The timing couldn't be any more perfect./

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) had announced its Green Hospital Champion fund, which provided qualifying facilities subsidies up to 80 per cent for third party waste audits.

Ontario regulation 102/94 requires owners and/or operators of various establishments to conduct a waste audit, and develop and implement a waste reduction work plan if certain criteria are satisfied. Criterion that relates to healthcare facilities is:

- The operator of a "public hospital"

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In the March/April 2011 issue of Sanitation Canada, I wrote about Homewood Health Centre's participation with the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association's (CSSA) Cana-

# Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Study (CHES)

# Steering Committee

## CHES MATES:

**Dick E. Zoutman**, MD, FRCPC, professor and chair, Division of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

**B. Douglas Ford**, MA, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

**Keith Sopha**, C.E.M., president, Canadian Association of Environmental Management, manager of Housekeeping and Linen at Homewood Health Centre, Guelph, Ont.



## CHES CLUB:

### Infection Control

Dr. Joanne Embree – Manitoba  
Christine Moore – Ontario  
Dr. Geoff Taylor – Alberta

### Environmental Services

Rob Scott – Alberta  
Louis Anastasakos – Ontario  
Mike Nosko – Ontario

Rejean Losier – New Brunswick  
Brad Moser – Alberta  
Jean Francois Champagne – Quebec

*"Creating new links to help break the chain of transmission"*

# C.H.E.S.S.

The Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Survey

### Scope of Investigation

- Assess environmental cleaning and disinfection resources and practices
- Reduce the impact of various protocols in effort to control Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI)
- Examine interaction between Environmental Services (ES) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- Provide strategies for improving environmental services to help reduce HAI's
- Ultimately, reduce morbidity, mortality and health care costs

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that is classified as a Group A, B or F hospital under Regulation 964 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990, made under the Public Hospitals Act, is subject to O. Reg. 102/94. The operator must conduct a waste audit covering the waste generated by the operation of the hospital and, from that point, prepare and implement a waste reduction work plan. The owner is also required to update the waste audit, its



written report and the waste reduction work plan on an annual basis.

Regulation 964 classifies these hospitals as follows:

**Group A** – General hospitals with teaching facilities for university medical stu-

dents, as evidenced by a written agreement between the hospital and the university with which it is affiliated and hospitals approved in writing by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons for providing post-graduate education leading to certification or a fellowship in more of the specialities recognized by the college.

**Group B** – General hospitals having at least 100 beds.

**Group C** – Hospitals for chronic patients and having at least 200 beds not in-



The organic waste was collected and weighed (below) and then the results were recorded (left).



cluding Group R hospitals.

A waste audit addresses the amount, nature and composition of the waste, the manner by which the waste gets produced, including management decisions and policies that relate to the production of waste, and the way in which waste is managed. The waste reduction work plan outlines a strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle waste at the establishment. The report will set out who will implement each part of the plan, when each part will be implemented and what the expected results shall be.

The follow-up regulation which focuses on implementing a source separation program is known as Regulation 103/94.

The OHA subsidy application was made, tenders for waste audits sent out to qualified waste audit companies, an award was issued to the preferred vendor Waste Reduction Group Inc. and our partnership was born.

Collectively, we created a strategy to implement the waste audit for Homewood. Waste Reduction Group Inc. weighed and measured representative samples of bags collected from the entire facility over a 24 hour period. This gave us a snapshot of our waste composition and quantities of



*The final clean-up.*

our waste generated throughout and more specific data to support any changes needed.

The program included our housekeeping team who labelled every single waste bag as they collected the waste throughout the facility. They labelled them by building, by floor, by wing and by waste holding area. This step was crucial as it gave us

all the details required to identify where the waste was generated and by whom within the facility.

We used our Gym as a source separation and check point for the actual waste audit. Housekeeping transported the waste to this location where Waste Reduction Group completed the details of the audit.

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# Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Study (CHESS)

## We are ready for your input...

More than 240 health care facilities in Canada have been invited to participate in the Canadian Hospitals Environmental Services Study (CHESS).

Environmental managers and infection prevention professionals representing Canadian acute care facilities of 80 beds or more should have received an invitation to complete a survey developed by our CHESS steering committee.

This is an extremely important research project, which we anticipate will have a huge impact on the future of health care environmental cleaning.

Please take the time to complete the survey to its fullest potential.

The CHESS study will assess environmental cleaning and disinfection in hospitals across Canada and the inputs

infection control programs have to environmental services. The association of these factors with healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) will be examined. CHESS is a unique and valuable project and these associations have not been rigorously investigated over a large jurisdiction such as Canada. CHESS should provide new strategies for improving environmental services in hospitals and help reduce HAIs, resulting in reduced morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs.

*For more information or assistance, contact Dick E. Zoutman, MD, FRCPC, Principal Investor, CHESS, at [zoutman@queensu.ca](mailto:zoutman@queensu.ca) or call (613) 969-7400 ext. 2371 or Keith Sopha, C.E.M., P.H.H., President, CAEM at [sophkeit@homewood.org](mailto:sophkeit@homewood.org) or (519) 824-1010 ext. 2380.*



They weighed and recorded each bag, opened the bag, removed the contents, sorted the contents by waste type/ recyclables and re-weighed the contents again. This included the location in which the content of the waste bag was generated.

Once the contents were inspected, weighed and recorded, the housekeeping staff removed the waste/recyclables to the appropriate location for disposal.

This process took two days to complete and gave us all the information we

needed to prepare for our waste reduction plan.

Homewood was rated as 68 per cent waste diversion. Compared with 26 other health care facilities audited, by Waste Reduction Group Inc., Homewood was rated the highest diversion rating. It also confirmed that our internal volume reports was very accurate from the previous years as we reported a 64 per cent waste diversion in 2010.

While the 68 per cent waste reduction is a favourable outcome, the audit revealed

opportunities for Homewood to improve. Over and above the issues of quantity and composition, the waste audit also addresses opportunities for improvement.

The key opportunities identified include making sure there are no solitary garbage bins in the buildings and, if there are, coupling them with a recycling bin or replacing the solitary garbage bins with a depot.

Another recommendation is to make the existing depots more consistent and ensure that they are bolted together – garbage and cans and bottle bins were often found separated from the paper bins. An

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additional suggestion is to ensure all signage is updated to be a consistent and accurate reflection of the current recycling program, and to ensure that it is very clear (i.e. icons combined with text). Waste Reduction Group Inc. verifies with the end sources what can and can't be recycled by local service providers. Further suggestions include providing recycling in patient rooms, or in a central area close to patient rooms as well as replacing waste receptacles in office/admin areas with smaller "side saddle" waste baskets to encourage staff to further reduce their waste.

The audit also revealed that Homewood Health Centre's current mixed paper diversion rate is approximately 71 per cent, for such an institution a rate of excess of 80 per cent can be achieved, this can be accomplished with improved recycling bins and signage. Further, the audit revealed a considerable amount of disposable coffee cups in the waste, a solution for this is encouraging the use of china, where

The advertisement for JohnnyVac is set against a dark blue background. At the top, the 'JohnnyVac' logo is written in a large, stylized, yellow and white cursive font. Below the logo, the advertisement is divided into four quadrants by a white border. The top-left quadrant shows a large yellow and grey floor buffer machine. The top-right quadrant shows a blue and yellow utility cart with a yellow bag and a 'CAUTION Wet Floor' sign. The bottom-left quadrant displays a collection of various yellow and grey vacuum cleaners and floor care equipment. The bottom-right quadrant shows a red carpet cleaner, a large grey flexible hose, and a yellow 'AirPlus' floor care tool. At the bottom of the advertisement, the website address 'www.johnnyvac.com' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.



The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association

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## Registration Now Open for 2012 CIMS I.C.E. Workshops

**T**he 2012 Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) ISSA Certification Expert (I.C.E.) workshop schedule has been announced, and registration is now open for these one-day training courses that focus on the elements of CIMS and CIMS-Green Building (GB) criteria.

The 2012 I.C.E. Workshop Schedule:

- Feb. 28 – Anaheim, CA.
- May 1 – Atlantic City, NJ (in conjunction with NJSSA SupplyLine 2012).
- Jul. 17 – Rosemont, IL.
- Oct. 15 and 16 – Chicago, IL (in con-

junction with ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America 2012).

The workshop takes attendees on a guided tour of CIMS and CIMS-GB and, in doing so, provides a comprehensive review of what it takes to manage a quality customer-focused and sustainable cleaning organization. Graduates are equipped with the knowledge to provide training and consulting services to cleaning organizations interested in complying with the standard and preparing to become CIMS/CIMS-GB certified.

Industry representatives who participate in an I.C.E. workshop and pass an exami-

nation on the CIMS/CIMS-GB elements join the roster of over 1000 individuals who are offering a crucial new value-added service to their customers or their own organizations as an I.C.E.-certified professional.

*For more information about CIMS, CIMS-GB or the I.C.E. workshops and to download a registration form, visit [www.issa.com/cims](http://www.issa.com/cims). Organizations interested in information about having ISSA conduct a private I.C.E. workshop at their own facility should contact ISSA Director of Facility Service Programs Dan Wagner at [Daniel@issa.com](mailto:Daniel@issa.com); phone (800) 225-4772 (North America) or (847) 982-0800.*

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## Homewood Health Centre Validates Good Stewardship

possible, and also providing a coffee cup recycling program to accommodate the wet strength paper.

Homewood Health Care has a used furniture refurbishing centre and also donates used furniture to local charities – when a large clean-out of a health care facility is done and either of the above are not an option, it is recommended to review the contents and keep the recyclables separate (e.g. wood and scrap metals) and throw out as little as possible.

Waste Reduction Group also looks at what is sold in the cafeteria and what kinds of packaging is on the products the hospital purchases – outcomes of

this review are recommendations to use china first or recyclable one time use items where china is not available as well as to purchase products with less packaging or packaging that is recyclable to create less waste.

Waste Reduction Group also generates a waste reduction work plan which lays out a strategy for reducing waste, and sets goals and targets for the future.

The Homewood Green Team recently implemented a waste-free office work plan that will provide central drop points for staff to place waste, recycled materials such as organics/cans and other useful commodities. The plan is to make source separating achievable

and easier for staff.

We also identified that we can reduce the number of plastic waste bags going to land fill by simply reducing the number of waste containers we had in our patient rooms. This also had a positive impact on the housekeeping budget as we are saving on bag replacement costs.

The waste audit was a worthwhile investment for Homewood, we certainly appreciate the support from the OHA Green Hospital Champion Fund, the detailed audit work performed by Waste Reduction Group Inc. and their recommendations towards our 2012 Waste reduction plan.