

## Conservation of Resources

In recent years researchers and healthcare workers have been more aware of the need to make every attempt at conserving resources. How do they do that? There are many ways. One way is to make healthcare facilities more energy efficient. An obvious example is the use of more energy efficient light bulbs and lighting systems that turn on and off automatically as needed. New technologies are also much more efficient at sensing changes in temperatures so that air conditioning and heating equipment operate only when required.

Another way that researchers and medical personnel conserve resources is by reducing unnecessary and excessive water consumption. Many people take clean, fresh water for granted, even though population increases and climate change have put supplies at risk in many areas. Water-saving plumbing fixtures have helped conserve this valuable resource, as have government restrictions on usage.

Some healthcare facilities are also seeking LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certification. Buildings that are LEED certified have proven they use resources like water and energy efficiently, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.