



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY
ON
CLEANER PRODUCTION FOR
HEALTH SECTOR**

Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition

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In collaboration with

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

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Message from Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Healthcare & Nutrition

The government is committed to provide free healthcare to the people of Sri Lanka. However the healthcare cost is on the increase due to population growth, epidemiological, and demographic transitions and advancement of science and technology in the areas of diagnosis and treatment. This is further aggravated by the increased demand on the natural resources leading to environmental degradation and pollution which adversely affect health of the population. Therefore, it is necessary that strategies and interventions are adopted to meet these challenges without compromising the free healthcare delivery system. These should aim at achieving sustainable development, enhanced environmental quality, optimal utilization of resources, sustainable production and consumption patterns and improving productivity. It has been accepted that Cleaner Production Concepts and practices address all these issues.

The Cabinet of Ministers has already approved the National Policy for Cleaner Production developed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The National Policy identifies the importance of sectoral policies, and the development of this health sector policy is a realization of this principle.

I wish to congratulate this joint activity undertaken by my Ministry with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and hope that this would enable the health sector to improve resource utilization.

Preface

The health indicators show that Sri Lanka has been able to achieve a high health status with a low per capita income compared to the developed countries. This is due to a strong and dynamic healthcare delivery system and the commitment by successive governments to provide free healthcare for all. With the changing epidemiological and demographic patterns and rise in healthcare cost, it is vital to strengthen and improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of the system, by optimizing the utilization of human, physical and other resources while adopting environmental friendly practices.

Environmental factors such as pollution play an important role in enhancing the healthcare burden. To prevent and minimize environmental pollution, the consumption patterns and utilization of the natural resources should become sustainable. Further the sustainable production and consumption patterns also lead to reduction in poverty and prevent imbalances in economic development opportunities.

Adoption of “Cleaner Production Concept” has been identified as one of the interventions to address the above concerns, as it advocates environmental friendly practices, optimal use of resources and life cycle management of products and provision of services. This will help to improve the health sector by minimizing wastage and imbalances in the system. This would also address issues such as health care waste management practices, optimal use of energy resources and productivity. The development of the health sector policy on cleaner production is in keeping with the National Policy, with a view to incorporate cleaner production concept and practices within the health system.

I congratulate the Environmental & Occupation Health Unit of My Ministry for developing the Health Sector Policy under the guidance and support of the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the National Cleaner Production Centre.

Dr. H.A.P. Kahandaliyanage
Secretary
Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition

NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY ON CLEANER PRODUCTION FOR HEALTH SECTOR

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 institutions 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 institutions 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 principles 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 evaluating 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.