Climate Action in your Hospital

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Health Care Without Harm

1996

Health Care Without Harm works to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and becomes a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

32,000

Our reach includes 32,000 hospitals and health centers in 52 countries worldwide.
As the only sector with healing as its mission, health care has an opportunity – and obligation – to use its ethical, economic, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.
Climate and Health Program

Three Pillar Strategy

Mitigation
Reduce the carbon footprint of hospital operations.

Resilience
Prepare hospitals for climate impacts and anchor communities and regions for greater community resilience.

Leadership
Leverage the moral, political, and economic influence of the health care sector to change policy and markets.
Our impact | Practice Greenhealth is the leading membership organization for Sustainable Health Care. Our members save more than $1 million annually from initiatives drawn from our sustainability agenda.

- Members report $106,648 in waste reduction savings and a 30% recycling rate by leading hospitals.
- More than 65% of facilities in our network choose to purchase meat products raised without routine antibiotics.
- Members report $178,731 in energy savings and an average reduction of 840 tons in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Nearly 80% of facilities in our network purchase third-party certified green cleaning chemicals and 30% avoid purchasing furniture or furnishings containing chemicals of concern.
- Members report $48,252 in water efficiency savings.
- Nearly 100% of our members have a strategic sustainability plan and 76% have added sustainability measures into performance objectives for leadership.

For more information visit www.practicegreenhealth.org or email our membership team at srich@practicegreenhealth.org.
Health care contributes to climate change

- Energy use for heating, cooling, lighting, & water use
- Waste hauling, treatment, & landfill gases
- Supplies & materials
- Fleet vehicles
- Meat production & food transport
- Employee commutes
- Waste anesthetic gases

Supplies & materials contribute to climate change through energy use for heating, cooling, lighting, and water use. Waste hauling, treatment, and landfill gases also contribute. Fleet vehicles, employee commutes, meat production, and food transport are other sources of climate change. Health care contributes to climate change.
At the University of Wisconsin, containers holding the various anesthetic gases are prominently labeled with their global warming potential. Since the labels were introduced, the hospital has cut about 4 million kilograms per year of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions—comparable to removing almost 900 cars from the road—while saving about $20,000 per month.¹
Do No Harm

The health care sector is responsible for 10% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

If the U.S. health care sector was a country, it would rank 13th in the world for GHG emissions, ahead of the entire United Kingdom.
On the front lines of climate change
Health care’s opportunity

Mitigate health care’s impacts
The health care sector can clean up its house by mitigating its direct environmental and public health footprint.

Create community health and resilience
Health care systems can partner with communities through social, economic, and ecological strategies that build health, wealth, and resilience at individual, community, and global scales.

Lead broader societal transformation
Health care leaders can advocate for policies that are more protective of both human health and the ecosystems that sustain all life.
What are the benefits of creating climate-smart health care?

- Savings from energy efficiency allow hospitals to divert resources to improved patient care and translate into lower health care costs.
- Renewable energy procurement and alternative transportation support regional jobs and improve air quality.
- Hospitals can remain operational in the face of extreme weather events.
Set a greenhouse gas goal for the hospital / health system

Invest in renewable energy

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Include climate risks in emergency preparedness plans

Reduce OR energy use & waste

Choose local, sustainable foods & reduce food waste

Carpool, bike, walk, or take public transport

Educate your community

How to take action
Mitigation
Providence St. Joseph Health has set ambitious water reduction goals; Providence St. Peter Hospital achieved a 58 percent reduction in water consumption and overall savings of $2.5 million over 14 years.

From 2008 to 2015, Advocate Health Care reduced its energy consumption by 23 percent per square foot (weather normalized), saving $23 million and avoiding the release of 203,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to the energy to power nearly 19,000 homes for a year.

Ascension’s Environmental Stewardship Program has met the Better Buildings Challenge goal of 20 percent energy reduction by 2020 across its acute care hospital portfolio. From July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2016, Ascension has reduced energy usage by 21.4 percent, saved $53.3 million in cost avoidance and reduced over 1,114,600 tons carbon dioxide emission across 141 healthcare facilities over three years ahead of plan.
Gundersen Health implemented a cafeteria food waste minimization program. They were able to reduce pre-consumer food waste by 80 percent in 2015 from their 2010 baseline and saved an average of $30,000/year.

University of Vermont Medical Center procures over 45 percent of its food locally and sustainably, including food grown on their rooftop garden. Food waste is composted offsite, and then some of that compost is purchased back for use in the gardens. UVM Medical Center utilizes a room-service model for patients which helps to reduce food waste.
Seattle Children’s Hospital has been leading sustainable transportation efforts by reducing the drive alone commute trips made by their workforce from 73 percent in 1995 to 38 percent in 2015. They did this by: charging daily parking rates, offering generous subsidies and incentives to use lower-impact options, working with the city and county on bike, pedestrian and transit improvements, and providing personalized commute planning to every new employee.
GREENING THE OPERATING ROOM

By reducing air exchanges per hour for non-surgical periods, Cleveland Clinic saved two Gwh/year in energy output and $250,000 per year.

On the road to net-zero GHG emissions by 2020, Boston Medical Center has retrofitted to all LED surgical lighting in the ORs, utilized occupancy sensors to decrease energy usage, and removed desflurane as well as reduced the use of nitrous oxide.
Health sector is making progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cleveland Clinic</th>
<th>Carbon neutral by 2027 (Scopes 1 and 2 only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NYU Langone Medical Center</td>
<td>NYC Carbon Challenge: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2025 (Scopes 1 and 2 energy only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunderson Health System</td>
<td>100% energy independence from grid</td>
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| Kaiser Permanente | Carbon neutral by 2020 (Scopes 1 and 2 only)  
Carbon positive by 2025 |
| Rochester Regional Health | 100% renewable electricity |
| Boston Medical Partners HealthCare | 25% by 2020 (Scopes 1 and 2 energy only)  
100% by 2050 |
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Toolkit

Toolkit for Practice Greenhealth members:

- Reviews how to define organizational boundaries, set a baseline year, and track greenhouse gases;
- Outlines how to engage leadership to set a reduction goal;
- Includes a template leadership pitch PPT slide deck;
- Includes a tracking Excel spreadsheet;
- And a resource guide for how to make GHG reductions.