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.
We began in 1996 as a coalition of 28 organizations coming together to tackle harmful emissions caused by medical waste incineration. Twenty years later, with offices on four continents and thousands of partners around the world, Health Care Without Harm is leading the global sustainable health care movement.

Our reach includes 32,000 hospitals, health centers and health partners in 51 countries worldwide.
From Mercury to Climate Change
HCWH Network – Sister Organizations

MEMBERSHIP ARM
The leading nonprofit membership and networking organization for sustainable health care, Practice Greenhealth delivers environmental solutions to more than 1,100 members, lending support to create better, safer, greener workplaces and communities.

WORLDWIDE NETWORK
Global Green and Healthy Hospitals is a worldwide network of hospitals, health systems, and health organizations aimed toward building a global community committed to sustainable health care and healthy communities.

GREEN PURCHASING
Created by Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and leading health systems committed to sustainability, Greenhealth Exchange is a purchasing cooperative that makes buying products and services that are good for people, the planet, and the bottom line much easier.
Climate-Smart Framework

1. **Mitigation**: The health sector radically reduces its own carbon footprint and implements low-carbon health care delivery, using its supply chain leverage to drive the market transition to a low-carbon economy.

2. **Adaptation and Resilience**: The health sector prepares its facilities for climate impacts and helps to anchor its communities and regions for greater community resilience.

3. **Leadership (Advocacy and Communication)**: Health care institutions and professionals act as critical messengers for rebranding climate change as a public health threat and become powerful advocates for climate-smart policies at all levels of government and in health care oversight organizations.
Health Care Climate Council - By the Numbers

- 18 leading health systems
- 500 hospitals in 27 states & 240 Congressional districts
- Annual operating revenue of more than $165 billion
- 1 million employees
• **Research and Innovation**: We identify and pilot opportunities for health care to implement innovative, economical, science-based solutions to environmental health problems.

• **Implementation and Capacity Building**: We educate, build implementation tools, train health care professionals and scale-up solutions across our networks, the health sector and in the communities it serves.

• **Policy and Market Changes**: We aggregate the ethical, economic and political influence of hospitals, health systems, health professionals and organizations to advocate for policies and market transformation that will protect public health from environmental harm.
CLIMATE ACTION: A Playbook for Hospitals

Because of the 24/7 nature of hospital operations, the U.S. health care sector spends $5.6 billion annually on energy, creating 8 percent of the entire U.S. commercial building sector’s greenhouse gas emissions. Consider the following:

- A 30 percent cut in healthcare electricity’s carbon pollution by 2030 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preventing an estimated 1.6 billion tons of CO2 every year. This would save healthcare facilities 4 million respiratory symptom events and 3.75 million hospital visit incidents and save about $12 billion in medical costs.
- Water is also a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from the energy consumed during distribution and treatment, plus the water used in energy extraction and generation itself.

Gundersen Health achieved its first days of energy independence in October 2014 by implementing deep energy efficiency measures and then developing its own portfolio of renewable energy generation projects.

Providence St. Joseph Health has set ambitious water reduction goals. Providence St. Peter Hospital achieved a 56 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 $23.3 million in cost avoidance and reduced over 11.5 million tons carbon dioxide emission across 141 healthcare facilities over three years ahead of plan.

Climate-Smart Health Care: MITIGATION
Climate-Smart Health Care: RESILIENCE
Delivering community benefit:
Climate and health

Addressing social and environmental determinants of health to create resilient communities

"Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century."
- The Lancet Commission

Climate-Smart Health Care: RESILIENCE
Federal and State Advocacy on Renewable Energy

“Transitioning our state quickly away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources will not only help combat climate change, but it will also have immediate benefits in improving the quality of our air and our health.”

Climate-Smart Health Care: LEADERSHIP
Join our Physician Network

As trusted leaders, physicians have a unique opportunity to influence public policy to protect the health of our patients and communities. Health Care Without Harm’s Physician Network supports physicians who are leaders in leveraging their influence and expertise to drive the sustainability movement and to create climate-smart systems in which physicians together share best practices and to ensure that our systems improve sustainability and healthy future.

While physicians take an oath to “do no harm,” the health care sector in the United States is contributing to the problem. Health care operations consume more than 8 percent of the total energy use of all commercial buildings in the United States, and the health care sector produces an estimated 10 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Leading hospitals have been powerful champions to support sustainability. The “three Rs” — reduce, reuse, and recycle — are increasingly common in health care institutions.

Leading hospitals have been powerful champions to support sustainability. The “three Rs” — reduce, reuse, and recycle — are increasingly common in health care institutions. Physicians are also working to reduce their carbon footprint.

Get involved

- Join our network.
- Join our Facebook group.
- Plan to network with the Physicians in action.
- Tell us about your sustainability efforts.

Resources

- Practice Greenhealth
- Healthy Food in Health Care
- Medical Society Consortium for Climate and Health
- American College of Physicians’ Climate Change Toolkit
- Physicians for Social Responsibility’s Building Advocacy Skills
- U.S. Climate and Health Alliance State Policy Initiative
- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- Sustainable Anesthesia guidance
- My Green Doctor

Physician Network:

Nurses’ Climate Challenge

NCC

Climate-Smart Health Care:
LEADERSHIP
Climate change is a medical emergency

The health care sector has a moral mandate to respond and the power to be a tipping point towards a better future.
THANK YOU

noharm.org
practicegrenhealth.org

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