A close-up photograph of a pair of dark-skinned hands gently cupping a small, vibrant green plant with several leaves. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the hands and the plant.

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 Solutions for the Health Care Sector

Jessica Wolff
U.S. Director of Climate and Health
April 10, 2018

1996

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.

32,000

Our reach includes 32,000 hospitals, health centers and health partners in 51 countries worldwide.



From Mercury to Climate Change



TOWARD THE TOP

WHO-HCWH Global Initiative to
Substitute Mercury-Based
Devices in Health Care

A Two-Year Progress Report



In association with the UNDP GEF Global Health Care Waste Project



UN environment MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

#MakeMercuryHistory @minamataMEA

AUGUST 16 ENTRY INTO FORCE 2017

70 ratifications as of 29 June 2017

First Conference of the Parties
24-29 September 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

Climate-Smart Healthcare

Low-Carbon and Resilience
Strategies for the Health Sector

INVESTING IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SERIES

WORLD BANK GROUP

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

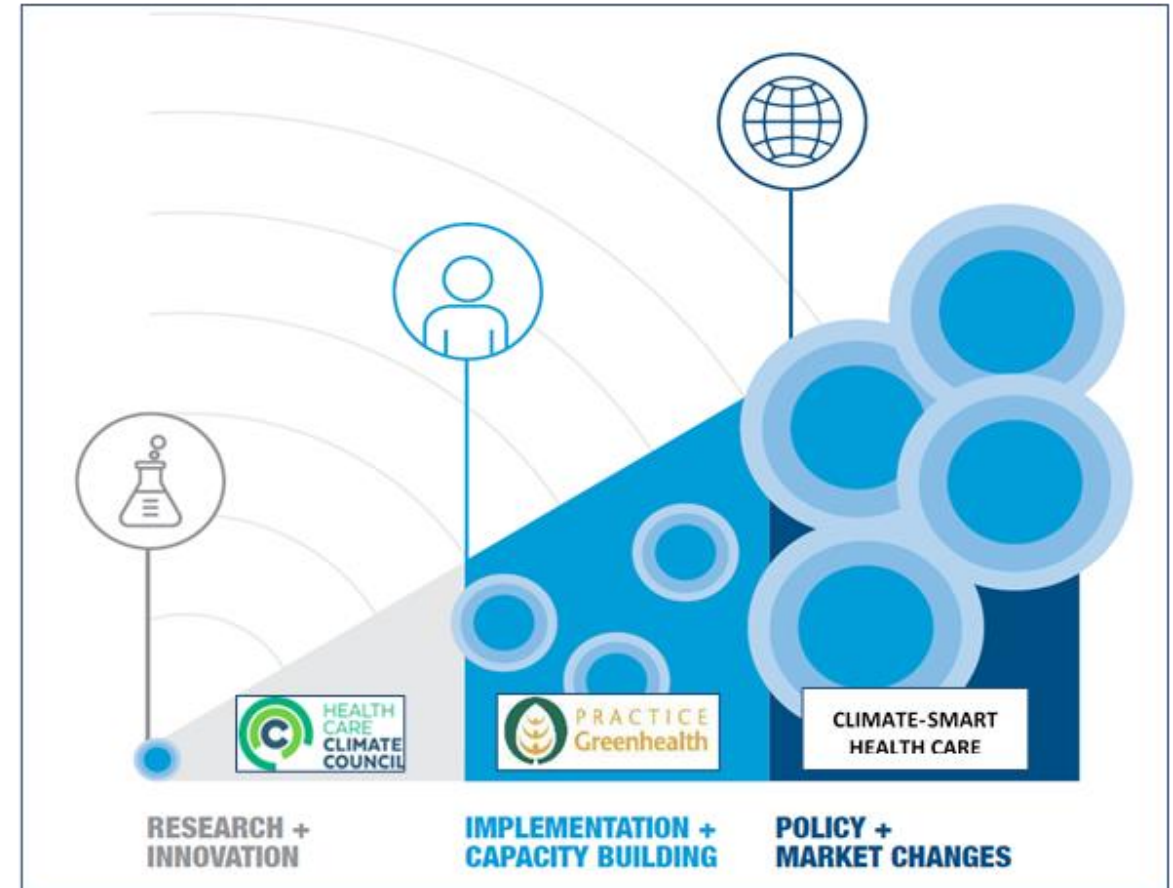


Health Care Climate Council - By the Numbers

- 18 leading health systems
- 500 hospitals in 27 states & 240 Congressional districts
- Annual operating revenue of more than \$165 billion
- 1 million employees

HCWH Model of Change

- **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



LEANER ENERGY



Because of the 24/7 nature of hospital operations, the U.S. health care sector spends \$9.6 billion annually on energy, creating 8 percent of the entire U.S. commercial building sector's greenhouse gas emissions. Consider the following:

- o A 30 percent cut in healthcare electricity's carbon pollution by 2030 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preventing an estimated 4,130 premature deaths, 85,000 asthma attacks, 4 million respiratory symptom events and 3,750 hospital visit incidents and save about \$1.2 billion in medical costs.
- o 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 SYSTEM.

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

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.

 **Advocate**
Health Care

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**
HEALTH

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.

Climate-Smart Health Care: MITIGATION



Texas Medical Center

Partners HealthCare
Spaulding Rehab



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

Physicians in action



Dr. Amy Collins

Learn what inspired Dr. Amy Collins to start a Physician Network at Health Care Without Harm.

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

Join our Physician Network

As trusted leaders, physicians have a unique opportunity to influence public policy to protect the health of

Health Care Without Harm’s Physician Network supports leaders in leveraging their influence and expertise in the sustainability movement and to create climate-smart physicians together to share best practices and to create a sustainable and healthy future.

While physicians take an oath to “do no harm,” the health care operations in the United States is contributing to climate change. The patients and communities. The health care sector produces an estimated 10 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and hospitals consume more than 8 percent of the total energy use of all commercial buildings in the United States.

Leading hospitals have been powerful champions to support change inside and outside of their walls. In fact, “physicians and health care professionals have the resources to protect health and the environment.

Get involved

- Join our network.
- Join our Facebook group
- Plan to network with
- Tell us about your sus

Physician Network go

Education

As experts on human health, physicians can educate their patients and colleagues about the link between the environment and health as well as the opportunities to create sustainable health care and healthy communities.

Physicians in action: Watch grand rounds presentations from Dr. Aparna Bole on [hospital sustainability](#) at University Hospitals and Dr. Karin Zuegge on [sustainable anesthesiology](#) at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

Research

Physicians can use their clinical expertise to engage in relevant research to drive health sector sustainability forward and support evidence-based decisions by sustainability professionals and clinicians.

Physicians in action: Read a [study about the climate impact of anesthetic drugs](#).

Speakers bureau

Physicians can educate their peers and communities about climate and health and other topics related to health sector sustainability by joining our speakers bureau.

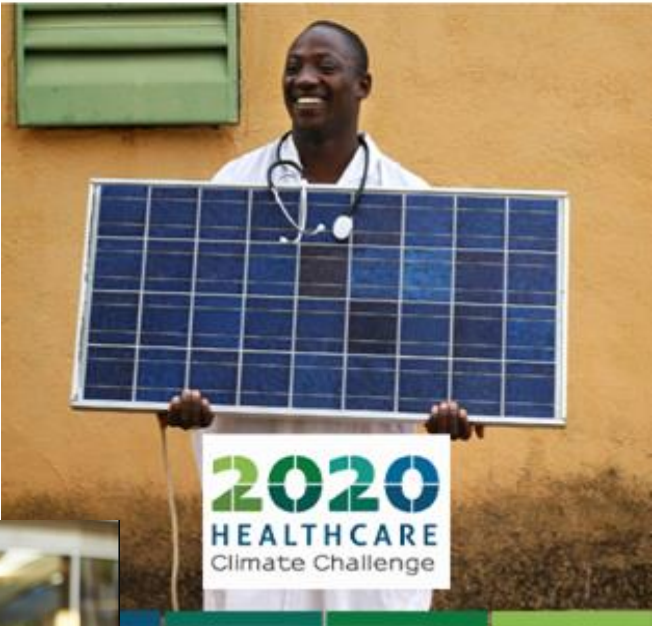
Physicians in action: Read [how Drs. Lori and Rob Byron are educating the public about climate and health](#).



NCC
Nurses’ Climate Challenge

Are you up to the #2020Challenge?

Click here to sign the Pledge and become a climate leader today!



Climate-Smart
Health Care:
LEADERSHIP

do no harm



[Watch the Film](#) [Our Vision](#) [Join Us](#)



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.

donoharmstory.org



THANK YOU

noharm.org

practicegrenhealth.org

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