Clinicians as trusted messengers and advocates in their hospitals and communities

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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.
Health care contributes to climate change

- Energy use for heating, cooling, lighting, & water use
- Waste hauling, treatment, & landfill gases
- Fleet vehicles
- Supplies & materials
- Waste anesthetic gases
- Meat production & food transport
- Employee commutes
- Health care contributes to climate change
What are the benefits of creating climate-smart health care?

- Savings from energy efficiency and waste reduction allow hospitals to divert resources to patient care.
- Investments in renewable energy and alternative transportation support local jobs and improve air quality.
- Hospitals can remain operational in the face of extreme weather events.
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.
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 Healthcare. 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.
Nurses and physicians are powerful advocates for climate solutions inside and outside their clinical practice.
“I got depressed for a while, and so I hit the pause button on myself and said, ‘Well, what’s the very best that I can do?’”

- Dr. Brian Chesebro

8 hours of desflurane = 116 days of
Join or start a Green Team!
Ask your hospital to join the Health Care Climate Challenge

The Health Care Climate Challenge mobilizes health care institutions around the world to protect public health from climate change.

178 institutions across the globe representing the interests of 17,000 hospitals and health facilities have already committed to this challenge
Hospitals as Anchors for Resilient Communities

Safe haven in the storm

Primary Protection: Enhancing Health Care Resilience for a Changing Climate
Help educate your patients

**Patient FACTS**

**Climate Change and Your Health**

**What Is Climate Change?**
There is clear proof that the world’s climate is changing. These changes will affect the usual, expected weather patterns. They are caused by human activities, like opening factories, driving vehicles, and pollution. Climate change could have a serious effect on the health of the public. It can cause:

- **Heat waves**
- **Wildfires**
- **Droughts**
- **Floods**
- **Tornadoes**
- **Hurricanes**
- **High sea levels**
- **Increased occurrence of vector-borne diseases**

**How Can Climate Change Affect My Health?**
All people will be affected by climate change, but children and older adults may be most affected. Climate change will be linked with health problems, such as:

- **Heat-related conditions**: Extreme heat can cause dangerous changes in your body. This can lead to dehydration, heat stroke, and exhaustion. Extreme heat can make many health conditions worse, such as heart and lung diseases.
- **Breathing problems**: Air pollution is dangerous and can irritate your lungs. It can also make problems worse, such as asthma and COPD worse.
- **Water supply crises**: Flooding can cause problems with your town’s water supply. For example, mosquitoes can carry diseases to your drinking water. This could lead to problems, such as dengue fever and cholera.
- **Climate spread by insects**: Weather changes can cause there to be more disease-spreadin insects. These insects, such as mosquitoes and ticks, can spread such diseases as Zika virus, malaria, and dengue fever.
- **Food and water**: Climate change can cause problems with food supply. Crops can be damaged and seafood supply may become scarce. Droughts also affect the supply of water for drinking and bathing.
- **Mental health problems**: Extreme weather events like flooding, hurricanes, and heat waves can affect your family’s emotional well-being. These events can cause stress, which could lead to such problems as anxiety or depression.
Join Health Care Without Harm’s Physician Network

- A network of physicians interested in promoting climate-smart health care through mitigation, resilience and leadership.

- Supports physician action to reduce the environmental impact of health care delivery.

noharm.org/physiciannetwork
Physicians can be effective sustainability champions in a variety of ways, including:

**Health sector and hospital advocacy**

Physicians can support sustainable, climate-smart health care within their hospitals and health systems by leading green teams or working with your sustainability director or chief medical officer to implement sustainable practices, and also by advocating internally for the adoption of ambitious sustainability goals.

Physicians in action: Learn how Dr. Aparna Bose launched a sustainability project using Seema Gandhi to reduce waste in the operating room.

**Education**

As experts on human health, physicians can educate the public about the relationship between the environment and health as well as the importance of healthy communities.

Physicians in action: Watch grand rounds presentations from “Aparna Bose on sustainable anesthesiology” at the University of Washington.

**Research**

Physicians can use their clinical expertise to engage in research to move sustainability forward and support evidence-based decision-making by clinicians.

Physicians in action: Read a study about the climate impact of another's healthcare practices.

**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 Bob Byun are educating the public about climate and health.

**Clinical practice**

Physicians can modify their clinical practices at the bedside to protect both human and environmental health through patient education, use of environmental history tools, green pharmacy practices, and environmentally responsible delivery of patient care.

Physicians in action: Read an example of an environmental history tool used by pediatricians.

**Policy advocacy**

As trusted messengers, physicians are powerful advocates for public policies that protect the health of their patients, communities, and our environment. Physicians can meet with legislators, submit comments to a regulatory agency, testify before a legislative committee, or sign petitions. They can also call on their health system to publicly support renewable energy and carbon reduction goals at local, state, and national levels.

Physicians in action: Learn how physicians in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Virginia are advocating for renewable energy and climate-smart policies.

**Media**

Physicians have numerous opportunities to engage the media as an advocacy tool through writing letters to the editor, opinion pieces, providing interviews, writing blogs or other articles and through social media.

Physicians in action: Read an op-ed by Dr. Nina Raff in support of the Clean Power Plan and a letter to the editor by Dr. Lisa Del Bosco in support of the Paris Agreement.
Become a Nurse Climate Champion!

NursesClimateChallenge.org
Ask your hospital leadership to join Practice Greenhealth
CLEANMED ORLANDO

May 12-14, 2020

Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate | Orlando, Fla.
Set a greenhouse gas goal for the hospital / health system

Carpool, bike, walk, or take public transport

Choose local, sustainable foods & reduce food waste

Reduce OR energy use & waste

Invest in renewable energy

Include climate risks in emergency preparedness plans

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Educate your community

Carpool, bike, walk, or take public transport

Climate-Smart Hospital
Questions?

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noharm.org/climateandhealth