

HEALTH CARE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Forging a future for climate-smart health care

By moving toward low-carbon health systems, health care can mitigate its own climate impact, save money, and lead by example.

By becoming more resilient, health care can help prepare for the growing impacts of climate change.

And by providing societal leadership, we can help forge a vision of a future with healthy hospitals and healthy people living on a healthy planet.

Why climate action?

“Climate change is the biggest public health threat and opportunity of the 21st century,” according to The Lancet.

Because the health sector is a major economic, political, and moral force around the globe, it has the potential to play a leadership role in addressing climate change everywhere.

By reducing their emissions and becoming more resilient, hospitals, health care facilities, and health systems in every country can become leaders in contributing to both health and climate solutions.

Are you up to the challenge?

The challenge is based on three pillars:

1. Mitigation - Reducing health care's own carbon footprint and fostering low-carbon health care.
2. Resilience - Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease.
3. Leadership - Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change.

Hospitals, health care facilities, health systems, health professional, and academic organizations are invited to sign the [Health Care Climate Challenge pledge](#) and join the climate-smart health care movement.

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



Measures overview

The Health Care Climate Challenge is based on 3 pillars:

Mitigation

Participants work to:

- Implement energy efficiency measures and deploy clean renewable energy to power our buildings.
- Identify their institutions' other climate impacts, including transportation systems, purchasing policies, waste generation and disposal.
- Measure and report on progress, including financial savings from these actions.

Resilience

Participants work to:

- Prepare for the impacts of climate change by becoming more resilient to increasing incidents of extreme weather.
- Implement measures to assure physical infrastructure, staff, and communities are prepared for the immediate impact of extreme weather events and the longer term impacts of changing patterns of disease.

Leadership

Participants work to:

- Educate health care professionals and hospital staff, as well as the communities in which they are located, on the challenges and solutions related to climate and health.
- Encourage public policy, economic development and investment strategies that move societies away from fossil fuel dependency and foster a healthy energy future.

Each participating institution commits to:

- Setting a carbon emissions reduction goal with a baseline and target year.
- Tracking data and progress in the Practice Greenhealth Awards program.



Why climate change?

Climate change, as The Lancet Commission put it in 2009, is “the biggest public health threat and opportunity of the 21st century.” Since then, the climate crisis has only deepened, and the science has become increasingly irrefutable, heightening the urgency for action.

In order to protect local and global health from climate change, the world needs to move toward an economy based on clean, renewable, healthy energy. A transition to a clean energy economy will benefit both the climate and public health.

Hospitals, health systems, and government health institutions can play a leadership role in this transition.

Reducing the climate footprint

The health sector is a significant source of carbon emissions around the world, and therefore an unintentional contributor to climate change that undermines public health.

The health sector has the opportunity to become a beacon of low-carbon development, deploying onsite renewable energy technologies, efficient building design, and more.

The Health Care Climate Challenge offers a framework that enables them to benchmark their climate footprint, while empowering them to conserve energy and reduce emissions.

Why take on this challenge?

By moving toward low-carbon health systems, health care can mitigate its own climate impact, save money, and lead by example.

By becoming more resilient, health care can help prepare for the growing impacts of climate change. And by providing societal leadership, the health sector can help forge a vision of a future with healthy hospitals and healthy people living on a healthy planet.

At this crucial juncture, the time to act to protect public health from climate change is now.



Participants can earn global recognition as they progress through the challenge as leaders in the movement toward climate-smart health care.



Get started

Are you already working on climate or interested in getting started? **Take on the challenge.**



1. Visit the [Health Care Climate Challenge website](#) to access the challenge and enroll your institution.



2. If Practice Greenhealth member, submit data using the awards application.



3. Non-Practice Greenhealth members can access [GGHH Connect](#) using your email and password.



4. Access the [Hippocrates Data Center](#) by clicking on the link on the right-hand side of your GGHH Connect homepage.



5. On your [Hippocrates Data Center's homepage](#), click on the "Data Forms" link.



6. Scroll down and click "start" under "Health Care Climate Challenge" to begin submitting greenhouse gas emissions data, greenhouse gas reduction targets, and resiliency and leadership data.



7. Define and submit data for your baseline year. After submitting this data form, submit data for your most recent year to report progress achieved.