



EVERY ACTION TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IMPROVES HUMAN HEALTH

Creating Sustainable Health Systems:

- Environmental sustainability involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising those of the future.
- The US Healthcare system contributes to 8.5% of national emissions from facility use, transportation, and material production.
- By reducing emissions, diverting waste, and providing more environmentally conscious food options, health care facilities can adopt more sustainable practices.

How Health Care Facilities Can Take Action (WE ACT)

*Framework adopted from Providence health system

Waste:

On average, US hospitals produce 29 pounds of waste per patient per day. Reduce waste by recycling, composting and reprocessing to reduce emissions.

Energy and water:

Tracking energy and water use and identifying ways to reduce use makes a difference. Buying efficient equipment and investing in renewable energy also helps.

Agriculture and food:

Agriculture has a large carbon footprint. Buying local and choosing plant-based food can reduce emissions from farming, processing and transportation. Reducing food waste by composting is also important.

Chemicals:

Medical devices and supplies can have harmful chemicals. Phasing out PVC, DEHP and reducing anesthesia emissions is a way for hospitals to be more sustainable.

Transportation:

Reducing travel saves money. Opt for public transportation or walking/biking if possible.

Join a network of 60,000 other hospitals that have made efforts to be more sustainable in healthcare by visiting noharm.org, or taking the pledge at mygreendoctor.org.



"As a citizen of Montana I can continue to advocate for a healthy, livable, equitable planet and future. I can take actions personally, professionally and in the public sphere."
-Beth Schenk, ED
Environmental Stewardship, Providence



Find out more about environmental sustainability and health.