

The Path Forward

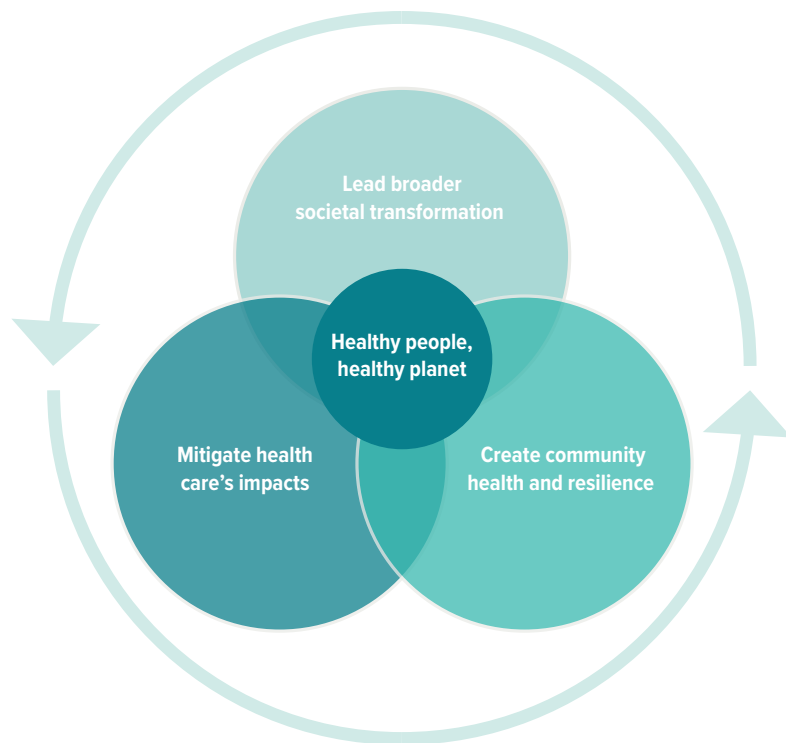


As the only sector with healing as its mission, health care has an opportunity to use its ethical, economic, and political influence to create ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy communities.



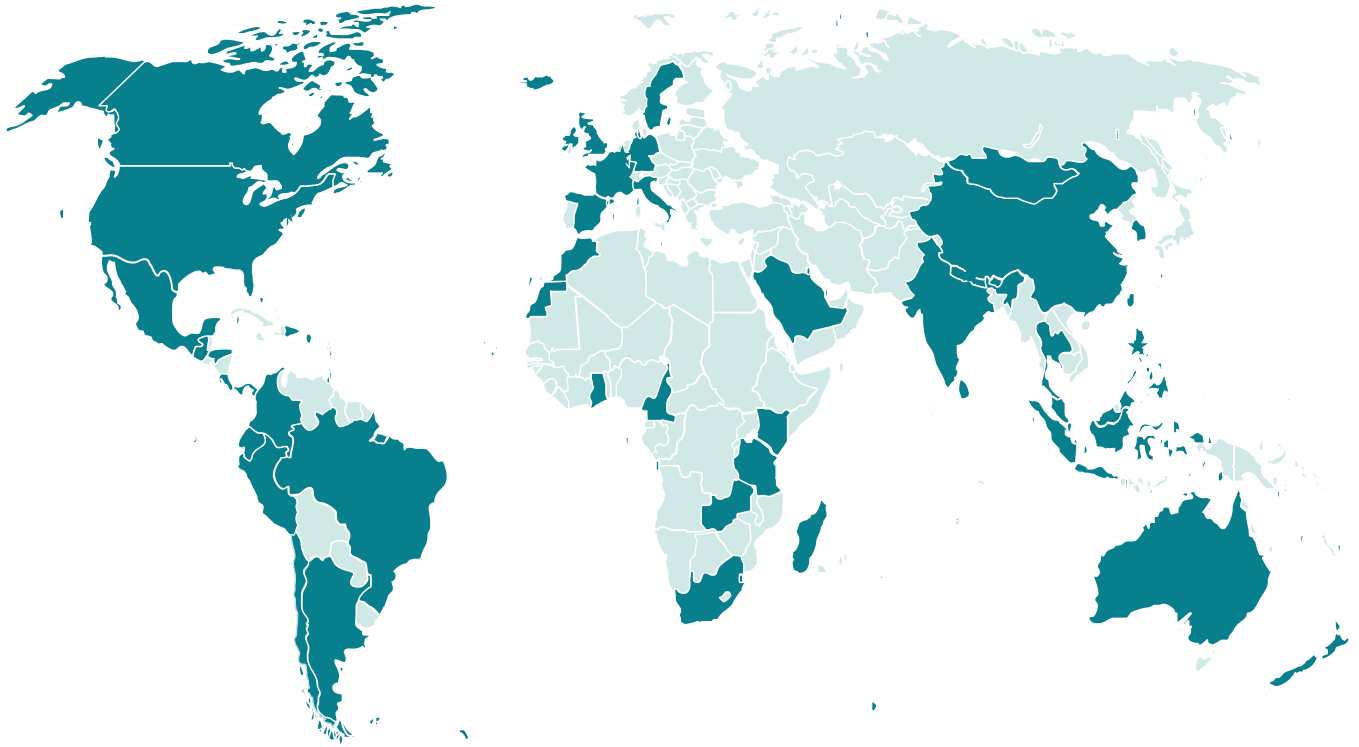
Imagine healthy people living in equitable and resilient communities on a thriving planet

The health care sector is uniquely positioned, both within the sector and in partnership with other areas of our economy, to lead a societal transformation where individual, community, and planetary health is the aim.



Health Care Without Harm envisions a global transformation of health care so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Representing 18% of the U.S. economy and 10% of the global economy, health care has the power to transform people, communities, and markets.



Our programs, projects, and partnerships extend to thousands of hospitals and health centers in 52 countries worldwide.



HOSPITALS IN ACTION

Practice Greenhealth is the leading membership and networking organization for sustainable health care, delivering environmental solutions to more than 1,100 U.S. hospitals and health systems.



WORLDWIDE NETWORK

With members in 52 countries, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals is an international network of hospitals, health care facilities, health systems, and health organizations dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health.



SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

Created by Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and several leading health systems, Greenhealth Exchange is a purchasing cooperative that makes it much easier to buy products and services that are good for people, the planet, and the bottom line.

By embedding sustainability into health care operations, we drive the health care sector from within to lead broader change.

Starting at the facility level, our work is built on three interconnected strategies that harness the enormous economic power and influence of the health care sector to generate equitable, health-based policies, drive markets, and create opportunities for clean energy, healthy food, healthy housing, and safer products.

MITIGATE HEALTH CARE'S IMPACTS

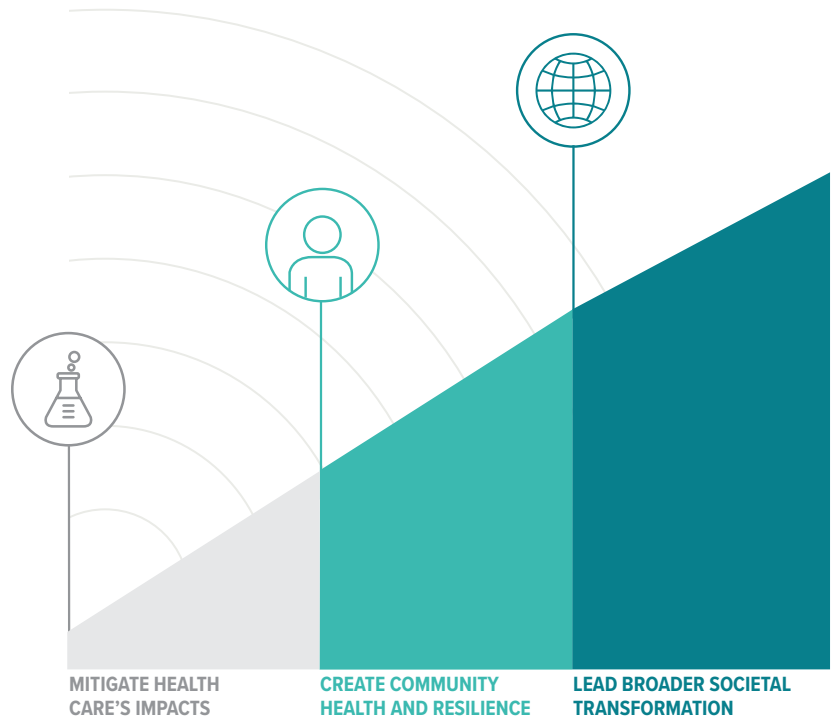
The health care sector can clean up its house by improving its direct environmental and public health footprint.

CREATE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

Health care systems can partner with communities through social, economic, and ecological strategies that build health, wealth, and resilience at individual, community, and global scales.

LEAD BROADER SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

Health care leaders can advocate for policies that are more protective of both human health and the ecosystems that sustain all life. The goal: to catalyze broader market and societal transformation.



The Healthy Food in Health Care program harnesses the purchasing power and expertise of the health care sector to redefine hospital food, activate its potential to heal people and communities, and adopt practices and policies to support a healthy, sustainable food system.



The Climate and Health program supports the health care sector in reducing its carbon footprint, building climate-smart and resilient hospitals and communities, and mobilizing health care's ethical, economic, and political influence to advance the transition to a low-carbon future.



The Safer Chemicals program collaborates with health care leaders to leverage markets to reduce harmful exposures by engaging the supply chain, driving the reformulation of products through model environmental health criteria and institutional policies, and advancing state and national policies.

CREATING IMPACT

Our deep engagement with the health care sector enables us to develop tailored solutions that improve patient and community health outcomes, reduce costs, and extend health care's healing mission into communities around the world.



A **15-year** campaign scaled into a global collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, calling for the global phase out of mercury thermometers and blood pressure devices worldwide.



More than **4,500** medical waste incinerators have been closed in the United States as a result of our efforts to encourage hospitals to switch to safer, cost-effective, non-burn waste treatment technologies.



Health Care Without Harm and the World Bank developed a climate-smart framework for building health care systems that are prepared for climate change.



82% of hospitals in our network purchase local foods, averaging **\$244,000** annually. More than **1 in 5** hospitals have farmers markets, gardens, produce prescription, or CSA programs.



Health Care Without Harm worked with health care purchasers from across the United States to eliminate chemicals of concern from their hospital furnishings, and more than **60** manufacturers have developed product lists that meet our criteria.



Developed for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the White House, the Climate Resilience Framework and Toolkit charts a path for U.S. hospitals to design their buildings and supply chains to address the realities of climate change.



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 **\$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 **\$48,252** in water efficiency savings.



Members report **\$178,731** in energy savings and an average reduction of **840** tons in greenhouse gas emissions.



Nearly **70%** of our members consider environmental attributes in purchasing decisions.



Nearly **100%** of our members have a strategic sustainability plan and **76%** have added sustainability measures into performance objectives for leadership.



1 in 3

U.S. hospitals participate in our network through Practice Greenhealth, our membership organization, and initiatives like our Climate and Health, Healthy Food in Health Care, and Safer Chemicals programs.

Practice Greenhealth members can save more than **\$1 million**

annually from initiatives drawn from our sustainability agenda.



noharm.org | practicegreenhealth.org

