



International Strategic Plan

2024-2028

Hospital San Rafael de Pasto in Colombia has used Health Care Without Harm's tools to calculate its carbon footprint since 2018. Image: Hospital San Rafael de Pasto



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**Leading
the global
movement
for sustainable
health care**

Our Mission: Health Care Without Harm seeks to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental impact, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and serves as a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

From crisis to change: Health sector transformation for the 21st century

Across the globe, people, institutions, and governments are experiencing the **profound impacts** of the climate crisis and toxic pollution on human health.

Intensifying storms, heatwaves, floods, and droughts driven by climate change are already having major impacts on human health. **Heat stress is linked to increased cardiopulmonary issues and adverse pregnancy outcomes.** Climate-triggered forest fires impact air quality across continents, leading to respiratory illness and other health complications. Extreme weather events have compromised health infrastructure and health service delivery, undermining access to care in communities throughout the world.

Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are also contributing to the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and Lyme disease into new regions, exposing millions to increased health risks and complicating how the health sector responds to outbreaks.

Pollution adds to these challenges, with toxic chemicals in our air, soil, and water significantly impacting human and planetary health. For example, **in Europe an estimated 10% of cancer cases are attributed to pollution**, including air pollution, radiation, and exposure to harmful substances like lead, asbestos, pesticides, Bisphenol A, and Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These toxic exposures can disrupt hormonal



Health care professionals calling for a phase-out of fossil fuels at COP28. Image: HCWH

functions and lead to a range of serious health conditions, from respiratory issues to chronic diseases. Many of these chemicals are found in plastics used in everyday products. The increasing presence of **microplastics detected in human tissues including the brain, placenta, heart, and bloodstream** underscores the urgent need for action.

Currently, 99% of plastics are derived from fossil fuels, significantly contributing to the climate crisis throughout their production and lifecycle. It is estimated that plastic accounts for approximately 3.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions and is on a growth track to reach over 10% of our carbon budget by 2050, with emissions occurring at every stage – from extraction to disposal, and especially during incineration. **A 2021 analysis by Beyond Plastics found that the U.S. plastics industry will be a bigger contributor to climate change than coal-fired power in the nation by 2030.**

Our reliance on fossil fuels has brought us to this critical juncture. **They account for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions** and are projected to cause an additional **9 million deaths annually** by the century's end due to climate impacts alone, without accounting for the current toll of air pollution on people's lives.

There is no time to waste. We know that our best chance to reverse course and secure a healthier planet for future generations is to rapidly advance a just transition away from fossil fuels. The health sector must be a leader in this global, collective, and systemic effort - using its voice and power to deliver change.

Despite its mission to prevent, treat, and cure disease, the global health sector is responsible for nearly 5% of net greenhouse gas emissions. If it were a country, the sector would rank as the **fifth largest emitter globally** and 84% of health care emissions can be traced back to fossil fuel combustion. Additionally, the widespread use of single-use plastics in health care – accounting for **approximately 25% of health care waste** in regions like the U.S. and U.K. – exposes patients and workers to harmful chemicals daily.

Fortunately, the sector is uniquely positioned to drive transformative change. With its trusted voice and **significant influence over 11% of the global economy**, it can profoundly impact market innovation, policy, and purchasing decisions.

Recent research estimates that without a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels, up to **1 in 12 hospitals worldwide will be at high risk of total or partial shutdown from extreme weather events** by the end of the century. Over 70% of these hospitals come from low- and middle-income countries, with Southeast Asian hospitals facing the highest risk of damage from extreme weather events. Adaptation is needed for these high-risk hospitals, yet the study emphasizes the

urgency of mitigation actions – reducing emissions and transitioning away from fossil fuels – as adaptation alone will not be enough to keep our hospitals safe from the climate crisis.

In the light of these interconnected challenges, Health Care Without Harm is committed to a robust sustainability agenda over the next five years. **Our focus will center on climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and plastics phase-out**, ensuring that global health care policies, practices, and narratives present a unified vision of a just transition from fossil fuels for healthy people and the planet. Successful implementation of our new strategy will mean that **by 2028 we will create enough momentum within the health sector that climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and plastics phase-out are mainstream in health systems around the world.**

The climate crisis is a health crisis. Health professionals advocating for a healthy planet at COP26. Image: HCWH Europe



Introducing our 2024-2028 international strategic plan

We are ready to accelerate systemic change in the areas where the most daunting challenges facing our planet meet our strength as a network, our shared expertise, and our track record.

Theory of Change:

If we mobilize the health sector to transition away from fossil fuels, adapt to climate impacts, and phase out plastics, then we can orchestrate large-scale systems change in the health sector and the broader economy.



Climate mitigation



Climate adaptation



Plastics phase-out

CORE OBJECTIVES *by 2028 we will see the health sector worldwide:*

Accelerate its path towards decarbonization as a leader in the societal transition away from fossil fuels.

Escalate its implementation of adaptation actions, particularly those that align with mitigation measures, to build climate resilience.

Call out the plastics crisis as a health crisis to advance decarbonization and detoxification and end plastic pollution.

IMPACTS *by 2028:*

- Global Green and Healthy Hospital members participating in key climate initiatives will collectively reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% using our suite of tools and tailored support.
- 30 countries will use our tools, resources, or technical support to fulfill their climate mitigation commitments.
- 5 key climate and health policies will be influenced to include health arguments for a just transition from fossil fuels.
- 75% of Global Green and Healthy Hospital members participating in key climate initiatives will adequately report on their adaptation and resilience efforts.
- At least 5 countries will have policies or programs on climate-resilient health care reflecting adaptation and mitigation as integral components of building climate resilience.
- We will provide direct technical support to 5 countries, in partnership with key organizations. Indirectly, an additional 5 countries or partners will use our tools and resources to fulfill their adaptation commitments.
- 75% of GGHH members will facilitate approaches to reduce consumption of key plastics products and plastics waste with 20% submitting data and utilizing our tools and methodology.
- 2 international agencies with influence on country-level regulation will have drafted, developed, or adopted policies to tackle plastic production and pollution through our influence.

LEVERS *for systems change:*

1. Our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network representing **70,000 hospitals and health centers worldwide** will implement sustainable, low-carbon, and resilient health care.
2. Our **health professional networks around the globe** will champion a societal shift from fossil fuels, promote clean air, and call for plastics phase-out.
3. The health sector's purchasing power and voice will **accelerate decarbonizing and detoxifying the supply chain.**

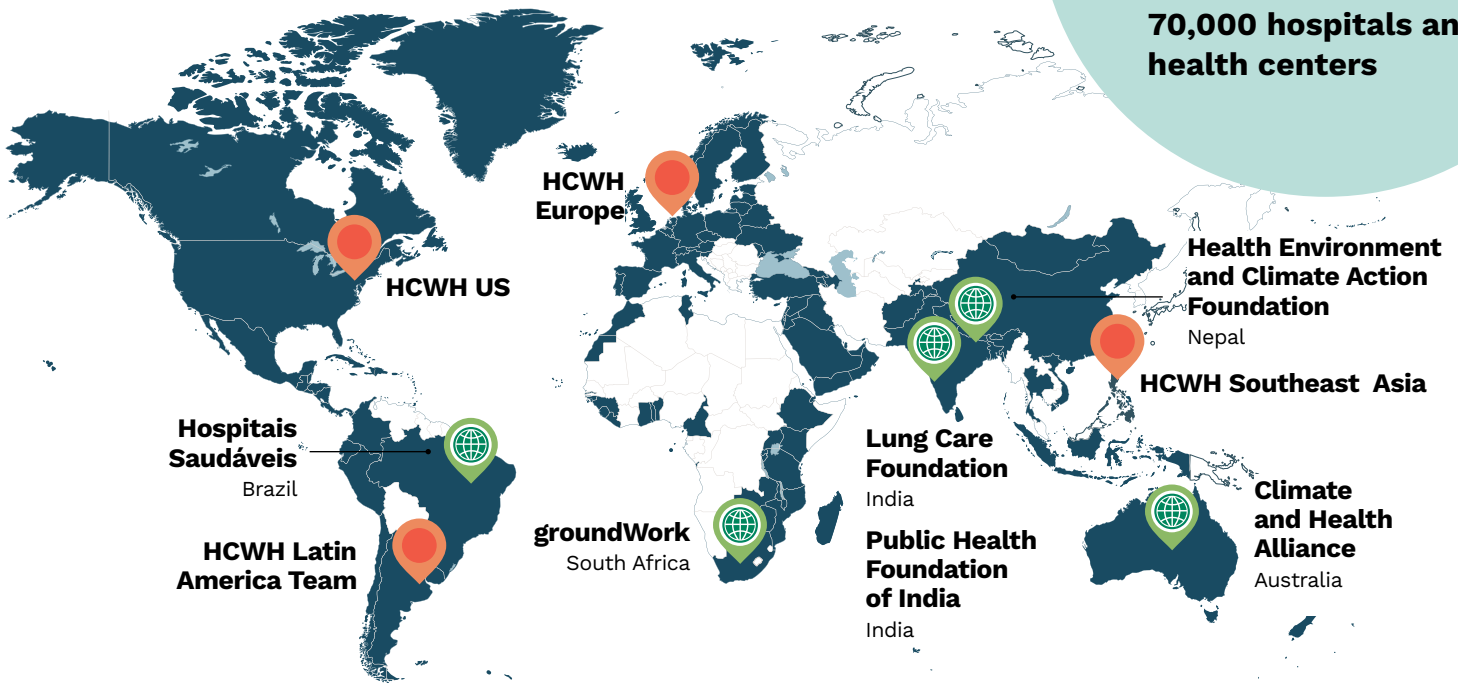
Solving problems at scale

The challenges ahead require deep expertise, a nuanced understanding of systems transformation, and the ability to drive action across multiple levels – from local to national to global, in health systems and hospitals. We are equipped and determined to turn commitments into real, impactful solutions.

Over the past three decades, Health Care Without Harm has built an international movement inside the health sector to advance environmental health and justice, transforming the health sector globally to deliver on its core value to: “First, do no harm.” Our collective network of health care leaders, health professionals, governments, policymakers, civil society organizations, activists, and grassroots leaders are all deeply invested in transforming the health sector and the broader economy.

Health Care Without Harm is an international organization with teams in Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the U.S., as well as a group of Strategic Partners - local NGOs around the world with decades of experience. A Global Secretariat governs our collective work. We are driven by our formal membership networks of committed hospitals, health care providers, and health professionals.

Our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network includes **over 2,000 members in 86 countries** representing the interests of over **70,000 hospitals and health centers**



Health Care Without Harm
**Global Green and Healthy
Hospitals Network**

Health Care Without Harm
Regional Teams

Health Care Without Harm
Strategic Partners

Across this network, Health Care Without Harm plays a unique role as a system orchestrator, or field catalyst: transforming the health sector not by scaling a single solution, but rather by mobilizing and coordinating unified efforts to solve problems at scale.



Representatives from medical organizations in the Philippines joined the “Ride For Their Lives: Bike for Clean Air and A Healthier Future” campaign. Image: Leo Sabangan II, Photo Correspondent, the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Our new strategy is grounded in our belief that we will succeed when we are *aligned on our global goals, yet flexible in our local tactics.*

Health care around the world is heterogeneous. The U.S. system looks very different from the German system, which looks very different from the Indian system. We acknowledge this heterogeneity, recognizing that our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network and health professional networks are universally important channels, but the way in which we deploy and leverage them will respond to local conditions. Our multicultural and diverse network mobilizes a wider web of relationships with individuals, communities, movements, organizations, and health institutions from the local to the global level to change systems worldwide and power our global movement. Our network operates in a multi-directional way, including:

<p>Global ↔ National/Local:</p>	<p>We collaborate with international institutions to establish policy frameworks, technical guidance, and overarching narratives that create political legitimacy and conditions for effective implementation of solutions at the national, state/regional, and local levels.</p>
<p>National/Local ↔ Global:</p>	<p>We elevate health voices, case studies, and achievements from the local and national spaces where we work through global institutions and negotiations in order to strengthen the case for international policy and to disseminate/scale practical solutions to a broader audience, which can in turn open more local and national spaces.</p>
<p>South ↔ South, South ↔ North, North ↔ North:</p>	<p>We facilitate cross-pollinating innovation in local place-based, sub-national, and national action within and among countries and regions of the world.</p>

Core objectives and impacts



1. Climate mitigation

Goal: The health sector worldwide will accelerate its path towards decarbonization as a leader in the societal transition away from fossil fuels.

Sub Goals:	High-level outcomes:
<p>Health systems will accelerate their implementation of low-carbon and net-zero commitments, including in their supply chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministries of Health will develop baselines, action plans, and roadmaps towards low-carbon and sustainable health systems. Our priority will be focused on the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), including G20 countries who are high emitters, and low emitters with high mitigation ambitions. ● Under this new strategy, and as part of our Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, we will more than double the number of health institutions on a trajectory to net-zero health care by 2028, while improving health facility resilience for 100 million people by linking the Race to Zero with another United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) campaign, the Race to Resilience. ● Supply chains of key medical devices, medical supplies, or pharmaceutical products will evolve towards low-carbon, sustainable alternatives.
<p>Key climate and health initiatives and partners will increase their influence in the just transition from fossil fuels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Just Transition and net-zero language will be included in climate and health initiatives, including those around air pollution, and the health argument will become a key component of the just transition discourse.

Impact by 2028

- Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network members participating in key climate initiatives will collectively **reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40%** using our suite of tools and tailored support.
- **30 countries will use our tools, resources, or technical support** to fulfill their climate mitigation commitments.
- **5 key climate and health policies will be influenced to include health arguments** for a just transition from fossil fuels.



2. Climate adaptation

Goal: The health sector worldwide will escalate its implementation of adaptation actions, particularly those that align with mitigation measures, to build climate resilience.

Sub Goals:	High-level outcomes:
<p>The health sector will frame adaptation and mitigation as integral parts of resilient health systems, addressing root causes of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key multilateral partners, countries, and health institutions will include language and actions in their policies and programs that frame adaptation and mitigation as integral components of building climate resilience, centering them in equitable access to health care. ● High-emitting countries will deliver ambitious mitigation actions and financial commitments to enhance the resilience of health systems in vulnerable regions.
<p>Health systems will implement vulnerability and adaptation assessments as well as adaptation plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministries of health in priority countries will have started or completed their vulnerability and adaptation assessments and, informed by assessment results, their Health National Adaptation Plans. ● Health institutions within our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network will conduct their vulnerability and adaptation assessments and develop and implement their adaptation plans, reporting their progress annually. ● Health systems will increasingly receive funding for adaptive solutions in response to their assessments and plans.

Impact by 2028

- 75% of Global Green and Healthy Hospital members participating in key climate initiatives will **adequately report on their adaptation and resilience efforts**.
- **At least 5 countries will have policies or programs on climate resilient health care** reflecting adaptation and mitigation as integral components of building climate-resilience. Our priority will be ATACH and G20 countries.
- We will provide **direct technical support to 5 countries**, in partnership with key organizations. Indirectly, an additional 5 countries or partners will use our tools and resources to fulfill their adaptation commitments.



3. Plastics phase-out

Goal: The health sector worldwide will call out the plastics crisis as a health crisis to advance decarbonization and detoxification and end plastic pollution.

High-level outcomes:

- The health sector will drive policy change towards reduction, detoxification, product transparency, and waste management by centering health in the discourse surrounding plastics.
- International agencies will adopt policies and practices to reduce unnecessary plastic use, detoxify key plastic products, and promote redesign.
- Health professionals will make the health case for action and drive the implementation of key global actions related to plastics and petrochemicals.
- Leading health care facilities and systems will reduce plastic consumption and waste.

Impact by 2028

- **75% of GGHH members will facilitate approaches to reduce consumption of key plastics products and plastics waste** with 20% submitting data and utilizing our tools and methodology.
- **2 international agencies with influence on country-level regulation will have drafted, developed, or adopted policies** to tackle plastic production and pollution through our influence.



Purchasing safe and reusable products is one of the many strategies that health care facilities can employ to implement sustainable procurement. Image: Michael Harder, Aarhus University Hospital.

Levers for systems change

We will use **three levers for systems change** to advance and scale change:

LEVER

1

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network: We will mobilize our members, representing the interests of over 70,000 hospitals and health centers worldwide, to lead change by implementing sustainable, low-carbon, and resilient health care focused on climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and plastics phase-out.

A healthy and engaged Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network is essential to our success because it will continue to be a primary vehicle through which we educate, engage, and drive change in the health sector on the ground to advance our strategic objectives. To ensure we fully leverage the network we have built, we will evolve, adapt, and decentralize our network membership models, requirements, and resources. As a result, we will foster stronger engagement, participation, and collaboration among network members. **By 2028, 75% of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals members will complete annual reporting requirements related to at least one of our strategic objective areas of (climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and/or plastics phase-out), providing critical insight into how well our members are moving from commitments to action.**

We will continue to focus on two initiatives within our network to reduce emissions and consumption of key plastic products and waste by using our tools and methodology:

- **Health Care Climate Challenge:** This Health Care Without Harm initiative engages and equips health care institutions – from small clinics to large health systems to ministries of health – to commit to

effective climate action while building collective impact across countries and across borders.

- **Race to Zero:** Some of our most ambitious Global Green and Healthy Hospital Members have deepened their commitment to net-zero health care by also joining the UNFCCC’s Race to Zero, the largest coalition of non-state actors taking action to halve global emissions by 2030. Health Care Without Harm has served as Race to Zero’s health care partner since 2021. Today, more than 70 health care institutions representing over 14,000 health facilities in 26 countries have joined Race to Zero through our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

Under this new strategy, and as part of our **Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action**, we will more than double the number of health institutions on a trajectory to net-zero health care by 2028, while improving health facility resilience for 100 million people by linking the Race to Zero with another UNFCCC campaign, the Race to Resilience. This will double net-zero commitments by health care institutions.

**LEVER****2**

Health professional networks: We will mobilize health professionals across the globe to champion a transformation away from fossil fuels, promote clean air, and call for plastics phase-out.

Health professionals are some of the most trusted voices in their communities.

Governments look to them for advice, families confide in them, and citizens want to adhere to what the country's leading medical professionals have to say about their health. Contentious issues like climate change, fossil fuels, plastics, petrochemicals, and air pollution can also become easily politicized. When doctors, nurses, hospitals, and health systems take public stances on environment and climate change, they can reframe these issues as questions of public health and help move public opinion and policy. Health professionals' voices can help depoliticize the debate, educate a broader public constituency, bolster campaigns for just energy transition, become relevant sources of information for news media, and ultimately affect policy decisions on energy sources, health infrastructure, city planning, and design. Health professionals can influence and shape policies and action that transcend the health sector.

We lead or co-lead six health professional networks in Europe, India, South Africa, South East Asia, and the U.S. We are committed to building a movement of health professionals standing up for a broader, society-wide transition to a healthy, sustainable, and equitable world. Under this new strategy:

- We will support and strengthen our existing country and regional networks of health professionals and foster new ones where needed, enabling them to influence public opinions and actions in their respective geographies. Accordingly, each of the networks will operationalize their campaigns using tactics that are fit for context.
- **Our health professional networks will shape narratives for climate action by calling for a societal shift away from fossil fuels, championing clean air for health, and pushing for the implementation of the [International Plastics Treaty](#), among other key policies.**
- We will develop a cohort of 150 leading health professional champions that will engage in campaigns with country, regional, or global consequences that advance a just transition from fossil fuels, air pollution, and/or plastics pollution. We will build their public communications skills on the health impacts of climate change and the health co-benefits of climate action. As a result, these champions will become effective media spokespeople on climate change and sustainability and influence public opinion toward health-centered policy and action.
- We will work with media outlets and journalists to cover climate change news from a health angle.

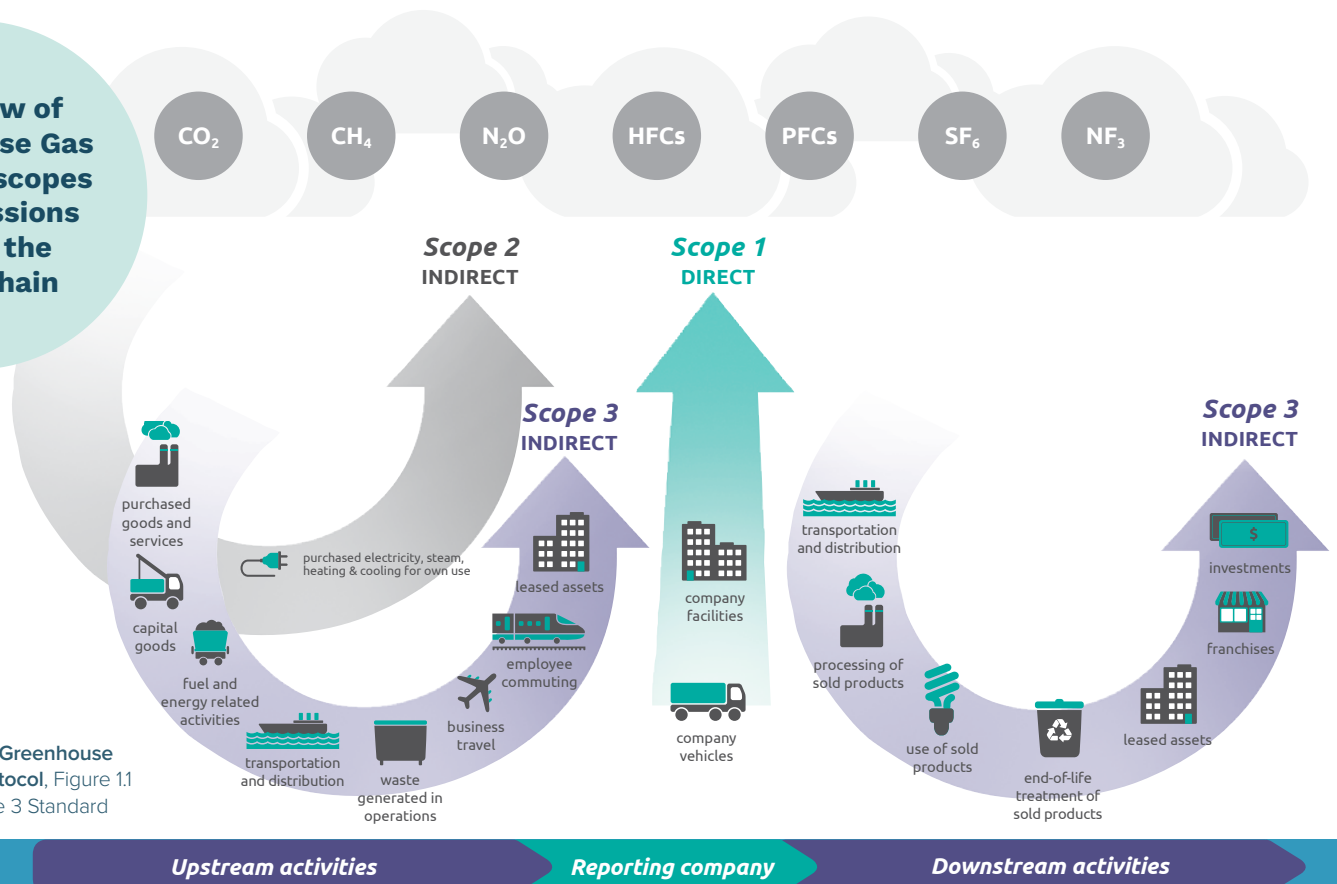
LEVER 3

Supply chain transformation: We will accelerate the shift towards a sustainable economy by leveraging health care's purchasing power and voice to decarbonize and detoxify the supply chain.

In the health sector, 70% of emissions come from the supply chain (scope 3) - the products and services health care needs to operate, from gloves and gowns to anesthetic gases, waste disposal services, construction materials, and more. **Health care consumes around 15 million tonnes of plastic per year.** Simply put, there's no chance of addressing health care's greenhouse gas emissions without tackling supply chains. We believe the markets that supply health care institutions can be fundamentally altered to align with health care's healing mission and transform markets beyond the sector. Under our new strategy, we will drive demand, engage suppliers, and demonstrate the powerful role the sector can play in driving broader progress beyond health care.

- We will work with global institutions like ATACH and G20, governments, and target procurers to align procurement governance and practice with decarbonization and sustainability commitments.
- We will influence health sector institutions and large purchasers to take action on at least two prioritized carbon-intensive, high-volume, or toxic products for reduction, decarbonization, and detoxification.
- We will influence the development and uptake of 25 low-carbon and sustainable pharmaceutical products, medical devices, or supplies.
- Among our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals members, we will increase the use of Health Care Without Harm's sustainable procurement and decarbonization criteria, tools, and resources.

Overview of Greenhouse Gas Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain



Source: Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Figure 1.1 of Scope 3 Standard

Moving towards

Climate Smart Healthcare



Azeeda Rangunwala, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Coordinator for Africa with our strategic partner groundWork presenting at a workshop on climate change for health professionals.

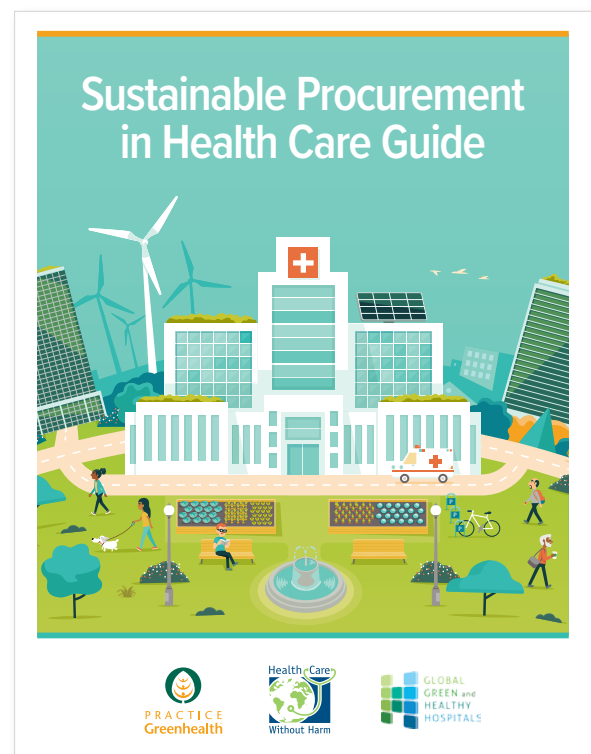
Implementation approach

As we implement our strategic plan we will deploy actions that:

- **Refine within the health sector and for broader audiences the narrative** that connects climate, fossil fuels, and health, articulating how the climate and plastics crises are global health crises, and how the health sector can lead the transition away from fossil fuels. This refreshed narrative will also articulate how adaptation and mitigation are necessary to build climate resilience. This narrative change will accelerate progress in the health sector and beyond.
- **Leverage our engaged networks of health care providers for policy and advocacy impact** with international agencies, governmental bodies, and other influential decision-makers to secure policies and build initiatives that create the political space for transformational systems change in the health sector and beyond. In doing so, we will support a “health in all policies” approach.
- **Mobilize our networks of health professionals and health care institutions** within the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network as climate and environmental champions. We will support both to be a part of the broader movement for climate and health action. We will bring the health sector’s clout to a global, cross-sectoral movement for a just transition.
- **Produce and share knowledge by developing, testing, and disseminating solutions** that can help accelerate change, aligned with relevant best practice available in the wider ecosystem. We will also identify, systematize, and share solutions put forward by others.

OUR TOOLS AND SHARED RESOURCES

- **Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization** charts a course for zero-emissions health care by 2050 and identifies seven high-impact actions as key to health care decarbonization
- **Climate Impact Checkup Tool** available on **Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Connect** allows any health care facility or system in the world to calculate and track its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, providing a comprehensive way to measure, manage, and support mitigation goals and action planning
- **Climate Impact Check Up Online Course** offers a free resource for health care professionals, students, and policy officers to learn how to estimate GHG emissions and create an impactful action plan. No previous knowledge in GHG calculations is required
- **Health Care Climate Learning Initiative** shares learnings from representatives from 98 health care organizations spanning 20 countries implementing decarbonization and climate resilience initiatives
- **Elements of Climate-Resilient Health Care** proposes a set of elements centered on enabling the sector to proactively address the challenges posed by climate change through adaptation and mitigation and centered on health equity
- **The Sustainable Procurement Index for Health** and **Sustainable Procurement Guide** support low-carbon, sustainable procurement
- **Reclaiming Health Activism in the Age of the Climate Crisis** offers a compelling campaign guide that rallies health professionals to take on a new challenge - advocating for climate action
- **Just Transition for Healthy People on a Healthy Planet** posits that health is the overlapping but missing link between different movements' dreams for Just Transition to an equitable world, and for healing people and our planet damaged by fossil fuels



Health Care Without Harm's Sustainable Procurement Guide

Movement builders: Our track record of impact

Health Care Without Harm has worked for decades with partners around the world to launch a global movement to push the health sector to lead on environmental sustainability.

We know the power of broad and diverse international alliances, like the coalition we spearheaded behind the **mercury-free health care campaign** that helped lead to the Minamata Convention to phase out mercury.

Today, we are heartened by signs that our long-haul and collaborative efforts have propelled us to a tipping point for large-scale systems change that can lead us all to a fossil fuel-free future.

2011

We co-organized the first climate and health summit at COP17 and called for climate action from the health sector.

2021

After a decade of strategic organizing around the world, we partnered with WHO, the UK COP Presidency, and UNFCCC to co-design and launch the **COP26 Health Programme**. It has since grown from 52 national governments to 84 who have committed to low-carbon and climate-resilient health systems. The initiative has evolved to the **Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)** - a platform to support countries as they implement their COP26 Health Programme commitments and share practices on climate and health.

2023

We partnered with the Asian Development Bank and Arup to develop five **High Level Principles for Health Care Climate Action** that were presented to health ministries and observer organisations at the second G20 Health Working Group Meeting in Goa, India. These principles - which align with ATACH - formed the basis of a commitment to climate-resilient, low-carbon health systems made by the **G20 Health Ministers** in their communique in August 2023 and by the G20 heads of state in the **New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** in September 2023.

2023

At COP28, Health Care Without Harm and the Global Climate and Health Alliance organized the **COP28 health letter representing more than 46 million health professionals** and underscoring the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels, invest in clean energy technology, and reduce air pollution to protect public health. This contributed to a multi-sectoral effort that helped pressure the world's governments into agreeing for the first time ever that we need a transition "away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net-zero by 2050 in keeping with science."

We have also led the sector to stimulate innovative and plausible market-based

solutions to make low-carbon, toxic chemical, and plastics-free health care a reality and ignite solutions we believe are necessary in all sectors.

UNDP and Health Care Without Harm launched **The Sustainable Health in**

2018

Procurement Project (SHiPP) - a unique and innovative multi-sector program that brought together civil society, the UN, and governments to deploy sustainable procurement strategies that address the global climate crisis and environmental burden of disease. SHiPP achieved impressive results at both the policy and implementation levels, ranging from a policy on mercury in South Africa and plastics in Vietnam, to procurement of renewable energy in Indonesia, and policy standards in Colombia, India, and China. SHiPP also launched important tools and resources that support sustainable procurement efforts.

2024

We launched **Born Green Generation** - a groundbreaking project in Europe to make toxic-free prenatal and postnatal care possible by creating a practical and scalable model for eco-maternity and pediatric wards that embed environmental health approaches and standardize use of sustainable products and processes in the care of our most vulnerable patients. This visionary initiative will innovate practice, shift culture, and transform policy to safeguard babies' futures and dramatically reduce health care's chemical and plastic footprint. Meanwhile, in the United States and Latin America, we're positioning to replicate this critical work.

2024

At the fourth session of the International Plastics Treaty negotiations in April, we raised the profile of our opposition to the proposed exemption of the health sector in the treaty to combat the petrochemical industry's heavily funded campaigns suggesting that "plastics save lives." Our delegation delivered a strong message from the sector, emphasizing the **Open Letter from Health Professionals on the Plastics Treaty**. Encouragingly, for the first time, the World Health Organization publicly remarked that **"WHO sees that a general exemption for plastics use in health care would not be useful. It wouldn't be sending the right messages to the health sector and, particularly, it wouldn't necessarily provide the support they need to continue innovative work practices."**



Health care waste management system implementation at Sindhuli Hospital, Nepal. Image: HECAF 360.

Looking ahead

We are urgently seeking multi-year, flexible funding to meet this moment.

Health Care Without Harm and our strategic partners are poised to lead a re-imagining of the global health sector. We have helped catalyze alignment between health systems and governments on the imperative to build resilience, decarbonize, and detoxify the sector on a scale never seen before. This alignment, combined with our unparalleled international network, provides funders an exciting opportunity to invest in a globally respected, established organization uniquely positioned to orchestrate the systems transformation required to protect human and planetary health.

We are grateful to our global funding partners like the IKEA Foundation, the Skoll Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Marisla Foundation, Clean Air Fund, SED Fund, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Nations Development Programme, Bupa, the Flotilla Foundation, Good Energies, the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, and others who have made our work possible and positioned us at this exciting moment for deeper and durable change.

This strategic plan is ambitious, and we have a long road ahead to realize our vision for health care to mobilize its ethical, economic, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world. Empowered by our extensive experience and strong track record of success, our team of experts, and our unprecedented international network of partners, champions, and activists, we are stepping into this next chapter with determination, resolve, and a steadfast commitment to hope. We can clearly picture a world where all of us can live safer and healthier lives. Thank you for working alongside us to make this vision a reality.

To learn more

about how you can support this collective movement, please contact:

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