Abstract

Climate change can feel like a ‘problem for the future’ due to the perceived gradual onset of its consequences when compared to other immediate health concerns like infectious diseases and complications presenting from chronic health conditions (Colvin, et al., 2020).

The health system, hospitals, primary health care centers, and pharmaceutical firms are all part of the healthcare industry, which also contributes significantly to waste and hazardous emissions. Health system generates approximately seven per cent of the nation’s total carbon footprint; Healthcare facilities need a lot of energy to generate the electricity needed for heating, cooling, ventilation, and hot water (Wisniewski, 2020).

There are choices in healthcare that can be made now to help reduce the environmental impact of the sector (Wemmers, &;). A green and healthy hospital is one that actively supports population health by continuously reducing its environmental impact and mitigating any adverse effects on the population's illness burden, according to the group Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) (Campbell, &;). In order to support sustainable action in terms of water consumption, waste management, and energy budgeting, the HCWH project Global Green and Healthy Hospitals has developed a comprehensive, holistic, and international framework that aligns the areas of leadership, chemicals, waste, energy, water, food, transportation, pharmaceuticals, buildings, and purchasing (Hancock, &;; Lee, et a; &;).

Green hospitals' fundamental tenet is to advance public health while preserving the environment. Numerous clinics use the proposed concepts and standards as a model, thus the huge potential for patient health, financial savings, and, last but not least, environmental conservation has not yet been completely realized (Prabhakaran, Karliner, & Armstrong, &;; West, &;).
Climate change can feel like a ‘problem for the future’ due to the perceived gradual onset of its consequences when compared to other immediate health concerns like infectious diseases and complications presenting from chronic health conditions.

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Health system generates approximately \( \frac{1}{7} \) of nation’s total carbon footprint. Healthcare facilities need a lot of energy to generate the electricity needed for heating, cooling, ventilation, and hot water. There are choices in healthcare that can be made now to help reduce the environmental impact of the sector.

**Figure II.** Reduction in health sector emissions between 2014 and 2050 enabled by the seven

1. Power health care with 100% clean, renewable, electricity
2. Invest in zero-emissions buildings and infrastructure
3. Transition to zero emissions, sustainable, travel and transport
4. Provide healthy, sustainably grown, food and support climate resilient agriculture
5. Incentivize and produce low carbon pharmaceuticals
6. Implement circular health care and sustainable health care waste management
7. Establish greater health
It is a network of leading hospitals, healthcare groups and other organizations across North America working together to achieve deep energy and greenhouse gas emissions reductions in healthcare facilities.
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International Sanitation Supply Association (ISSA) recognize the organizations committed to environmental management and dedication to the value of clean.
Healthy People
Healthy environment

Climate change:
- Floods
- Droughts
- Wildfires
- Storms
- Temperature extremes
- Sea-level rise
- Climate sensitive disease outbreaks

Health care facilities

Health workforce

Water, sanitation and health care waste

Sustainable energy

Infrastructure, technologies and products

Environmental impacts:
- Water
- Sanitation
- Wastes
- Air pollution
- Chemicals
- Radiation
- GHGs

Greenhouse gases

Climate resilience

Environmental sustainability

Healthy people, Healthy environment

Total environment
How the Road Map charts a course toward zero emissions

Figure 3. Assuming countries meet their initial Paris Agreement commitments, three intertwined pathways connected to seven high-impact actions come together to deliver health care decarbonization leading toward a zero emissions, resilient health care sector.
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References


