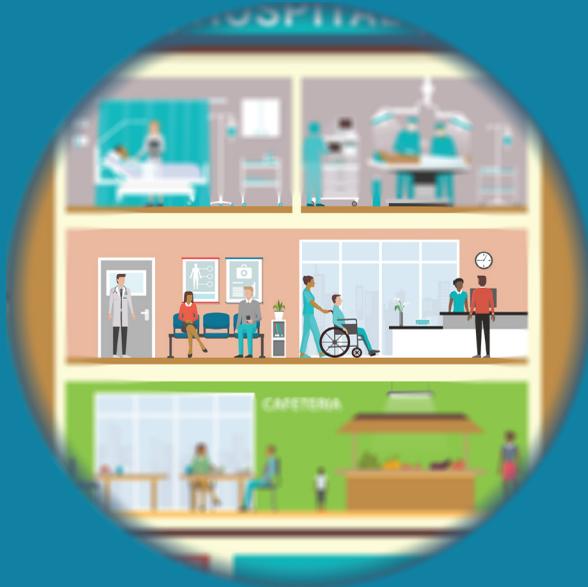


ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING



The health care sector buys enormous quantities of goods and services, with health care spending accounting for nearly 18 percent of the GDP in the U.S. Consider the following:

- It is estimated that nearly 60 percent to 80 percent of a health systems' greenhouse gas emissions are embedded in the products and services they buy — their upstream supply chain.
- A 2016 study by NHS identified the manufacture of medical instruments and pharmaceuticals as two of the largest areas for emissions in acute care settings.
- According to the Lancet, nurses and environmental services staff have the highest rate of occupational asthma, in part due to the chemical exposure at work. A series of studies identifies how climate change could impact the way hazardous chemicals like pesticides move through the environment, leading to greater exposure, as well as how climate change could weaken the ability of humans to tolerate these chemicals.



Virginia Mason implemented a single-use device reprocessing program with its vendor, resulting in over \$3 million in savings since 2012, as well as a reduction in waste disposal costs and the institution's carbon footprint.



By implementing a closed-loop shipping system, Intermountain Healthcare cut overall waste by 20 percent, had a significant reduction in labor costs and reduced its carbon footprint.



University Hospitals has been working to increase the purchase of greener cleaners with lower VOCs, increase the purchase of alternatives to PVC and DEHP, and dramatically increase the purchase of furnishings without added chemicals of concern. UH purchased 66 percent of target furnishings in 2016 without chemicals of concern, thereby reducing the lifecycle impacts associated with the production of five hazardous chemicals.



Together with other leading health systems and NGO partners, Dignity Health is a co-owner for Greenhealth Exchange, an environmental purchasing exchange and catalog for health care which aims to accelerate the development and adoption of new, more environmentally-friendly products.