



Global Reach Enduring Change

2014 IMPACT REPORT



2014 was our hottest year on record.



We all saw the headlines: 2014 was the hottest year on record. It was nearly impossible to miss this troubling, yet unsurprising fact, and it is clear that climate change has reached a tipping point in our collective consciousness. It is a challenge that belongs to all of us.

Climate change demonstrates the paradox that the health care industry embodies: we exist to heal people, and yet as an industry, health care produces more than our fair share of waste, greenhouse gases, and toxic emissions. The by-products of our efforts hurt the very people and communities we exist to heal.

Health Care Without Harm's founding principle—that health care's obligation to "first, do no harm" extends to our environmental footprint—is exemplified throughout our work in 2014. We launched the Health Care Climate Council, a leadership network of hospitals dedicated to driving healthy climate solutions forward. We also participated in the World Health Organization's first-ever conference on climate and health, where we led a session on our work to help hospitals around the world address their climate footprint through our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network.

Throughout the year, we also continued our work in supporting hospitals in the United States to transform their food purchasing practices and create a national healthy food system. In partnership with Practice Greenhealth, we mobilized more than 1,400 hospitals to participate in the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, creating enormous collective demand for safer medical products, better plastics, toxic-free furnishings, greener cleaners, and energy-efficient products.

Health Care Without Harm is transforming the health care supply chain, bending the economy toward health and justice, and proving that our sector can solve the world's toughest environmental challenges. We reached a new threshold of impact in 2014, and we are only getting started.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Cohen, President and Founder

A RESTORATIVE VISION OF HEALTH CARE

We cannot have healthy people on a sick planet.

Relying on fossil fuels, toxic chemicals, and industrial agriculture, our consumption-driven development is damaging the environment, harming human health, and challenging the Earth's ability to sustain life.

Despite this dramatic impact, the health care sector has focused almost exclusively on clinical care. Our modern, technologically advanced system for providing care places little emphasis on prevention, wellness, and sustained health within the communities we serve.

At Health Care Without Harm, our mission is to move the health care sector upstream—without compromising patient safety or care—so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice.

We began in 1996 as a coalition of 28 hospitals coming together to tackle harmful emissions caused by medical waste incineration. Since our launch 19 years ago, we have grown to a network of thousands of hospitals and health partners in more than 50 countries worldwide.

Working through our four regional offices, our [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network](#), [Practice Greenhealth](#), the [Healthier Hospitals Initiative](#), and with a range of partners worldwide, we made significant strides in four key focus areas in 2014:



HEALTHY HOSPITALS



HEALTHY CLIMATE



SAFER CHEMICALS



HEALTHY + SUSTAINABLE FOOD



Transformation on a Global Scale



UNITED STATES + CANADA



Boston: As a result of energy conservation and efficiency initiatives supported by Health Care Without Harm, Boston hospitals cut their energy use by 6% from 2011-2014, despite expanding their real estate footprint, serving more patients, and experiencing more extreme weather.



Nationwide: Collaborating closely with Health Care Without Harm, five major health systems—Advocate Health Care, Beaumont Health System, Hackensack University Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, and University Hospitals—announced they would no longer purchase furniture treated with toxic flame retardant chemicals.

LATIN AMERICA



Chile: The Ministry of Health mandated that public hospitals join Health Care Without Harm's Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network. As a result, more than 170 hospitals began working with us on implementing energy savings and other sustainability measures.



Colombia: The Bogotá city health system joined Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, and more than 20 hospitals engaged their counterparts throughout Latin America, supporting one another to achieve more environmentally sustainable health care.

GLOBAL



A 15-year Health Care Without Harm Boston hospital and school district joined the Health Care Without Harm Organization to submit a petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for safer alternatives. The world's governments have responded, calling for the global phase-out of PFAS. Health Care Without Harm continued its campaign.



Our **Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Connect**, a coalition of health care organizations across the continent, collaborate to advance sustainable health care.

With offices on four continents and partners around the world, Health Care Without Harm is leading the global health care sustainability movement. By sharing best practices among hospitals and health systems and advocating for policies that protect and promote public health, we are creating a culture of innovation and accelerating the pace of change in our sector.



The **Health Care Without Harm** campaign started with a single thermometer in one country and scaled-up to become a global collaboration with the World Health Organization to substitute mercury-thermometers and blood pressure devices with safer alternatives. In 2013, 118 countries signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury in late 2013, committing to phase out mercury-based medical devices by 2020. In 2014, Health Care Without Harm launched campaigns for substitution in countries that had yet to make the switch.

The **Global Healthy Hospitals Network** launched Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, a digital hub where members learn about cutting-edge work on every continent, connect with one another, and foster leadership for environmental health.

EUROPE

Brussels, Belgium: Health Care Without Harm Europe held a joint debate on pharmaceuticals in the environment with the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations.

Italy and Hungary: Health Care Without Harm Europe hosted a number of workshops to discuss a revised law on public procurement and share opportunities arising from it. Health Care Without Harm Europe provided guidance about the implementation of the law and best practice case studies from our members to inspire others.

ASIA

Philippines: Health Care Without Harm Asia mobilized its network of hospitals and health system to oppose changes to the Clean Air Act, which would re-introduce medical waste incineration to the country.

Nepal: Health Care Without Harm Asia collaborated with Health Care Foundation of Nepal to foster sustainable health care waste management systems that reduce waste, avoid incineration, and help build a recycling economy that supports the program.

AFRICA

Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea: The United Nations Development Programme piloted a small-scale autoclave developed in collaboration with Health Care Without Harm and the World Health Organization as part of a Global Environment Facility project.

South Africa: Our partner, groundWork, convened leading hospitals, health organizations, universities, and government officials—and produced an award-winning documentary and in-depth report—to foster a public debate on the health impacts of the country’s dependence on coal-fired power plants and the need to transition to a clean, renewable energy future.



Healthy Hospitals

Hospitals are in a unique position to provide transformational leadership in healing the planet by embracing the essential link between healthy people and a healthy environment. When they exercise upstream leverage and downstream influence, hospitals promote the health of their patients, staff, the communities they serve, and the environment. Our work to create healthy hospitals centers on two core initiatives:



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network

The Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network is a worldwide network of hospitals, health systems, and health organizations committed to reducing the health sector's environmental footprint and advocating for policies that promote environmental and public health. Founded by Health Care Without Harm in 2012, the Network today includes more than 500 members from 32 countries representing the interests of more than 12,500 hospitals and health centers from every continent.

Healthier Hospitals Initiative

The Healthier Hospitals Initiative is a three-year initiative sponsored by 12 of the largest health systems in the United States, working together on shared commitments to transform their facilities and the industry as a whole. Coordinated by Health Care Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth, and the Center for Health Design, HHI works with hospitals around six challenge areas: Engaged Leadership, Healthier Food, Leaner Energy, Less Waste, Safer Chemicals, and Smarter Purchasing. In 2015, HHI will continue as a free program of Practice Greenhealth, providing participating hospital systems with tools and resources to drive positive change.

KEY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Healthier Hospitals Initiative

The Healthier Hospitals Initiative concluded its third year, demonstrating the collective impact of nearly 1,000 hospitals across the United States in reducing their environmental footprint, lowering costs, and improving the health of patients and staff.

Sustainable Health Care in Brazil

Health Care Without Harm's partner organization Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis issued its annual "Friends of the Environment" award to the top 15 hospitals for their actions on leadership in the Brazilian movement for sustainable health care.

Global Green + Healthy Hospitals Network Webinars

More than 1,800 people registered for the six bi-monthly webinars on sustainable health care organized by Salud sin Daño (Health Care Without Harm Latin America), as well as "Inspiring Experiences", a new series that featured the most innovative work carried out by Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network members in the region.

Sustainable Health Care Waste Management in Bhutan

The Global Green and Healthy Hospitals team supported the Ministry of Health of Bhutan in creating sustainable health care waste management systems.





Healthy Climate

Health care is emerging as a critical leader in addressing climate change. It is the one sector that has healing as its core mission, as well as the political, moral, and economic clout to influence the rest of society. Health Care Without Harm is playing a central role in fostering health care's climate leadership in three key areas:

Creating Climate Resilient Communities

Our hospitals and clinics need to be the last buildings standing in an extreme weather event. This includes providing on-site resources in emergencies, as well as proactively educating the communities we serve about how to prepare for climate change impacts. By sharing best practices with health care providers around the world, Health Care Without Harm works with individual facilities and large systems alike to prepare for this important role

Leading by Example

As one of the world's largest sectors (comprising 10% of the global economy) health care needs to lead by example in reducing its own climate footprint. Hospitals, particularly in wealthy countries, embody all of the contradictions of an economy powered by fossil fuels and toxic chemicals. By sharing information on carbon reduction strategies, Health Care Without Harm is helping hospitals become climate-friendly, save money, and support disease prevention in the process.

Advocating for Change

Doctors, nurses, and health officials are some of the most trusted members of our societies. The health care sector has an important role to play in calling on government leaders around the world to enact climate-friendly policies. Health Care Without Harm is leveraging the health professional's voice to advocate for divesting in fossil fuels and investing in alternative energy sources.



KEY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Climate Resilience Toolkit

Health Care Without Harm partnered with the Obama Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a [climate resilience toolkit for the health care sector](#), which will help health systems worldwide plan for climate resilience and share best practices.

Health Care Climate Council

We launched the [Health Care Climate Council](#), committed to amplifying public and private responses to climate change through renewable energy investment, energy efficiency, mitigation, and advocacy.

Healthy Energy Initiative

Health sector leaders in seven countries mobilized via the [Healthy Energy Initiative](#), a collaboration to advocate for a move away from fossil-fuel based energy development, particularly coal, and towards clean, renewable energy options.

2020 Health Care Climate Challenge

Our [2020 Health Care Climate Challenge](#) invited health care systems and hospitals worldwide to commit to reduce their carbon footprint and protect public health from climate change.



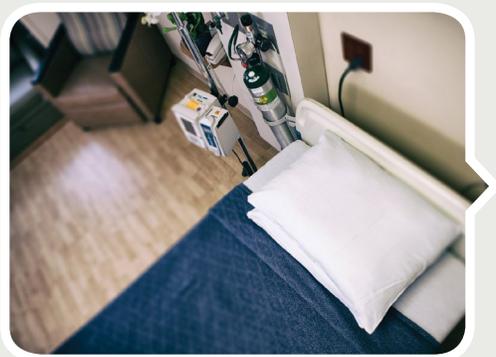
“The health care sector must expand its mission to slow climate change enough to protect the natural systems that support all life on Earth, including ours.”

— JOSH KARLINER, DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL PROJECTS



Safer Chemicals

A growing body of scientific research shows that chronic exposure to toxic chemicals is harmful to human health. Even small doses of chemicals can cause disease. Unfortunately, many of the products that the health care sector relies on for cleaning and sanitization, as well as the furniture and medical devices used in health care facilities, contain hazardous chemicals that are often carcinogenic or mutagenic. Health Care Without Harm is working to address this challenge through action on three levels:



Choosing Safer Alternatives

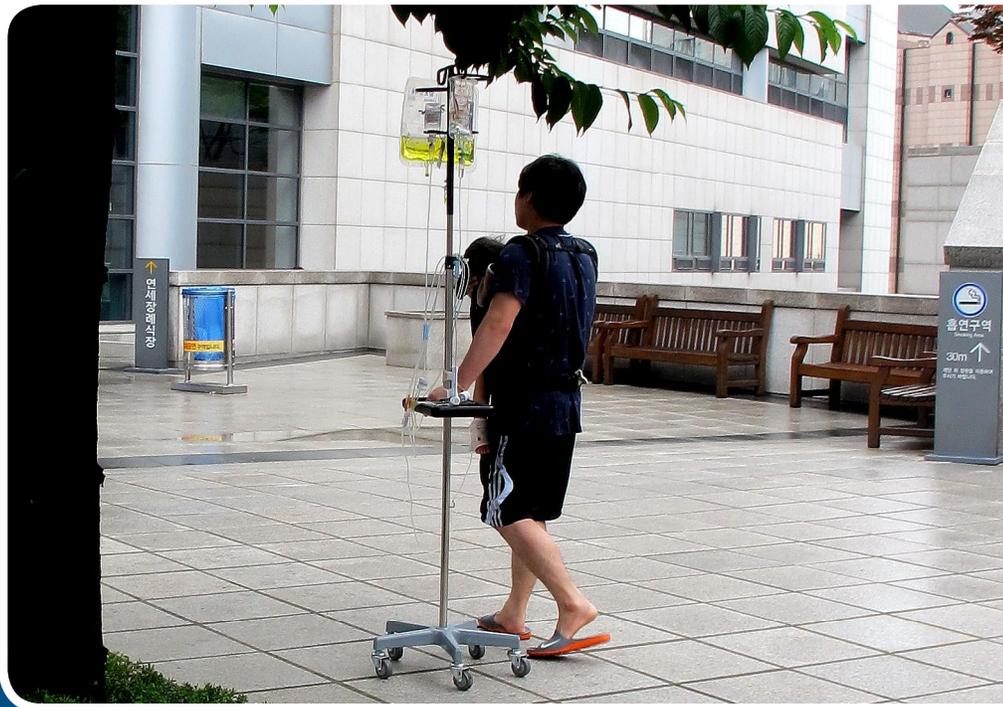
Health Care Without Harm works with hospitals to eliminate chemicals harmful to human health by sharing information about safer alternatives and cultivating leaders who are not only changing their purchasing practices but are also publicly advocating for safer alternatives.

Influencing the Supply Chain

Health Care Without Harm is mobilizing hospitals and health systems to put upstream pressure on their suppliers to use safer manufacturing practices and provide products free of harmful chemicals.

Changing Policies

Despite the clear links between toxic chemicals and health, the laws created to protect the public and workers are inadequate. Health Care Without Harm is organizing health care providers and industry leaders to advocate for policy solutions that prevent the exposure of patients, health care workers, and communities to hazardous chemicals.



KEY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Purchasing Criteria for United Nations

Health Care Without Harm established a partnership with the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme to develop environmentally preferable purchasing criteria for the UN system focused on safer chemicals, carbon reduction, and sustainable resource use.

Industry-supplier Roundtable

Health Care Without Harm hosted an industry-supplier roundtable between major U.S. health systems and leading institutional furniture manufacturers, a first-of-its-kind opportunity for the two sectors to discuss opportunities to accelerate the development of furniture without flame retardant chemicals.

Safer Medical Devices Database

Health Care Without Harm Europe launched both the [Safer Medical Devices Database](#), a free, open-access platform that offers product information on DEHP- and BPA-free medical devices for procurers in health care facilities, and the [Pharmaceutical Resource Centre](#), a project designed to raise awareness about pharmaceuticals in the environment.

Chemical Substitution

Under the Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management Quick Start Program on Chemical Substitution, Health Care Without Harm successfully piloted the substitution of toxic chemicals, namely sodium hypochlorite and glutaraldehyde, with safe and affordable alternatives in hospitals in the Philippines and Malaysia.



Healthy Food

From the overuse of unnecessary antibiotics in animal agriculture to the pesticide exposure and pollution resulting from large-scale industrial farming, our modern food production system is creating significant global health and environmental problems. Healthy and sustainable food cannot be defined by nutritional quality alone. It is the end result of a food system that conserves and renews natural resources, advances social justice and animal welfare, builds community wealth, and fulfills the food and nutrition needs of all eaters now and into the future. Health Care Without Harm is working to address this challenge through action on three levels:



Changing Purchasing Behavior

Health Care Without Harm encourages hospitals to preferentially purchase meat and poultry produced without routine, non-therapeutic antibiotics. Under our Antibiotics Campaign, hospitals transition their purchases toward more local, sustainable meat and poultry options while joining other institutions and supply chain partners to transform the marketplace.

Driving Policy

Health Care Without Harm mobilizes the health sector's voice to build support for effective antibiotics legislation by creating, educating, and mobilizing a network of health care sector representatives who can take immediate action through sign-on letters, testimonials, and legislative visits.

Transforming Markets

Working with Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm seeks to transform the aggregate buying power of health systems to accelerate the transformation of the health care supply chain towards more sustainable products, technologies, and services.

KEY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Healthier Hospitals Initiative Food Challenge

More than 1,000 U.S. hospitals and 4,000 health professionals participated in the Healthy Food in Health Care's antibiotics campaign and the Healthier Hospitals Initiative Food Challenge

Food Day 2014

Spearheaded by Health Care Without Harm, more than 352 hospitals served a total of 126,600 meals on Food Day 2014, featuring meat or poultry raised without non-therapeutic antibiotics.

Comprehensive Antibiotic Stewardship

Health Care Without Harm collaborated with the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and the Sharing Antimicrobial Reports for Pediatric Stewardship group to launch the Physician Pledge for Comprehensive Antibiotic Stewardship.

Local and Sustainable Food

Through the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, 146 hospitals spent nearly 20% of their food budgets on local and sustainable food in 2014.



“Transformation of the community food environment and our national food system will come from hospitals working with each other and community partners to consistently make healthy food the easy choice at all places residents live, work, and play.”

— JENNIFER OBADIA, REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTHY FOOD IN HEALTH CARE NEW ENGLAND

Collaboration for Change

Over the past 19 years, Health Care Without Harm has proven that intentional research, innovation, and collaboration can lead to large-scale change that can transform the health sector globally to become ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice.

Visit us on the web at www.noharm.org for more resources—including webinars, white papers, case studies, and more information on the priorities highlighted in this report—and join us in our ongoing work to “first, do no harm” for the world we share.



www.noharm.org

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