

The Path Forward



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



Society is at an inflection point. Our global economy is stretching perilously beyond the boundaries of sustainability, causing widespread and disastrous collateral damage to our environment and our health.

THREE GOALS

Health Care Without Harm's efforts are centered around:

- **Protecting Public Health from Climate Change**
- **Transforming the Supply Chain**
- **Building Leadership for Environmental Health**

Governed by a moral imperative to “first, do no harm”, we rely on health care to ensure the health and well-being of the individuals and communities we serve. Yet, health care represents all of the contradictions of an industrial enterprise powered fossil fuels, toxic chemicals, and industrial agriculture.

We must redefine the mission and responsibility of health care to address the new environmental health reality of the 21st century. The health care sector must use all of its assets – its clinical expertise, its workforce development, its purchasing power, its political clout, and its moral authority – to create the conditions for healthy people, communities, and the environment.

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.

A RESTORATIVE VISION OF HEALTH CARE

Health Care Without Harm creates change among hospitals and health systems through education, training, peer-learning, and implementation tools focused on our core sustainability efforts. Aggregating the influence and purchasing power of the health sector, the Health Care Without Harm network drives the entire marketplace toward sustainability and advocates for policies that will create worldwide social change.

1996

We began in 1996 as a coalition of 28 organizations coming together to tackle harmful emissions caused by medical waste incineration. **Twenty years later, with offices on four continents and thousands of partners around the world, Health Care Without Harm is leading the global sustainable health care movement.**

21,000

The Health Care Without Harm network represents 21,000 hospitals and health partners in more than 50 countries worldwide.

MEMBERSHIP ARM



**PRACTICE
Greenhealth**

The leading nonprofit membership and networking organization for sustainable health care, Practice Greenhealth delivers environmental solutions to more than 1,300 members, lending support to create better, safer, greener workplaces and communities.

WORLDWIDE NETWORK



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals is a worldwide network of hospitals, health systems, and health organizations aimed toward building a global community committed to sustainable health care and healthy communities.

GREEN PURCHASING



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

For 20 years, Health Care Without Harm has led health care in becoming ecologically sustainable and an advocate for environmental health. Some of our achievements include:



4,500 INCINERATORS

Since 1994 more than 4,500 medical waste incinerators have been closed in the United States as a result of Health Care Without Harm's efforts to convince hospitals to switch to safer, cost-effective, non-burn waste treatment technologies.

\$60 MILLION IN HEALTHY FOOD

In just the past three years, Health Care Without Harm redirected more than \$60 million in food purchasing to local and sustainable foods across hundreds of U.S. hospitals, setting the stage to move a significant percentage of the \$12 billion health care spends annually on food.

18 CLIMATE LEADERS

Established in 2014, the Health Care Climate Council is an advocacy network of 18 leading U.S. health systems committed to driving health care policy leadership on climate and energy issues and rebranding climate change as a public health issue.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

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 redesign their buildings and supply chains to address the realities of climate change.

HEALTHY ENERGY

Led by Health Care Without Harm, the Healthy Energy Initiative is a global collaboration of health professionals, organizations, and researchers engaging in science-based advocacy to move society toward clean, renewable, healthy energy.

40 MILLION SQUARE FEET

Health Care Without Harm developed LEED certified standards for U.S. hospitals, which have enlisted 300 hospital architectural projects, impacted 40 million square feet of health care construction, and adopted as national guidelines in both Australia and China.

\$12 BILLION IN PROCUREMENT

Health Care Without Harm and the World Bank developed a framework for driving the World Bank's \$12 billion in annual health spending in low- and middle-income countries towards climate resilient health care infrastructure.

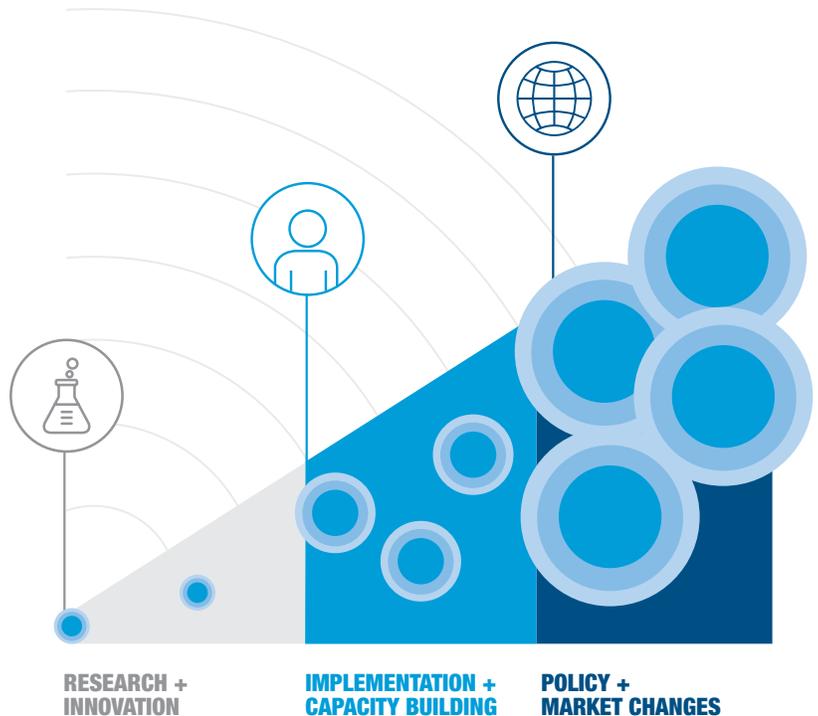
\$42 MILLION HEALTHY IN FURNISHINGS

Advocating for state regulation reform and working with 20 of the largest furniture and textile companies to develop lists of green products, Health Care Without Harm's efforts have led to nearly \$42 million in safer furniture purchases by U.S. health systems.

MODEL OF CHANGE

Using a three-phased approach, Health Care Without Harm has proven that intentional research, innovation, and collaboration can lead to large-scale transformation of the health care sector and within the communities we serve worldwide.

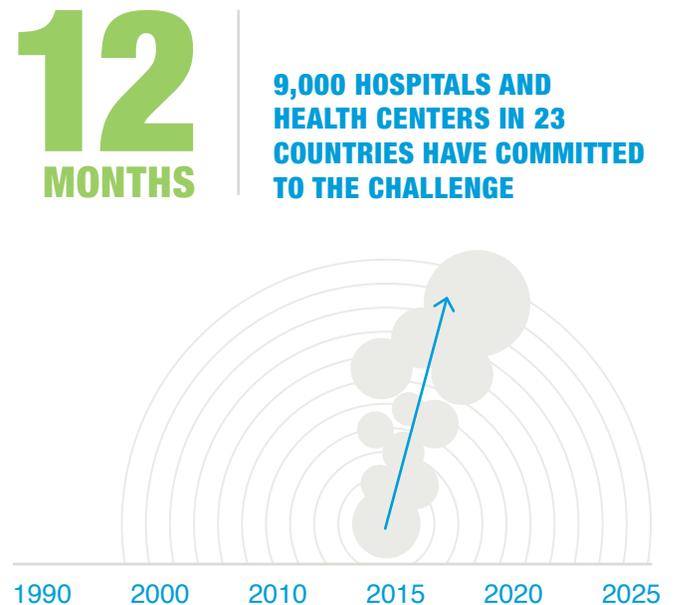
- **Research and Innovation:** We identify and pilot opportunities for health care to implement innovative, economical, science-based solutions to environmental health problems.
- **Implementation and Capacity Building:** We educate, build implementation tools, train health care professionals and scale-up solutions across our networks, the health sector and in the communities it serves.
- **Policy and Market Changes:** We aggregate the influence and purchasing power of hospitals, health systems, health professionals, and organizations to drive the marketplace toward sustainability and advocate for policies that will create worldwide change.

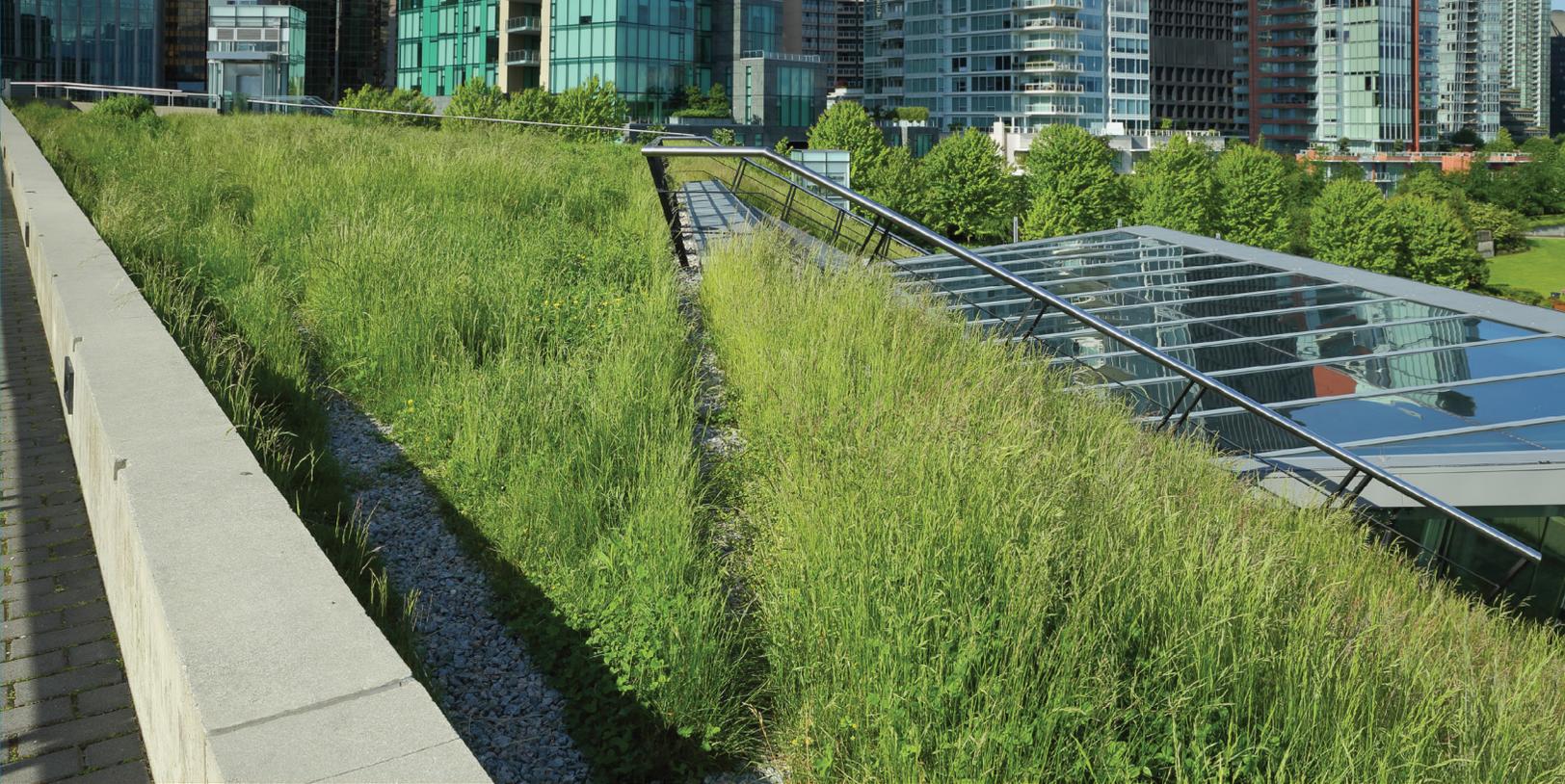


SCALE AND SPEED OF IMPACT

The Mercury Campaign: A 15-year Health Care Without Harm campaign started with a single thermometer in one Boston hospital and scaled up into a global collaboration with the World Health Organization to substitute mercury-thermometers and blood pressure devices with safer alternatives. The world's governments signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2013, calling for the global phase-out of mercury-based medical devices by 2020.

2020 Health Care Climate Challenge: Launched in 2015, the 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge mobilizes health care institutions around the world to protect public health from climate change by reducing their carbon footprint and lending their voice to policy efforts stemming climate change. To date, more than 90 participants, representing 9,000 hospitals and health centers in 23 countries have committed to the Challenge.





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