



Healthier Hospitals Initiative

Fact Sheet

Supporting Organizations

- Advocate Health Care
- Bon Secours Health System
- Catholic Healthcare West
- Hospital Corporation of America (HCA, Inc.)
- Inova Health System
- Kaiser Permanente
- MedStar Health
- Partners Healthcare
- Vanguard Health Systems

These systems are leaders in making sustainability changes in their own operations to improve environmental performance, support patient and employee safety and reduce healthcare costs.

They have worked closely with allied NGOs and policy makers to provide leadership and guidance on sustainable health care and to implement strategies to move the health care sector toward greater sustainability .

Purpose

To provide health benefits for patients, staff and the community by reducing emissions and pollutions that are increasingly linked to chronic disease

There is a need for sector wide transformation on linking sustainability to safety and reducing the enormous footprint of the healthcare sector.

HHI wants to role model behavior and encourage other hospitals and facilities in the sector to participate in the health care sustainability goals as identified in the HHI Agenda.

Collectively, the health care sector can leverage its purchasing power to reduce toxic chemicals and get manufactures and suppliers to respond with safer, cost effective alternatives.

By focusing on a variety of operations and building programs common to most health care facilities, the health care sector can reduce its overall carbon footprint

Hospitals can be a better community partner in the communities where they provide health care services by being better stewards of the environment and reducing their consumption of natural resources.

By being better stewards of the environment, hospitals are practicing better preventive health care.

Structure

Sponsoring organizations will strategize and coordinate HHI activities and will take an active role in their implementation

Individual hospitals and systems that cannot participate in the sponsorship of the Healthier Hospitals Initiative may still participate by signing a pledge supporting the initiative.

Individual hospitals become part of a network of health care entities that collectively participate in the initiative through

- sharing of success stories
- helping identify barriers to health care sustainability
- participating in collective solutions
- helping to develop best practices
- implementing the Healthy Hospitals Agenda

Hospitals will be linked through a shared web resource that allows them to document their progress and post case studies and other information that can be used by other systems and hospitals to further their sustainability efforts.

Healthier Hospitals Agenda

This Agenda is a broad outline of areas of health care design and operations that could be addressed when undertaking sustainability initiatives.

The three tenets to the agenda are the following:

Improve Environmental Health and Patient Safety: Engage in Environmentally Preferred Purchasing, reduce chemical use, actively seek alternative sustainable products, engage in green building, and purchase and serve healthy food and foods made in sustainable ways.

Reduce Health Care's Use of Natural Resources and Generation of Waste: Reduce consumption of energy, water, and raw materials and minimize waste. Engage in inventory management, waste management and recycling programs; transition to renewable energy sources; eliminate incineration; and improve transportation strategies.

Institutionalize Sustainability and Safety: Make sustainability principles an organizational priority with CEO-level support. Integrate into all areas of the organization and its activities, internally and externally through leadership, education, and accountability and engagement in public policy and community education. Encourage and incorporate sustainability as an essential element in the culture of the organization.

Technical Assistance, Training and Research

Three partner organizations, Health Care Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth, and The Center for Health Design, will provide expertise and technical assistance and will develop and implement training and other programs to help hospitals carry out the HHI agenda recommendations.

Research conducted under the auspices of the program will be overseen by the Health Care Without Harm Research Collaborative, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Resources

Website: www.healtheirhospitals.org The website will house materials, links, and resources for HHI participants, including a database of best practices and case studies submitted by participants.

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Database: A listing of eco-friendly products that are available in the marketplace, including electronics, medical products, building materials, cleaners, green chemistry products, recycled paper, fabrics and more.

Online Databases: Institutions participating in HHI will have access to the online databases developed through the initiative containing best practices, success stories, and useful information

Training: Training will be offered through a variety of webinars, in-person trainings, on-site consultations and other services provided by the partner organizations.