



Healthier Hospitals Solutions

The **Healthier Hospitals' Leaner Energy framework** challenges hospitals to meet the baseline objective and take on three goals to help hospitals protect people from the harm of pollution stemming from energy use. The goals were selected for their positive impact on human health and the environment, as well as their potential to drive increased demand for energy-efficient equipment and services in the marketplace.

Objective	Impact
Track energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager	Conserve energy
Reduce energy use by three percent from baseline	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which can cause respiratory symptoms and premature death
Reduce energy use by five percent from baseline	
Reduce energy use by 10 percent from baseline	Lower energy bills

Hospitals and health systems can choose to take on Level One (3%), Level Two (5%) or Level Three (10%).

Why Should Hospitals Take on this Challenge?

Energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean energy procurement are at the top of forward-thinking organizations' stewardship initiatives. By using less energy and obtaining it from cleaner sources, hospitals can reduce the amount of emissions they release and lower the risk of respiratory illness. In addition to offering health benefits, energy conservation benefits a hospital's bottom line. The EPA estimates that a \$1 savings in annual energy costs is equivalent to an increase of \$20 in annual revenue, based on a five percent net operating margin.

Why Leaner Energy?

Hospitals and health care facilities account for more than eight percent of the nation's annual energy consumption and generate nearly eight percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions, according to the U.S. Department of Energy Information Agency. Carbon dioxide and other pollutants can contribute to chronic bronchitis, asthma attacks, respiratory symptoms and premature death. The Healthier Hospitals (HH) Leaner Energy Challenge offers a framework that enables hospitals to benchmark their energy consumption, empowering facilities to conserve energy and reduce emissions to benefit patients, staff and local communities.

In addition to offering health benefits, conserving energy helps hospitals save money. According to the Department of Energy, hospital energy costs rose 56 percent between 2003 and 2008. Energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean energy procurement can help hospitals lower costs. HH has identified key ways for hospitals to reduce their energy consumption and obtain energy from more sustainable sources.

Success Stories

According to ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager, HH's Leaner Energy Challenge resulted in reduced energy use equivalent to avoiding 73,600 metric tons of CO₂e in greenhouse gas emissions. These avoided emissions are equivalent to removing 15,600 vehicles from U.S. roads annually.

Hackensack University Medical Center

embarked on a two-phase energy conservation project. The annual utility cost savings, when the full project is completed, is estimated to total \$1.06 million. The annual energy savings is estimated to total 4,218,984 kWh and 217,693 therms.

Highland District Hospital identified energy reduction as a strategy and priority to reduce overall costs. Highland District Hospital

completed an energy audit, which helped identify multiple opportunities for energy reduction and cost savings. A combination of projects and operational improvements increased their ENERGY STAR rating to 64, and resulted in significant cost savings including over \$20,000 in rebates from their local electric utility.

Kaiser Permanente closed a power purchasing agreement (PPA) for a 15 MW solar photovoltaic installation on 15 sites. Through this transaction Kaiser was able to hedge future energy prices in a fixed-price 20-year contract and generate approximately 23 GWh of electricity annually, a substantial piece of Kaiser's on-site renewable energy goals.

Get Started

Register today to enroll in Healthier Hospitals, which is free to any hospital in the United States and Canada. To get started, visit www.healthierhospitals.org and choose one or more Challenges. Enrollees are invited to commit to at least one of the six "Challenge" areas: Engaged Leadership, Healthier Food, Leaner Energy, Less Waste, Safer Chemicals and Smarter Purchasing. Hospitals can choose to tackle a single Challenge or any combination of the six Challenges. By signing up, health systems will gain access to free tools and resources such as how-to

implementation guides, webinars and a network of peers. Through the Healthier Hospitals program, hospitals will track progress at the local level and share data to show the measurable impact of the project. Visit the HH website to learn more about the Challenges and the resources available to help participating health systems achieve these goals.

Questions? Ask us at info@healthierhospitals.org. Or follow us on Twitter at [@HHIorg](https://twitter.com/HHIorg) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/healthierhospitalsinitiative.