

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM



From Commitment to Action

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

2	Healthier, resilient, more equitable: The future for health care
4	About Health Care Without Harm
6	Collective action for decarbonization: Health care's leadership role
10	Transforming hospital food systems to heal patients & planet
14	Scaling sustainability: Health care's role in market transformation
17	CleanMed
18	In the news
19	Board of directors
19	Consolidated financial statements
20	Thank you

Cover: Women community health workers from the State of Chhattisgarh in India, use an air monitoring device to test air quality in order to effectively communicate the impacts of air pollution on the health of the community, particularly women and children. This approach integrates citizen science with gender and community health workers' role in raising awareness on air pollution and health. (Shweta Narayan, Health Care Without Harm)

Healthier, resilient, more equitable: The future for health care

Gary Cohen, founder and president

In the summer of 2022, over 100 million Americans were living under an extreme heat advisory for two weeks, while 3.4 million were displaced by climate disasters. Thirty million people in Pakistan were impacted by flooding, and 100 million people in the Horn of Africa currently face drought and potential famine. As the world transitions out of the most deadly season of the pandemic, we're faced with an even more daunting set of circumstances related to a warming planet.

What is the role of the health sector in addressing this new existential reality? Health Care Without Harm has been leading the sector for the last decade in providing answers to this question. We analyzed health care's climate footprint and developed a Global Roadmap for Health Care Decarbonization. We developed a Climate Impact Checkup tool so health care institutions can measure their emissions. We partnered with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on

And at every level – locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally – we're seeing the health care sector move from pledges and commitments to measurable action. That's what the stories in this annual report are all about.

Race to Zero to bring 68 health systems across 24 countries into leadership on climate action. We collaborated with the World Health Organization and the British government to secure commitments from 62 nations to design low-carbon and resilient health systems. We partnered with the National Academy of Medicine on an initiative to build momentum for decarbonization in the U.S. health care sector and supported the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in recruiting hospitals for their Health Sector Climate Pledge.

And at every level – locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally – we're seeing the health care sector move from pledges and commitments to measurable action. That's what the stories in this annual report are all about.

As the climate crisis has evolved and accelerated, so has the work of Health Care Without Harm and our membership associations, Practice Greenhealth and Global Green and Healthy Hospitals. But while we're leading a global movement to decarbonize the health sector, we can't let a focus on reducing emissions distract us from the drivers of equity in health systems, facilities, and the communities they serve.



Gary Cohen, onstage at CleanMed, in conversation with Harold Mitchell, Rachelle Wenger, and Seema Wadhwa.

**We're giving the health sector tools to avoid fossil fuels and toxic chemicals.
Think of it as preventative medicine on a grand scale.**

We believe health systems must leverage investments to support equitable decarbonization and become willing partners in building community resilience, health, and wealth.

We are at the forefront, testing solutions for climate preparedness that build on partnerships between health systems and the communities they serve. We deploy these solutions across the extensive domestic and international networks we've built over the past 27 years that move the entire sector toward measurable gains in decarbonization and resilience.

How can health systems build community resilience, support "green" economic development, and address health inequities at the same time? Our food systems work is a great example of an integrated approach. We're working with health systems to leverage their purchasing power to support sustainable and racially diverse growers in their region and serve healthier, more plant-based food to their patients, employees, and visitors. We're piloting food waste reduction strategies in which hospitals partner with local nonprofits and food banks to provide food for people who are hungry. And we're linking "food as medicine" strategies with local and sustainable farmers and food producers so they can



Health Care Without Harm works with partners from around the world to advocate on the climate-health-air pollution connection.

be part of the emerging ecosystem to address the upstream food insecurity conditions that contribute to our society's epidemic of chronic disease.

Our work on sustainable purchasing embodies a similar integrated approach. Health care is 20% of the U.S. economy and 10% of the global economy. We're working with the largest U.S. health care systems to design climate-smart and toxic-free guidelines for products and technologies that can drive the health care marketplace to join with hospitals to phase out fossil fuels and toxic chemicals.

We're also piloting anchor strategies so health systems, often the largest employers and buyers in a city, can leverage their purchasing power to support more local businesses, especially businesses that are helping build resilience and equity. For example, health systems can invest in energy efficiency and "healthy homes" programs that reduce residents' energy use and bills, removing asthma triggers from their homes to cut down on repeat hospitalizations. These programs also provide jobs to local businesses. We're encouraging hospitals to co-invest with other large businesses in building the renewable energy grid.

What you will read in this annual report are stories of hope and leadership. We're helping chart a new path for health care amidst the climate crisis.

We're giving the health sector tools to avoid fossil fuels and toxic chemicals. Think of it as preventative medicine on a grand scale.

This work is central to expanding health care's healing mission beyond its walls to the communities it serves and the planet that sustains us all.

I hope this inspires hope in you as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

About Health Care Without Harm

Health Care Without Harm has spent 27 years building partnerships in the health care sector to activate all of its assets – economic, political, moral, clinical, and financial – in service of environmental health and justice.

Health Care Without Harm serves as a systems orchestrator for the global transformation of the health care sector to embrace environmental sustainability within its operations and leverage the trusted role and voice of clinicians to advocate for “first, do no harm.”

Health Care Without Harm was founded on the basis of environmental health and justice – that every person deserves the right to live in a healthy environment – while recognizing people of color and people who are economically disadvantaged are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, resulting in elevated rates of disease, poverty, and shorter life expectancy.

Our program areas include climate impacts on health, sustainable procurement, medical waste, toxic materials and chemicals of concern, green

building and energy, food, pharmaceuticals, climate-smart health care, transportation, and water.

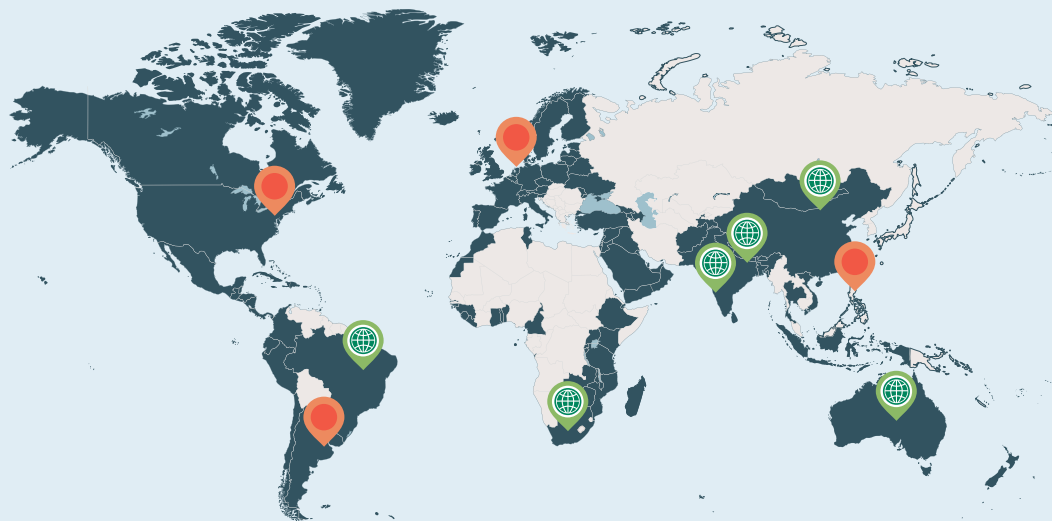
Our staff includes policy experts, campaigners, health care clinical experts, and other health and environmental practitioners.

We have regional teams in the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, where staff work on community-based projects as well as national and global initiatives.

Health Care Without Harm engages in joint projects with the World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and other international agencies and organizations, and has strategic partners in:

- Australia – Climate and Health Alliance
- Brazil – Projecto Hospitais Saudáveis
- China – Rock Environment and Energy Institute
- India – Public Health Foundation of India and Centre For Chronic Disease Control, Lung Care Foundation, Healthy Energy Initiative India
- Nepal – Healthcare Foundation of Nepal
- South Africa – groundWork

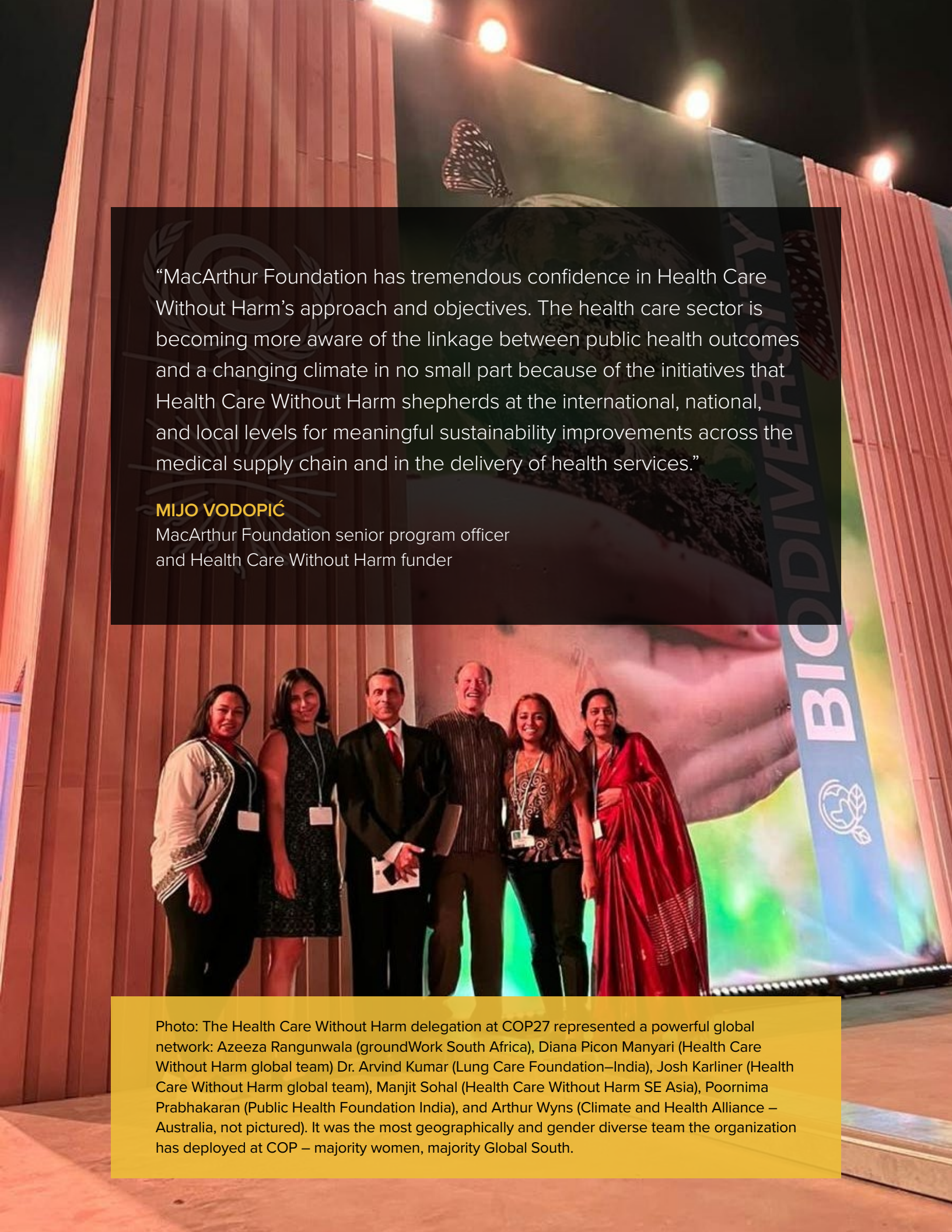
The Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network includes over 1,700 members, representing over 68,000 hospitals and health centers in 81 countries.



HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM
GLOBAL HOSPITALS NETWORK

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM
REGIONAL OFFICE/TEAMS

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM
STRATEGIC PARTNERS



“MacArthur Foundation has tremendous confidence in Health Care Without Harm’s approach and objectives. The health care sector is becoming more aware of the linkage between public health outcomes and a changing climate in no small part because of the initiatives that Health Care Without Harm shepherds at the international, national, and local levels for meaningful sustainability improvements across the medical supply chain and in the delivery of health services.”

MIJO VODOPIĆ

MacArthur Foundation senior program officer
and Health Care Without Harm funder



Photo: The Health Care Without Harm delegation at COP27 represented a powerful global network: Azeeza Rangunwala (groundWork South Africa), Diana Picon Manyari (Health Care Without Harm global team) Dr. Arvind Kumar (Lung Care Foundation–India), Josh Karliner (Health Care Without Harm global team), Manjit Sohal (Health Care Without Harm SE Asia), Poornima Prabhakaran (Public Health Foundation India), and Arthur Wyns (Climate and Health Alliance – Australia, not pictured). It was the most geographically and gender diverse team the organization has deployed at COP – majority women, majority Global South.

Collective action for decarbonization: Health care's leadership role

Health Care Without Harm has long known that leveraging health care's collective expertise, trusted voice, and frontline experience is a powerful tool for advocacy.

“Giving health professionals the capacity and the words to be able to advocate at the policy level, in institutions, and throughout the sector – this is the power of Health Care Without Harm,” says Diana Picon Manyari, international climate director.

And this approach is yielding unprecedented health sector action on climate change.

At COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, commitments made by national governments and health systems – prompted by clinicians and hospital leaders, sometimes through direct action in the streets – demonstrated that health care is ready to decarbonize and build climate resilience. Sixty-two countries pledged to design and implement climate-smart health care systems, and 54 health systems representing 14,000 hospitals in 21 countries joined the United Nations-backed Race to Zero global campaign, committing to net-zero emissions by 2050 or earlier. Health Care Without Harm is the Race to Zero health care partner.

These outcomes would not have been possible without the UK COP Presidency, World Health Organization (WHO), and Health Care Without Harm coming together to lead the COP26 Health Programme, a unique and timely collaboration that

“Giving health professionals the capacity and the words to be able to advocate at the policy level, in institutions, and throughout the sector – this is the power of Health Care Without Harm,” says Diana Picon Manyari, international climate director.



Diana Picon Manyari, Health Care Without Harm international climate director, speaks at a DevEx event at COP27. (Jit Sohal)

strategized for months to ensure that health was a top priority.

The groundwork laid by advocates in Scotland and the commitments they produced informed the negotiations at COP27 in Egypt in November.

“The health sector presence at international climate negotiations has grown significantly even since Glasgow,” said Josh Karliner, Health Care Without Harm’s global partnerships director. “The sector is increasingly weighing in on the negotiations themselves, while utilizing the ‘COP moment’ to come together and build collaboration with each other and with the broader climate movement.”

While the commitments are impressive, it’s the actions bringing those commitments to life that matter.

At COP27, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Health Service of England [announced an unprecedented partnership](#) to align procurement requirements – an important recognition of the health care supply chain’s significant contribution to greenhouse gases.

“This partnership serves as an opportunity to leverage the health sector’s collective purchasing power to reshape the entire marketplace,” says Gary Cohen, Health Care Without Harm founder. “Our groundbreaking Sustainable Procurement Guide serves as a roadmap for hospitals to develop sustainable purchasing strategies that prioritize community and environmental health and safety while reducing costs. It will increase demand for sustainable products and model an economy with health and climate justice designed into its operating principles.”

The partnership builds on the White House/ HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge, a voluntary commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and develop a comprehensive climate resilience plan. A group of 102 organizations representing 837 hospitals signed the pledge – 87% of whom are members of Health Care Without Harm’s Practice Greenhealth network.



Health Care Without Harm’s [Sustainable Procurement Guide](#)



Health Care Without Harm’s [Climate Impact Checkup tool](#)

Launched after COP26, the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) – with 62 committed national governments – demonstrates the potential for collective action on a global scale. With WHO as its secretariat, ATACH offers networking, access to resources, coordination, knowledge, and best practices exchange that supports participating countries in their journeys toward climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. Health Care Without Harm is on the ATACH steering committee, which is developing strategies for leveraging national budgets and health and climate finance to scale low-carbon, climate-resilient health care. ATACH countries will be offered access to Health Care Without Harm’s Climate Impact Checkup tool and courses, which help health care institutions measure their emissions, and manage and support mitigation goals and action planning.

Not only are national health ministries using Health Care Without Harm’s tools to measure their emissions and take action – so are hospitals and health centers around the world who are part of Health Care Without Harm’s Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network. GGHH has over 1,700 members in 81 countries representing more than 68,000 hospitals and health centers.

“Through GGHH, we are building a global grassroots movement for sustainable health care,” explains Picon Manyari. By late 2022, the Climate Impact Checkup tool was being used by GGHH members in 240 health facilities across 21 countries. Health ministries in Colombia and Peru are deploying it within their health systems, and Indonesia plans to deploy it in all of their public health facilities.

Offering tested tools to measure greenhouse gas emissions across the entirety of a health system’s footprint – from procurement to energy consumption to waste disposal and beyond – alongside proven solutions to reduce both emissions and costs is exactly what’s required for the sector to move toward decarbonization at the necessary pace.

But how the sector decarbonizes is almost as important as its emissions reductions. Focusing solely on reducing emissions could lead to a deficit around drivers of resilience in health facilities and the communities they serve.

The opportunities presented by networking and solutions-sharing at every scale of the sector – from clinician advocacy to improved health system procurement to global agreements – means health



A clinician at Sharm El Sheikh International Hospital (a Global Green and Healthy Hospitals member) demonstrates using a mobile telemedicine kit to Health Care Without Harm India partner Poornima Prabhakaran during COP27. Telemedicine can increase access to health services while reducing health care’s climate footprint.


systems can be reimagined not just as “low-carbon” or more efficient, but as decarbonized anchors of healthier, resilient, more equitable communities, fully prepared to survive and thrive in the face of climate disruption.

Investing in resilience not only helps ensure hospitals will be the last buildings standing through climate emergencies, but that the communities they serve are better equipped to withstand climate disruption. This means community climate resilience is a form of preventive care.

There’s plenty more to do. In 2023, Health Care Without Harm will continue to deliver comprehensive tools and training to health care institutions around the world. These tools will enable them to measure greenhouse gas emissions and set and meet climate goals. Health care institutions that have committed to the Race to Zero campaign will share successes, challenges, and strategies in regional gatherings around the world, culminating in a global convening that will uplift recommendations to build systems required to meet climate commitments. ♦



Health Care Without Harm was one of the organizers of the Futures Lab session at COP27. (Poornima Prabhakaran, Public Health Foundation of India Centre for Chronic Disease Control)

A wide-angle photograph of a vast field of golden oats stretching to the horizon under a clear blue sky. In the distance, a line of trees and a tall antenna tower are visible against the horizon.

“Health Care Without Harm has an important mission that universally improves quality of life for living creatures across the food system. By increasing the adoption of whole-food, plant-based, and humane menus in hospital settings, Health Care Without Harm encourages healthy eating for patients and staff alike, while reducing harm to farmed animals along the way. For Builders Initiative, this is an absolute win-win as both contribute to realizing a more humane and healthy planet for all.”

CAITLIN CASPERSEN

Builders Initiative senior program officer
and Health Care Without Harm funder

Photo: Field of oats growing at Doubting Thomas Farms, which provides locally sourced oats to OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois (Noreen Thomas, Doubting Thomas Farms)

Transforming hospital food systems to heal patients & planet


“Our focus is to make plant-based dishes taste good, look good, and be just as appealing as meat dishes,” said executive chef Timothy Gee in remarks at an event last fall with food and climate activists in New York City. With plant-forward menus growing in popularity, you might think Gee works at a trendy, farm-to-table restaurant. But his clientele are patients at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Climate and health impacts are embedded in nearly every aspect of hospital food, from procurement to disposal. At the same time, food purchasing, menu design, and food recovery represent a host of opportunities for addressing climate, health, and community resilience.

Gee’s culinary innovations were inspired by Memorial Sloan Kettering’s participation in the Cool Food Pledge, an initiative of the World Resources Institute in partnership with Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth to leverage the purchasing power of institutions, like hospitals, to reduce food-related emissions.

[Seventy-seven hospitals](#) in the Practice Greenhealth network are working alongside other institutions to reduce greenhouse gases from food purchasing by 25% by 2030.

77
HOSPITALS



in the Practice Greenhealth network are working alongside other institutions to **reduce greenhouse gasses from food purchasing by 25% by 2030.**



Health Care Culinary Contest winners Chefs Shekeba Samadzada and Dan Hess from UW Health in Madison, Wisconsin, with their winning Afghan-style vegetable korma dish (UW Health)

Plant-forward menus make progress toward this goal possible. After four years, the hospitals enrolled in Cool Food have reduced their per-plate emissions collectively by over 13%, with 97% of individual facilities enrolled showing emissions decreases. Purchasing data show this success was driven by a marked decrease in animal-based foods and an increase in plant-based foods.

[Plant-Forward Future resources](#), created by Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth, support the adoption of more plant-based menu items, including recipe contests, tools for measuring progress, and Plant Powered 30 – a challenge to motivate health system employees to choose a plant-forward meal at least once a day for 30 days.



Regional, regeneratively grown oats being prepared into oatmeal for patient trays (Golda Ewalt, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center)

Basil's Harvest is a nonprofit working with Midwestern farmers and food systems to expand markets for regeneratively grown food and create more resilient food systems in the face of climate change. Regenerative agriculture utilizes farming practices that build healthy soil, sequester carbon, and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. For Basil's Harvest, hospitals are a key market.

“By creating a regional supply chain that connects regenerative farms, regional mills, and community-based food systems, hospitals support the creation of more resilient farms, stronger regional food economies, and healthier communities,” says Chef Erin Meyer, Basil's Harvest founder and executive director.

Health Care Without Harm, working alongside Basil's Harvest and Practice Greenhealth member OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, built a unique farm-to-hospital pilot to showcase how food procurement can advance a hospital's climate and health goals by supporting local, regenerative agriculture.

“By creating a regional supply chain that connects regenerative farms, regional mills, and community-based food systems, hospitals support the creation of more resilient farms, stronger regional food economies, and healthier communities,” says Chef Erin Meyer, Basil's Harvest founder and executive director.

Their pilot ingredient? Oats.

Doubling Thomas Farms provided the raw ingredients from their Minnesota farm, and Janie's Mill, a local grain and flour mill, processed them using artisanal methods that preserve freshness and nutritional value while improving taste. The oatmeal and granola served to patients were a hit, and now OSF HealthCare seeks to expand the program to all 14 hospitals within its system, proving that institutional procurement is a key driver of expanding markets for regenerative agriculture.

But even locally sourced and plant-forward meals can be problematic if they end up in the landfill. The breakdown of organic matter – like food waste – in landfills is a significant source of greenhouse gases. Diverting unused food from the waste stream is a focus of Health Care Without Harm's [food waste solutions tools](#).

Health Care Without Harm partnered with Northern California's Sutter Health to pilot a food recovery program in 10 hospitals, offering uneaten but perfectly edible food to local community organizations.

“From our earliest days, Sutter Health's network has been deeply invested in the health and well-being of our broader communities,” says chief medical officer Dr. Stephen H. Lockhart. “The teams behind this project are putting our values into action by leveraging innovation to not only reduce our environmental footprint but also help feed community members in need.”



Staff at four of the facilities who participated in the pilot: Arthur Yu and Scott Elkington (Sutter Center for Psychiatry), Daniel Gulbransen and Lori Taylor (Sutter Roseville), Julio Marquez (Sutter Amador), Catherine Nishikawa and Shanley Schoenhofer (Sutter Auburn), and Lisa Hoover (Sutter Amador)

The program has had a profound impact, using robust technology to track and measure unused food and connect with local organizations who can receive donations and manage logistics with delivery drivers.

Through the pilot, Sutter Health facilities donated nearly 65,000 pounds of food to more than 40 area nonprofits and prevented 283,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted.

The program has been so successful that Sutter expanded it to six additional facilities, which donated a combined 82,339 pounds of food as of August 2022.

“Not only does this project impact greenhouse gases from keeping food waste out of the landfill,” says Jack Breezee, Sutter Health regional director of food and nutrition services. “It’s also about dollars saved, which is important to hospital administrators, and then there’s the food rescue piece which is really important to our community.”

Through the pilot, Sutter Health facilities donated nearly 65,000 pounds of food to more than 40 area nonprofits and prevented 283,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted.

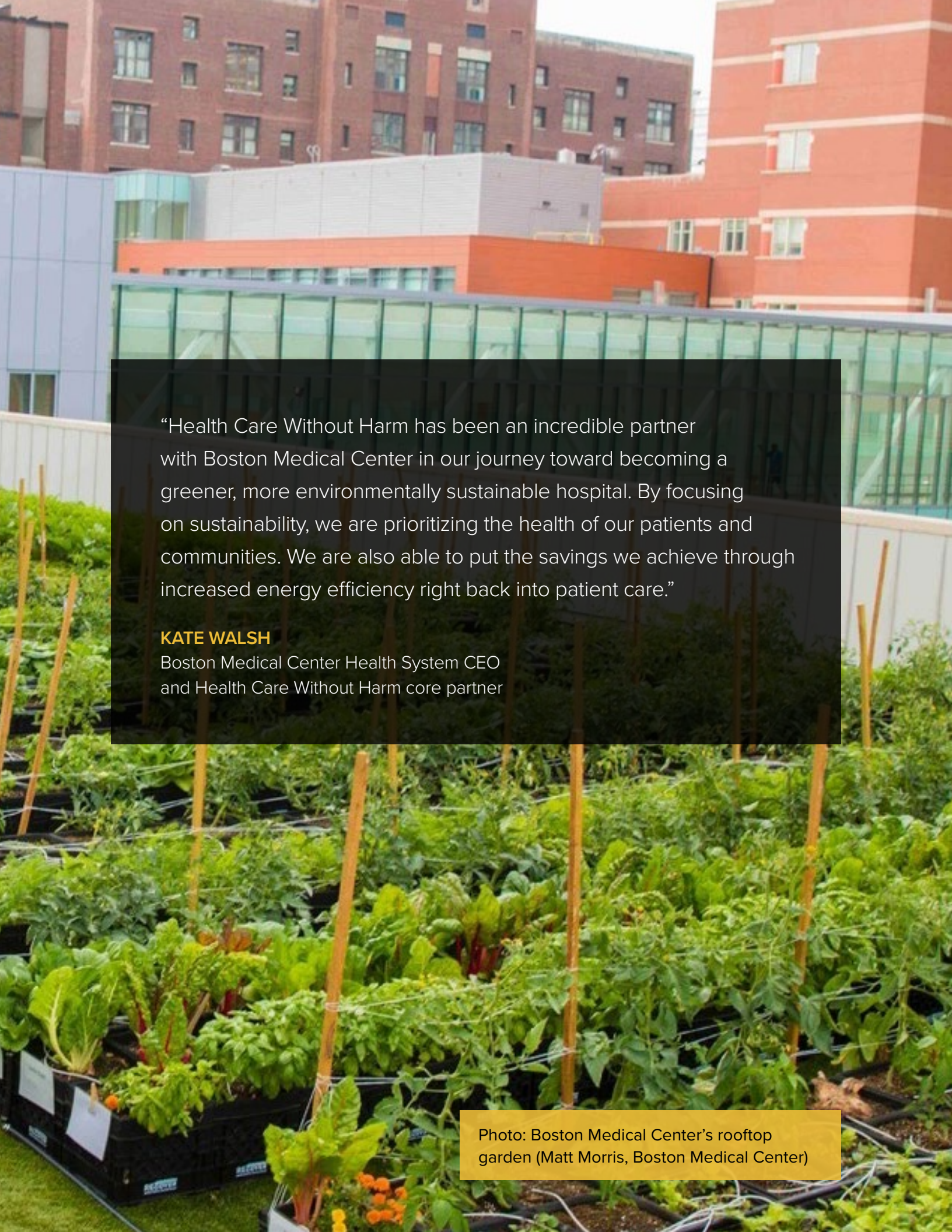
Building on learnings from these place-based pilots in collaboration with organizations leading food systems transformation, Health Care Without Harm will ramp up engagement and support for hospitals across the United States to set and achieve ambitious goals using innovative tools, including the Healthier Food Purchasing Standards, now aligned for impact across health care, higher education, and public institutions.

The pandemic and climate crises have created acute awareness across the health care sector that in order to support the health of patients and communities, health care must embrace food systems action beyond hospital walls, in their supply chains, and in their operations. ♦

Food waste recovery partnership: A community-based health care story



Davis Community Meals and Housing and Sutter Health in Davis, California, share their food waste recovery story in this [short video](#).



“Health Care Without Harm has been an incredible partner with Boston Medical Center in our journey toward becoming a greener, more environmentally sustainable hospital. By focusing on sustainability, we are prioritizing the health of our patients and communities. We are also able to put the savings we achieve through increased energy efficiency right back into patient care.”

KATE WALSH

Boston Medical Center Health System CEO
and Health Care Without Harm core partner

Photo: Boston Medical Center’s rooftop garden (Matt Morris, Boston Medical Center)

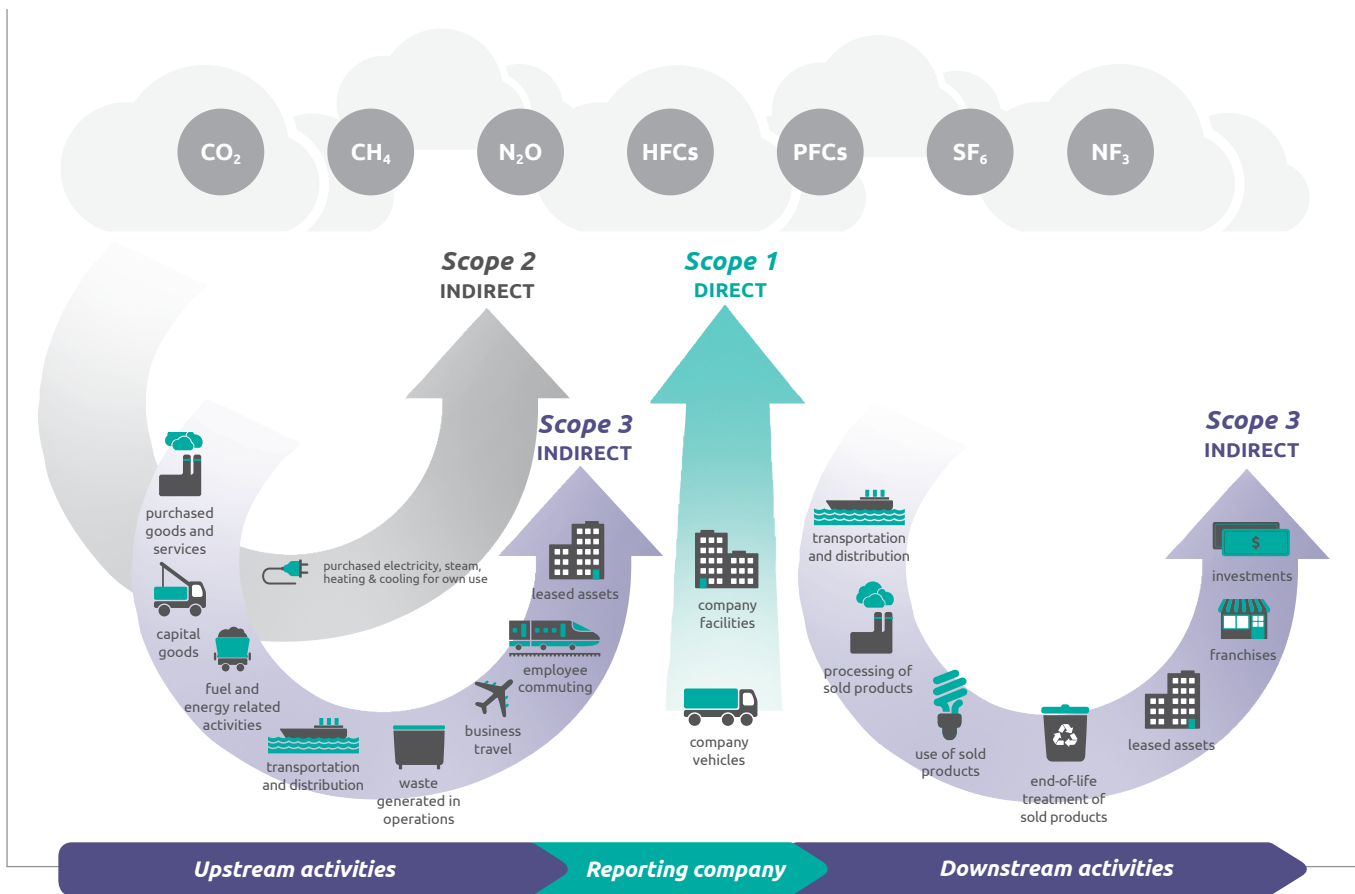
Scaling sustainability: Health care's role in market transformation

If the global health care sector were a country, it would be the fifth leading emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. And while health care institutions have some control over their direct emissions, a whopping 70% of the climate pollution associated with the sector comes from the supply chain – the products and services health care needs to operate, from gloves and gowns to anesthetic gases, waste disposal services, construction materials, and more. To further complicate things, the supply chain has impacts on people and the planet that go beyond climate change – unethical labor practices, outsized waste streams, toxic exposures, and corruption.

What if the markets that supply health care institutions could be fundamentally altered to align with health care's healing mission across a range of issues that impact people and the planet? What would that look like?

Building on decades of work – from reducing toxins like dioxin and mercury by closing medical waste incinerators and eliminating mercury thermometers to “greening” hospital furniture – Health Care Without Harm takes aim at the many ways health care supply chains can improve conditions across climate, health, and equity while achieving ripple effects in the economy that extend far beyond the sector.

The supply chain represents 70% of health care's climate footprint.



Source: [Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Figure 1.1 of Scope 3 Standard](#)

The newest target? Disposable gloves.

“Single-use gloves were already one of the highest volume products in health care, and then we were plunged into a global pandemic, and the volume just exploded,” says Tracey Easthope, senior strategist and founding member of Health Care Without Harm. The ubiquitous exam gloves come with a host of upstream and downstream problems, from forced labor to waste disposal. “And then we heard from labor activists that the situation was getting worse with the pandemic [because of increased demand].”

As Easthope and her team dug into pandemic-related use of disposable gloves, they discovered a significant amount of their use was unnecessary, both within and outside of health care.

“So we got to work developing interventions on safe glove use and guidance on reduced but safe use of personal protective equipment,” she says. Health Care Without Harm’s lead waste expert Ruth Stringer launched and chaired a United Nations inter-agency and global civil society working group on managing vaccination waste, including gloves.

The approach builds on a theory of change Health Care Without Harm has long employed: Work alongside institutions and clinicians willing to experiment and try new approaches. Their



Neydi Cruz, Health Care Without Harm international sustainability associate director, participated in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

This tested approach, which the organization has deployed across products, from furniture to mercury-containing medical devices, is now being employed to tackle climate change.

successes and lessons learned then inform criteria and standards more broadly through our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, with over 1,700 members in 81 countries, and Practice Greenhealth, which represents over 1,400 U.S. institutions. Network members then create change in their own health systems using proven strategies. Over the last five years, Health Care Without Harm has worked with partners and the UN Development Programme along with hospitals, health systems, and health ministries in 10 countries through the Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP) to transform health system purchasing as a way to reduce greenhouse gases, resource depletion, and chemical pollution. This approach leverages the power of global institutions to make change at scale.

After expanding the criteria for safe use of personal protective equipment to include social, climate, and chemical concerns, and to address the issue of need, SHiPP moved to identify hospitals and agencies to pilot them. Easthope emphasizes Health Care Without Harm’s role in this work: “You have to aggregate demand on the health care side to have enough power to change the market.”

This tested approach, which the organization has deployed across products, from furniture to mercury-containing medical devices, is now being employed to tackle climate change.

“We’re experiencing a major pivot in the health care sustainability world,” says Kathy Gerwig, senior adviser on climate and health at Health Care Without Harm and former sustainability executive at Kaiser Permanente. “We’re seeing a shift away from siloed actions like targeting specific toxins or certain products, to a new focus on a holistic approach to climate change.” This approach seeks to address climate, health, and equity, all on equal terms.

And when health systems use their market dominance to improve supply chains, that has ripple effects across the economy.

Health Care Without Harm is championing this approach in the United States through the [Health Care Climate Council](#), a leadership body of 20 major health systems committed to addressing climate change and being anchors for resilient communities. Council members have committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 with 50% reductions by 2030 – goals they can't achieve without addressing their supply chains. The Council's Supply Chain Decarbonization Strategy addresses the most significant emissions reduction opportunities by working with suppliers, distributors, and group purchasing organizations to support supply chain-related decarbonization efforts.

And when health systems use their market dominance to improve supply chains, that has ripple effects across the economy.

John Ullman, Health Care Without Harm safer chemicals and procurement director, saw this happen while working in a previous procurement role at Harvard University's Office for Sustainability.

"I got to see firsthand how Health Care Without Harm's work transcended the sector," he says. "I was working on university purchasing, not health care purchasing. But I helped get Health Care Without Harm's purchasing standards for hospitals added to Harvard's green building standards because they worked so well."

The results came quickly – another benefit of meeting market demand.

"I've seen businesses pivot in real time," says Ullman. "Suddenly – without policy change or a change in regulation – they're responding to what the market demands, and now they're changing the options available for the bed or the chair we might buy for our homes."

In her experience at Kaiser Permanente, Gerwig has seen this shift, too.

"Supply chain experts are now focusing on impact spending," she says. "They used to focus on getting the best price for products. Now, health systems are using their purchasing power to improve community health, health equity, environmental health, and economic development." She sees huge potential for this approach in tackling climate change.

"This focus on impact doesn't forfeit getting the best price for the right products," says Gerwig. "But it expands the definition of 'value.' An impact spending approach can be applied to decarbonizing the supply chain by signaling demand for low- or no-carbon alternatives, targeting the highest carbon footprint products, working collaboratively with suppliers, and working collectively across health systems to standardize requests."

This approach has the potential to scale quickly. In November, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Health Service of England [announced a pioneering partnership](#) to align procurement requirements to reduce harmful emissions and increase climate resilience.

To Gerwig, this unprecedented move underscores work Health Care Without Harm has been shaping for decades. "In this way, purchasing teams are leading the actualization of a decarbonized supply chain in health care." ♦




Greenhealth
APPROVED™

In 2020, Health Care Without Harm launched Greenhealth Approved to define and reward what "green" means in the supply chain. The Greenhealth Approved seal, which manufacturers pay to license, can be applied to products that have been validated against the trusted criteria developed over decades of work by Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth.

CleanMed

CleanMed is the premier national conference for leaders in health care sustainability. The 2022 gathering in Kansas City was an inspiring opportunity for collaboration, cross-sector learning, and community-building with clinicians, health system leaders, and advocates.



 **CleanMed** Join us May 23-25 as we connect, share, and build upon solutions for a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable health care sector. Learn more at cleanmed.org.
PITTSBURGH 2023

Practice Greenhealth's 2022 Environmental Excellence Awards demonstrate that environmental stewardship helps health care organizations protect the health of their communities, make progress on sustainability goals, save money, and build resilience.

Awards applicants reported:



Savings of more than \$157 million – an increase of more than 50% since last year.



Avoiding 331,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions through climate mitigation projects, more than four times higher than the previous year.



Saving enough water to fill 27 Olympic-sized swimming pools



Diverting waste equivalent to the weight of 908 Boeing 747 jets



Avoiding GHG emissions equivalent to 71,282 gas-powered vehicles

In the news

Bloomberg Law

Hospitals confront their climate achilles heel: Supply chains

“At least two major hospital systems — Kaiser Permanente and Providence Health and Services — are already working with suppliers on strategies to tamp down on emissions... Health Care Without Harm, an advocacy organization focused on addressing climate change in health care, has been consulting with its members to put together questions that health systems can ask suppliers, such as whether they are monitoring their emissions or have an action plan to reduce them, said Antonia Herzog, associate director of climate policy and advocacy.” [Read the full story](#)

Times of India op-ed

The healthcare sector needs to lead the way on decarbonization

“As per Health Care Without Harm, the Indian health sector’s contribution to the country’s total emissions is approximately 2%. While this may seem like a small [contribution], the fact that it continues to increase at a rate of approximately 5% every year is a cause for concern. Additionally, the extensive use of anesthetic gasses, single use plastics, generation of biomedical waste and a poor substitution uptake of renewables makes the issue more germane.”

[Read the full story](#)

STAT News

‘If I were a hospital, I’d be reading the tea leaves’: Pressures grow on the health care industry to reduce its climate pollution

“Hospitals serving low-income communities may find they can leverage additional incentives in the law aimed at these neighborhoods by investing in, for instance, megawatt solar installations or electric vehicle infrastructure that will provide energy and charging stations to be used both by hospitals and area residents, said Antonia Herzog, associate director of climate policy and advocacy at Health Care Without Harm, an organization that works to promote environmental health and justice globally.” [Read the full story](#)

Scientific American

Tons of COVID medical garbage threaten health

“Medical waste was a big problem before COVID. Many health care facilities were not able to manage waste safely before the disease exploded across the planet, and the vast scale of the pandemic has only made a bad problem much worse. ‘The pandemic is shining a light on the inadequacy of global health care waste management systems that are long due for an overhaul,’ says Ruth Stringer, international science and policy coordinator at Health Care Without Harm, an international nongovernmental organization that develops ecological sustainability programs for hospitals and clinics.”

[Read the full story](#)

Health Care Without Harm Board of Directors

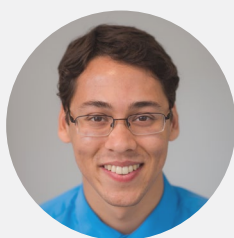
Dr. Alice T. Chen (Board Co-Chair)
 Gary Cohen
 Laurence W. Cohen (Board Treasurer)
 Andaye Hill-Espinoza
 Dr. Denise Fairchild
 Tory Dietel Hopps (Board Co-Chair)

Sister Mary Ellen Leciejewski
 David Mazumder (Board Secretary)
 Blair L. Sadler
 Nikhil Sahni
 Kimberly Dasher Tripp
 Dr. Ronald Wyatt

We welcomed the following members to our board in 2022:



Andaye Hill-Espinoza



David Mazumder



Nikhil Sahni



Dr. Ronald Wyatt

Health Care Without Harm consolidated financial statements

For the year ending
 December 31, 2021

Revenue	
Contributions, grants, and partner support	\$ 10,939,272
Network engagement	\$ 3,019,091
Total revenue	\$ 13,958,363
Expenses	
Program activities	\$ 11,085,480
Management & general	\$ 346,889
Fundraising	\$ 610,666
Total expenses	\$ 12,043,035
Change in net assets	\$ 1,915,328
Total net assets beginning of the year	\$ 7,477,373
Ending net assets	\$ 9,392,701

Thank you

To our donors

Transformational change takes all of us. Health Care Without Harm thanks the many individual donors who share our vision of elevating community voices, leveraging trusted messengers in the health care sector, and seeking to address fundamental change at the systems level to create greater resilience in the face of many urgent challenges. We are humbled by and deeply grateful for your support.

To our partners

Health Care Without Harm could not create transformational impact without our partners in the health care sector and on the ground in communities around the world. Systems change and greater resilience require a flourishing ecosystem of collaborators at all levels. From community-based organizations to brave clinicians to UN agencies to advocates across sectors, the success Health Care Without Harm has achieved is a testament to our partnerships. It is not possible to make change alone. Thank you for the work you do and for the opportunity to work together.

The Allayne and Douglas Wick Foundation
Association of American Medical Colleges
The Barr Foundation
Beyond Petrochemicals, a project of Resources
Legacy Fund, and made possible by support from
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Builders Initiative
The Bullitt Foundation
The Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Casey & Family Foundation
Catholic Health Association
Clean Air Fund
Climate & Health Foundation
The Commonwealth Fund
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit
East Bay Community Foundation
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
Energy Foundation
The Godley Family Foundation
The Good Energies Foundation
High Meadows Fund
IKEA Foundation
Jewish Communal Fund
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund
at the East Bay Community Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
The Lydia B. Stokes Foundation
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Meyer Memorial Trust
New York Health Foundation
The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Resilience Project, a project of Commonweal
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Rockefeller Foundation
The Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Skoll Foundation
Stichting SED Fund
Stray Dog Institute
TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation
United Nations Development Programme
United States Department of Agriculture
Walter Brown Revocable Trust
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
World Resources Institute
You Have Our Trust

*Our foundation donors who request
to stay anonymous*

“Health Care Without Harm has a proven track record as a leader in effecting systemic change. Philanthropists rarely have the opportunity to back an organization that will improve the lives of hundreds of millions if not billions of people all over the world and, moreover, do so in ways that improve social justice and build resilient communities. Health Care Without Harm’s work encompasses hospitals cleaning their own houses and then becoming leaders in the community and connecting with community organizations to drive community health, community wealth, and climate resilience. They operate around the world and, consequently, will make the world a safer place for everyone in it.”

LAURENCE COHEN

Health Care Without Harm board member and donor



noharm.org