



Climate Leadership in Healthcare

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Baylor
College of
Medicine

No Disclosures

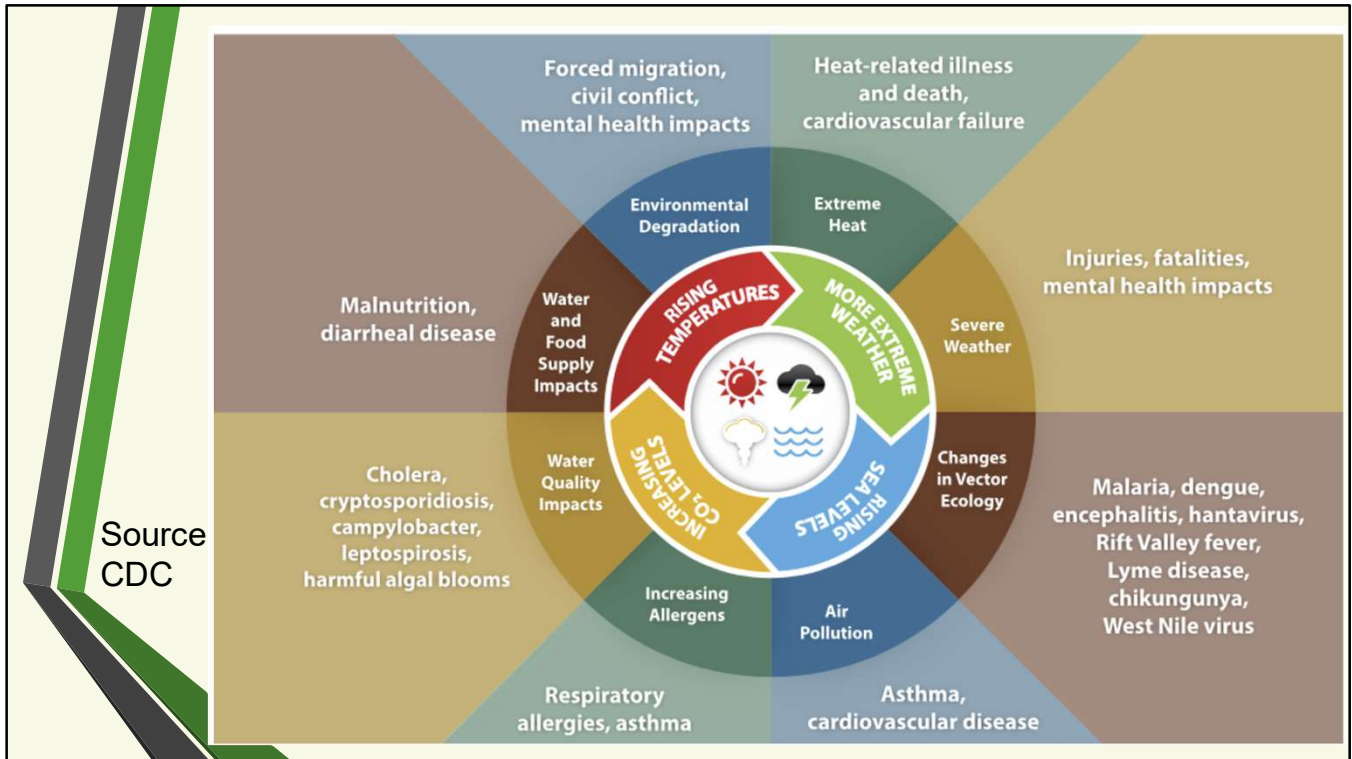
How's It Going?

- On a scale of 1-10 rate your organization on prioritization of climate, sustainability and carbon mitigation strategy



My Transition to Climate

- We can help address climate-related risks and harms to protect people
 - Climate impacts on health
 - Climate impacts on healthcare and public health
- We have skills to help reduce healthcare's impact and contributions to climate change





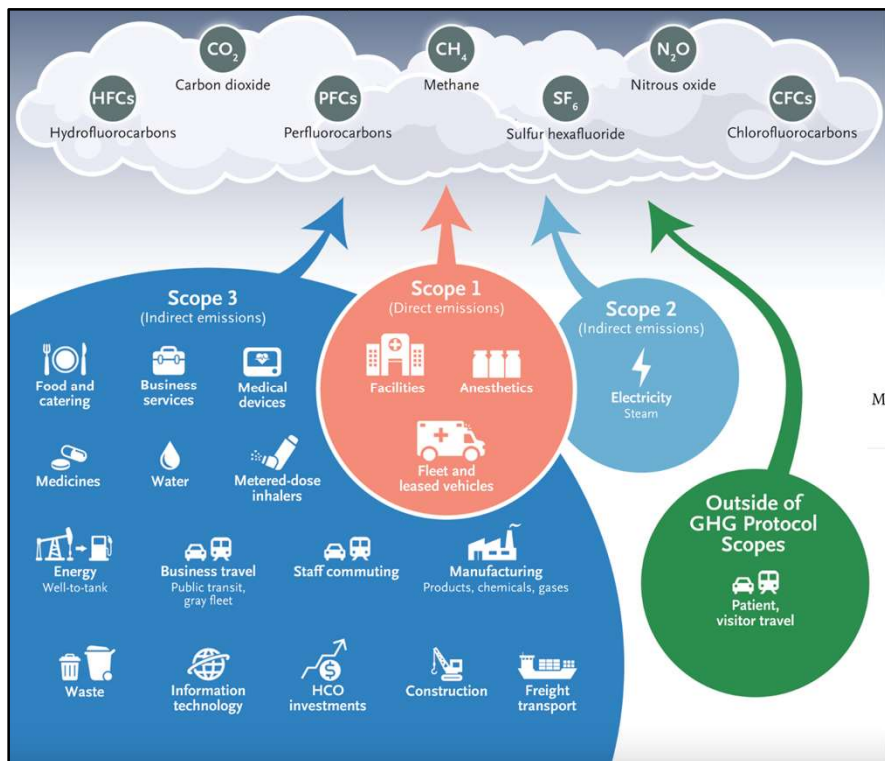
Climate and Health: Areas of Discussion

- Climate impacts on health
- Adaptation and Resilience
- **Mitigation/Environmental Sustainability** → Reduce greenhouse gas emissions PLUS healthcare pollution and impact on environmental degradation
..Planetary Health



% of Global Emissions from Healthcare?

- Globally, aviation contributes to about 2% of greenhouse gas emissions
- Globally, the healthcare system is responsible for 4.6 % of greenhouse gas emissions



Where Do Emissions Come From?

SOUNDING BOARD: FOSSIL FUEL POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mandatory Reporting of Emissions to Achieve Net-Zero Health Care

Hardeep Singh, M.D., M.P.H., Matthew Eckelman, Ph.D., Donald M. Berwick, M.D., M.P.P., and Jodi D. Sherman, M.D.





A CALL TO ACTION ON DECARBONIZATION: WHY HEALTH LEADERS SHOULD CARE

Economic
Benefit

Employee
Recruitment and
Retention

Emergency
Management and
Resilience Benefit

Health
Equity

High Value
Care

Reputation and
Reputational
Risk

Societal
Benefit

Crossing the Decarbonization Chasm: A Call to
Action for Hospital and Health System Leaders to
Reduce Their Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Hardeep Singh, Walt Vernon, Terri Scannell, and Kathy Gerwig

November 29, 2023 | Discussion Paper



Framing it as a Component of Quality

How Clinicians Can Lead Climate Action to Protect Patients and the Planet



Choosing Wisely Canada Co-Benefits

Rationale: Reducing unnecessary tests, treatments, and procedures

- 1 **Medications** - environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle, + pharmaceutical residues
- 2 **Tests** create GHG emissions through energy consumption, equipment operation, water use, manufacturing, and material waste
- 3 **Procedures** generate GHG emissions, consume energy and resources, and create pharmaceutical and single-use item waste, + Patient travel

<https://choosingwiselycanada.org/climate/>

**Tools for
Hospitals**

Reducing Healthcare Carbon Emissions

A Primer on Measures and Actions for Healthcare
Organizations to Mitigate Climate Change



AHRQ Publication No. 22-M011
September 2022
www.ahrq.gov

<https://www.ahrq.gov/healthsystemsresearch/decarbonization/index.html>



Key Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by U.S. Hospitals and Health Systems



ACTION COLLABORATIVE ON
DECARBONIZING THE
U.S. HEALTH SECTOR

Step I: Start Your Decarbonization Journey

Establish an
executive-level
sustainability team

Perform a
greenhouse gas
inventory

Establish specific
decarbonization goals

Develop an
implementation
plan for your goals

Step II: Implement High Impact Interventions to Reach Your Decarbonization Goals

Reduce building
emissions

Reduce emissions
from anesthetic gases
& pressurized
metered dose inhalers

Reduce physical
waste & single
use plastics

Reduce emissions
from food services

Reduce
transportation
emissions

nam.edu/ClimateCollaborative | [#ClimateActionforHealth](https://twitter.com/ClimateActionforHealth)

Examples of Actions at Policy Level

Professional guidelines for resource stewardship and prevention of healthcare pollution

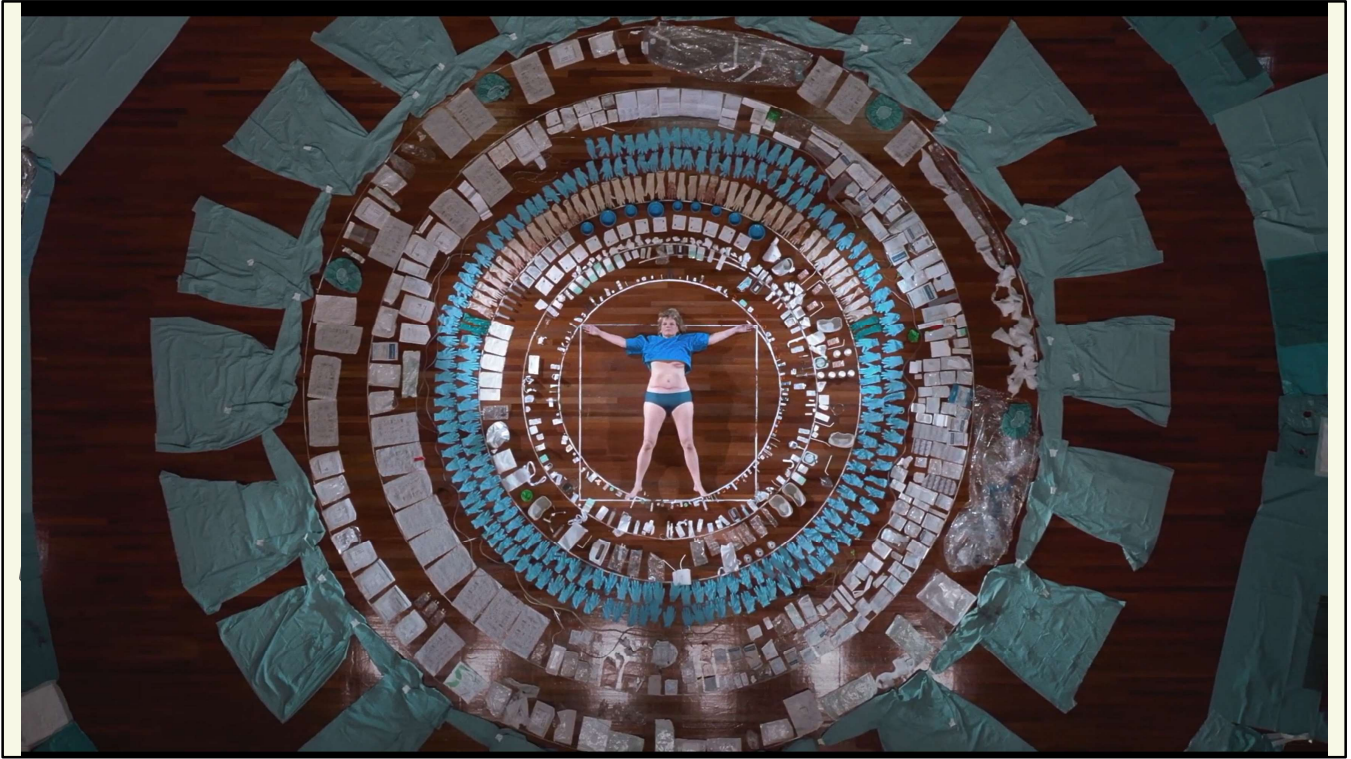
Payment models and incentives for adoption of sustainable care

Integration of quality improvement and circular economy principles

Influencing procurement and supply chain

State and Local Initiatives

14



JAMA Network

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Viewpoint | Climate Change and Health

September 23, 2024

Health Care Actions for Reducing Plastic Use and Pollution

Hilary Ong, MD¹; Cassandra L. Thiel, PhD^{2,3}; Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH⁴

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. Published online September 23, 2024. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.17961



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Just In...

To save our democracy, corporations must put people over shareholder profits

FINANCE · 12M 31S AGO

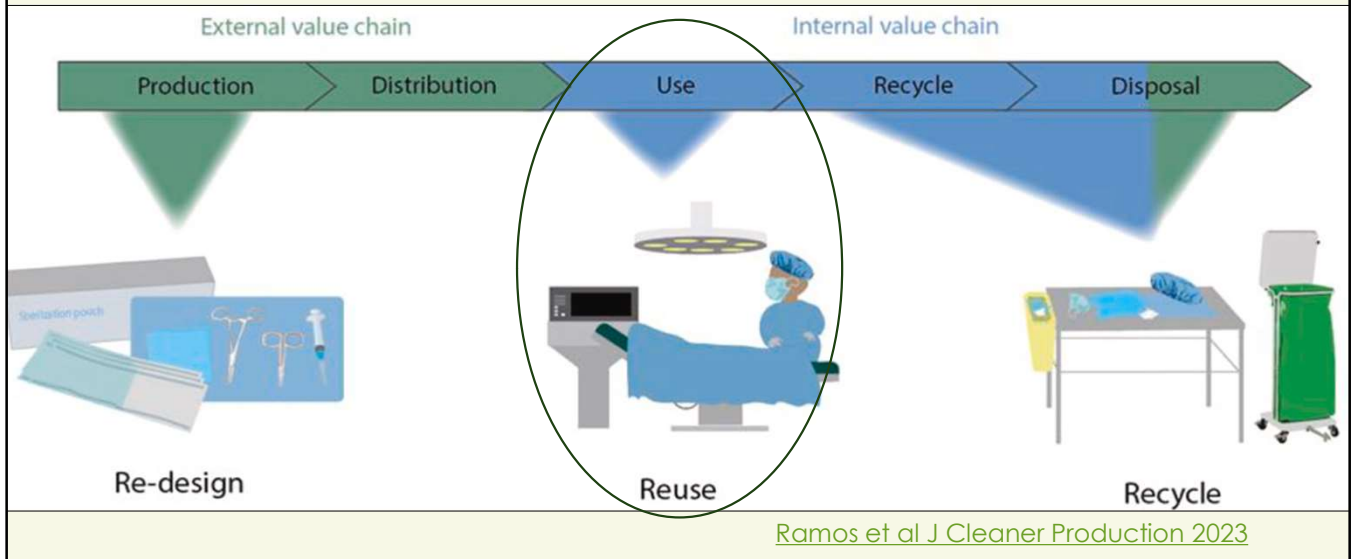
EQUILIBRIUM & SUSTAINABILITY

Study finds microplastics in nearly all American proteins: meat, fish and plants

BY SAUL ELBEIN · 01/09/24 12:11 PM ET

SHARE | TWEET |

Linear value chain of single-use plastic (SUP) products



Can We
Reduce Single
Use Plastics?

“It Depends”

Let's Explore
Some More

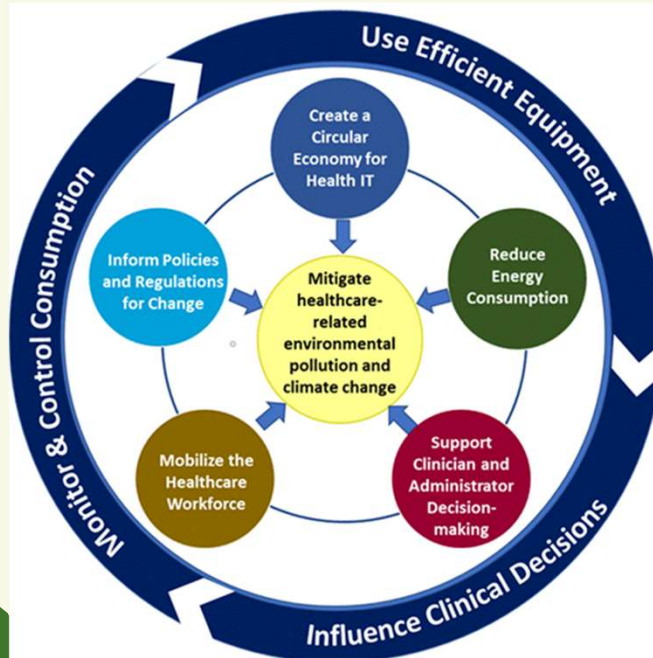
Yes, we
can

No or Not
Now





Better Use of Technology/EHRs



i-Climate: a clinical informatics action framework

*J Am Med Inform Assoc.
2022 Aug 23; doi:
10.1093/jamia/ocac137

Conclusion

- Reducing emissions is a dimension of quality and safety and should be normalized in routine care
- Actionable guidance and recommendations is now available to close implementation gaps
- Health care needs to take charge and accelerate climate action

Thank You

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