

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

I.

Start Your Decarbonization Journey

1. **Establish an executive-level sustainability team** with broad representation across operational and clinical lines. Engage staff, leaders, clinicians, boards, and patients to achieve goals.
2. **Perform a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory** for Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and actionable Scope 3 emissions.
3. **Establish specific decarbonization goals.**
4. **Develop an implementation plan for your decarbonization goals** with documented milestones and deliverables to measure and track progress.

II.

Implement High Impact Interventions to Reach Your Decarbonization Goals

1. **Reduce building emissions.**
 - Set a goal to reduce building emissions, for example, by 10% per year.
 - Improve energy efficiency and electrification.
 - Increase the amount of electricity supply derived from renewable sources.
 - For new buildings, implement energy efficient strategies into design and construction.
2. **Reduce emissions from anesthetic gases and pressurized metered dose inhalers.**
 - Set a goal of reducing anesthetic gas emissions and pressurized metered dose inhaler emissions, for example, by 50% by 2024.
 - Minimize use of desflurane by removing or limiting desflurane vaporizers in select clinical situations.
 - Decommission centrally piped nitrous oxide and substitute portable e-cylinders.
 - Substitute nebulizers, dry-powder inhaler (DPI), and soft-mist inhaler (SMI).
3. **Reduce physical waste and single use plastics.**
 - Assess waste streams and identify reduction opportunities (reuse, recycle, compost) by analyzing and tracking data on invoices.
 - Reduce single-use plastics, for example, by 10% per year.
 - Switch from disposable to reusable products. Optimize reprocessing as allowed per FDA regulations.
 - Reduce waste from Operating Rooms and other procedure areas.
4. **Reduce emissions from food services.**
 - Determine baseline for carbon emissions per meal served and reduce this each year.
 - Implement systems and processes to reduce food waste during preparation.
 - Provide post-consumer composting.
 - Reduce use of single-use, disposable food packaging.
5. **Reduce transportation emissions.**
 - Set a goal to reduce transportation emissions, for example, by 10% per year.
 - Reduce fleet vehicle emissions and optimize product delivery.
 - Reduce business travel emissions.
 - Provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure and commuting incentives to promote use of public transportation, carpooling, and active transportation.

Learn more at:
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