



The primary teaching affiliate of the
Boston University School of Medicine

December 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of everyone at Boston Medical Center, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit a commitment statement for participation in the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the US Health Sector.

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is a private, not-for-profit, academic medical center located in Boston, Massachusetts. As the largest safety-net provider and busiest trauma and emergency services center in New England, BMC's mission is to provide exceptional care, without exception to all patients. Our patient population has the highest public payer mix of any acute care hospital in Massachusetts at 77% – with over half of our patients receiving care funded through the state's combined program for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (MassHealth) or free care (i.e. uninsured).

As a safety-net trauma center in a coastal city (sited on over 5,000 acres of man-made land), which serves the area's most vulnerable patient population, going green and building for campus resiliency is critical to BMC delivering on its mission. In order to care for patients and maintain emergency access to critical care services during a natural disaster, BMC has proactively made changes to increase resiliency of critical care hospital infrastructure.

The communities we serve are disproportionately at risk for exposure to environmental hazards and related poor health outcomes such as asthma, heart disease, lung disease, heat stroke, and heat-related illness. BMC has invested in efforts to reduce the environmental impact of our operations and achieve carbon neutrality to improve the health of our patients and all Bostonians. Since 2011, BMC has reduced our carbon emissions from energy consumption by 96%.

BMC is a member of the [U.S. Health Care Climate Council](#), a leadership body of 19 health systems committed to protecting their patients and employees from the health impacts of climate change and becoming anchors for resilient communities and a member of [Practice Greenhealth](#). Earlier this year, BMC signed on to the HHS Health Care Sector Climate Pledge as a voluntary commitment to increase the climate resiliency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of our hospital operations.

One example of an initiative that addresses Health Care Delivery, which is one of the priority areas of the Climate Collaborate, is our Behavioral Health Center that recently opened in Brockton, Massachusetts. In October 2022, BMC opened the 82-bed, environmentally sustainable inpatient facility to address the co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder challenges our patients experience through a specialized care model. The Brockton Behavioral Health Center is net zero for carbon emissions from energy, with geothermal heating and cooling systems and 700

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kilowatts of solar on the rooftop and parking canopies producing 100 percent of the facility's power needs. The geothermal system is comprised of 14 miles of underground piping, travelling 500 feet deep into the earth. BMC is also installing a 250 kilowatt battery storage system to further alleviate grid congestion and reduce carbon emissions, and creating a rooftop farm at the facility that can provide fresh foods for the facility and also allow for patient participation.

Thank you again for this opportunity and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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

Kate Walsh
President & CEO
Boston Medical Center