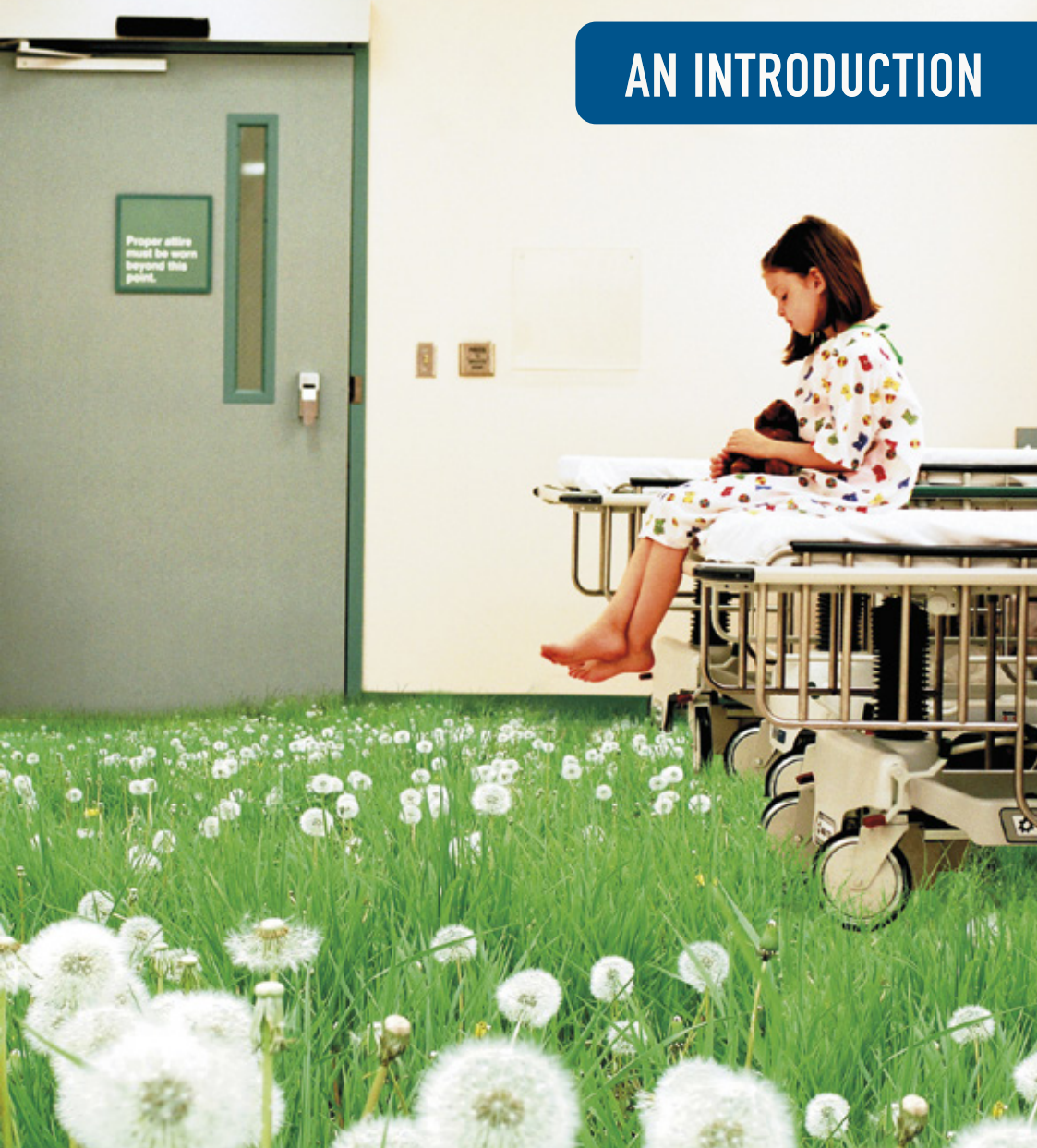




# HCWH Europe

The campaign for environmentally responsible healthcare

## AN INTRODUCTION





## OUR ISSUES

- Chemicals
- Climate and Health
- Green Building
- Green Procurement
- Pharmaceuticals
- Sustainable Food
- Waste Management

## OUR GOALS

- **Create markets and policies** for safer products, materials and chemicals in healthcare. Promote safer substitutes, including products that avoid mercury, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and brominated flame retardants.
- **Eliminate incineration** of medical waste, minimise the amount and toxicity of all waste generated and promote safer waste treatment practices.
- **Transform the design, construction and operations** of healthcare facilities to minimise environmental impacts and foster healthy, healing environments.
- **Address climate change** by improving energy practices and reducing the overall climate footprint of the healthcare sector.
- **Encourage food purchasing systems** that support sustainable food production and distribution, and provide healthy food on-site at healthcare facilities.
- **Secure a safe and healthy workplace** for all healthcare workers.
- **Ensure patients, workers and communities** have full access to information on all issues related to healthcare and can actively participate in changing harmful healthcare practices.
- **Promote human rights and environmental justice** for communities impacted by the healthcare sector, while assuring that problems are not displaced from one community or country to another.

# WHO WE ARE

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe is a non-profit association of European hospitals, healthcare systems, medical associations, healthcare professionals, local authorities and environmental and health

organisations working together to green the European healthcare sector. HCWH Europe is part of HCWH International, which has four regional offices in Europe, the United States, Latin America and South East Asia.



## OUR MISSION

The mission of Health Care Without Harm is to transform the healthcare sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment.

## WHAT WE DO

Under the Hippocratic oath “First, do no harm”, HCWH Europe works to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to healthcare practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease. By representing the voice of healthcare professionals and institutions throughout Europe, HCWH Europe advocates and campaigns at the EU policy level, educates healthcare professionals, raises awareness among the general public, collaborates with member and partner organisations and formulates demands for a more environmentally responsible healthcare system.

# OUR POLICY WORK

HCWH Europe's work at the policy level aims to influence the EU decision-makers on key environmental and health issues that are of concern to the healthcare sector. HCWH Europe also engages the members and partners in policy statements, declarations and campaigns to bring the

voice of the healthcare sector to the EU policy debate. HCWH Europe collaborates with other Brussels based Non-Governmental Organization as well as with responsible industries to bring about the change needed at the policy level and ultimately within the European healthcare sector.



# HCWH MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is diverse, and includes over 513 organisations in 53 countries globally. HCWH Europe currently has 70 members in 23 countries - from which 15 are within the European Union. It is this mix of background and experience that

gives HCWH Europe the unique approach to policy-making and implementation from local and regional viewpoints, and from the European to the global.



# OUR PROJECTS

As part of an active and expansive network, HCWH Europe has helped set up a range of international and innovative projects. Some of our projects include:



**Global Green and Healthy Hospitals** – a virtual community for hospitals, health systems and organisations seeking to implement and evolve through shared best practices and solutions.

[www.greenhospitals.net](http://www.greenhospitals.net)

**CleanMed** – a premier conference that addresses sustainability and the environmental impact of the healthcare sector on a local, regional and global level.

[www.cleanmedeurope.org](http://www.cleanmedeurope.org)

**Mercury-Free Healthcare Initiative** – a joint project with the WHO to eliminate mercury-based thermometers and sphygmomanometers by 2017.

[www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org](http://www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org)

**Global Climate & Health Resource Center** – a resource center to educate and engage health professionals on the health impacts of climate change.

[www.climateandhealthcare.org](http://www.climateandhealthcare.org)

**Global Healthcare Waste Project** – a principle cooperating agency in the UNDP's GEF Global Healthcare Waste Project to implement best health care waste management practices locally and globally.

[www.gefmedwaste.org](http://www.gefmedwaste.org)

# GET INVOLVED

There are many ways that you as an individual or as an organisation can support the work that HCWH Europe is doing and to join the campaign for environmentally responsible healthcare.

- **Become a Member** - increase the impact of your organisation and contribute to achieving HCWH Europe's core goals
- **Subscribe to our Newsletter** to stay informed with what is really going on in the health and environment sector

- **Donate** to HCWH Europe and support the association that is making the healthcare sector green, safe and responsible
- **Take Action** in a variety of HCWH Europe activities and make your voice in Europe heard

To find out more about how you can become involved with HCWH Europe, then please send an email to [europe@hcwh.org](mailto:europe@hcwh.org).



## CONTACT US

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