

Meeting Report

COP23 Climate and Health Roundtable



Bonn, Germany | 9th-10th November 2017



On the 9th and 10th of November, approximately 20 hospitals and health systems from across Europe and beyond gathered at a roundtable meeting in Bonn, to discuss healthcare's climate change mitigation, adaptation, and leadership opportunities.

The two-day high-level roundtable meeting was convened by a partnership between the [European Healthcare Climate Council](#), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe, and BUND Berlin. It was hosted in Bonn, Germany by the LVR Klinik, and Bonn University Hospital.

DAY ONE: THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER



The first day, hosted by LVR Klinik, began with HCWH Europe's Executive Director Anja Leetz introducing HCWH Europe's work to advance healthcare's response to climate change. Participants then heard from Ahmed Idahmmad, host of the 2016 COP22 Climate and Health roundtable in Marrakech (Morocco). Mr. Idahmmad addressed the adverse effects of climate change in African regions, and highlighted the urgency to build healthcare resilience to cope with this growing instability.

Mr. Ludger Greulich, CEO of LVR Klinik welcomed participants to his hospital informing them that LVR Klinik has been awarded the BUND Energy Saving Hospitals Label for three of the last five years – making it one of 46 hospitals that have received the label out of 3,100 hospitals across Germany. The hospital has reduced its CO₂ emissions by 45% since 1998, accounting for a total of 65,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Mr. Bernard Jourdain from the Centre Hospitalier de Niort (France), and Mr. Didier Bourdon from the Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (France), the 2017 co-chairs of the European Healthcare Climate Council (EHCC), then presented the objectives of the council. The EHCC seeks to mobilise sectorial action and implement solutions to reduce the climate impact of healthcare on the environment; they presented the EHCC as a vehicle to scale up action and galvanise healthcare's voice around climate change issues. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

“It is not about re-inventing the wheel, but about sharing and expanding what we are already doing”

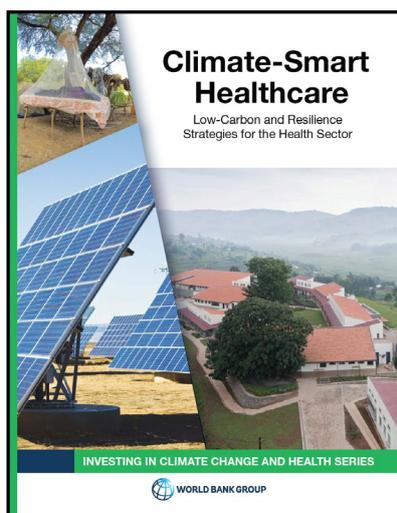
Mr Didier Bourdon, AP-HP

Mr. Christian Dreissigacker, CEO of Vivantes Klinikum Neukölln, Berlin, a member of the EHCC, presented his experiences of implementing climate-smart solutions at his hospital that has also been awarded the BUND Energy Saving Label. Mr. Dreissigacker talked about the challenge of convincing hospital staff about the benefits of transitioning to ecological systems and followed by providing some useful and practical recommendations on how to introduce and propose these solutions to board and management levels. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.



Josh Karliner, International Director of Program and Strategy - Health Care Without Harm (*pictured left*) then presented the various ways that climate change is a global public health issue. Mr. Karliner insisted that healthcare is not ready to cope with the consequences of climate change. He then introduced Climate-Smart Healthcare a report recently published by the World Bank in collaboration with Health Care Without Harm.

This report seeks to define a framework for the healthcare sector to simultaneously address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and leadership strategies. While several strategies serve both to mitigate and adapt to climate change, Mr. Karliner urged that climate action should not focus on single approaches, but rather one all-encompassing approach to healthcare – using a new term coined within the report: “Climate-Smart Healthcare.” He praised the leadership efforts of the EHCC, and encouraged the hospitals and health systems representatives present to use their collective voice to mobilise the healthcare sector to act on climate change. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.



[Read the report here](#)

Moderator Sonia Roschnik, also a collaborating author of the report, highlighted that climate-smart healthcare is not only about sustainability, but also about improving the quality of care provision. Ms. Roschnik then led an interactive session to discuss and investigate participants’ interpretation of “climate-smart” based on their different experiences and contrasting national realities.

Participants raised many interesting issues, analysed climate-smart from new angles, and made recommendations to strengthen and enhance the scope and vision of the term. For example, participants called for the term to span beyond sustainable solutions, but also solutions that are business-smart in order to make the business and economic case for climate-solutions, and as well as tech-smart in order to maximize the environmental benefits that health-innovation can bring to the sector.



Participants were then given a tour of the LRV-Klinik's energy and food facilities; starting with the combined heat and power (CHP) station and a short presentation from the engineering team. This was followed by a thorough tour of the hospital's food preparation area, showcasing the cook-chill system as well as the clinic's washing facilities for when meals are finished.



The afternoon session focused on the role of healthcare as a climate leader; the group discussed the significance of the Ostrava Declaration and the lack of communication surrounding it. Signed by environment and health ministers of the 53 WHO Europe Region Member States, the [Ostrava Declaration](#) calls on nations to align “common actions to decrease the burden of disease caused by environmental factors.” The declaration makes multiple references to the need to strengthen health systems as part of nations’ climate change adaptation strategies. Participants were not aware of the Ostrava Declaration prior to the roundtable meeting and were therefore encouraged to engage in dialogue with their national ministries to investigate what is being done to implement the declaration.

The first day closed with the signing of the [Healthcare Call to Action on Climate Change](#); several organisations at the roundtable meeting joined over **120 institutions** from **31 countries** who signed the call. The signatories represent the interests of **more than 10,000 hospitals and health centres** around the world. It is a powerful message from the healthcare sector about the need for action and leadership from all parts of the wider system. This message from hospitals and health systems to colleagues and sister institutions around the world calls on healthcare to address its own climate impacts, and to prepare for expected serious climate change induced extreme weather impacts.



DAY TWO: FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Day two of the roundtable meeting took place at the Bonn University Hospital campus and began with a site visit of the facilities, including the power distribution station, the CHP plant, the central heating station, cooling unit, and oxygen distribution station. For the last part of the tour participants were shown the energy distribution pipelines for hot water, steam, and air pressure - in an impressive 1km long corridor under the hospital grounds.

Returning to the discussion, the morning session consisted of presentations from four European Healthcare Climate Council members sharing their experience in tracking GHG emissions in their hospital facilities.



Mr. Didier Bourdon presented the work that APHP is doing to track emissions from energy, mobility, and procurement. Procurement represents more than 30% of APHP's GHG emissions, specifically from the procurement of drugs and anaesthetic gases, medical devices, and food. APHP seeks to prioritise reducing the emissions of these activities, by procuring low-carbon products, optimising packaging, opting for and encouraging the recycling of medical devices, reprocessing, and by valorising waste. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

Mr. Jourdain (*pictured left*) from the Centre Hospitalier de Niort presented the positive energy building of his institution located in Parthenay, France; this building generates its own energy. In 2015 the hospital installed 228m² of photovoltaic panels on its rooftop that produce 39,500kWh annually and offset the building's energy consumption. These panels produce surplus electricity that is then sold to the general electricity grid. [Click here](#) to view the presentation (in French).

Ms. Kristina de Geer (*pictured below*) then presented the work of Region Skåne (Sweden) to reduce the carbon emissions from its healthcare consumables. The region seeks better and sustainable use of resources to ease their burden on natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She presented the work they have done to procure plastic syringes weighing less to standard syringes, which reduces waste and the region's climate impact. Region Skåne has set a goal to become carbon neutral (in buildings and transportation) by 2020, and in 2016 they were 86% on their way to meeting this goal. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.



Mr. Will Clark from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (UK) (*pictured right*) presented the Trust's programme Care Without Carbon (CWC). CWC is an action plan that provides a simple framework for delivering sustainable healthcare. The programme strategy works to cut carbon, save money, and support staff and patient well-being. Mr. Clark also provided an overview of the work they have done to track emissions from scopes 1, 2, and 3. Having developed their own MS Excel-based reporting system, the trust is doing inspiring work to track the carbon footprint of most of its hospital activities. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.



Dr. Tom Pierce, Environment and Sustainability Advisor of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) gave the final presentation of the day. Dr. Pierce presented the important link between use of anaesthetic gases and their climate impacts. He provided a technical and informative session on the disadvantages of standard anaesthetic gas practices, and provided alternative strategies and substances that work to significantly reduce the GHG emissions without compromising patient safety. He emphasised the importance of reducing or eliminating the use of nitrous oxide - the largest single contribution to the footprint of anaesthetic procedures. To help measure this footprint, Dr. Pierce also presented an anaesthetic impact calculator that can calculate GHG emissions of any anaesthetic procedure. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

CONCLUSIONS

This fruitful two-day meeting drew to a close after a lot of shared experiences of progress and challenges, new contacts and colleagues, and most importantly accelerated momentum to work collectively on advancing healthcare's climate agenda.

The meeting closed with participants agreeing on five concrete action points to be carried out in 2018 in the lead up to COP24:

- 1. Ostrava Declaration:** Participants will approach their Health and Environment Ministries to find out what is being done to implement the Ostrava Declaration
- 2. GHG accounting:** Participants will start and advance their efforts to measure GHG emissions from scope 1, 2, and 3 - including emissions from anaesthetic gases
- 3. Green procurement:** Push the climate agenda in procurement practices
- 4. COP24:** Host a healthcare focused event inside COP24
- 5. Expand network:** engage with other organisations working on climate, and ask for support and collaboration in moving the climate issue into the healthcare sector.



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