



HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM EUROPE

The campaign for **environmentally
responsible healthcare**

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

HCWH Europe is a non-profit European network of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions, and environmental and health organisations.

At HCWH Europe we:

- Bring the voice of healthcare professionals to the European policy debate about key environmental issues
- Educate the European healthcare sector to understand the importance of the environment and press healthcare leaders and professionals to advocate for broader societal policies and changes
- Provide European policy makers with guidance documents, briefings, and best practices from leaders in sustainable healthcare and we open the debate by demonstrating that change is indeed possible and alternative solutions already exist

AREAS OF WORK

Safer chemicals

Climate & energy

Pharmaceuticals

Healthy & sustainable food

Sustainable procurement

VISION

Healthcare mobilises its ethical, economic and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable and healthy world.

MISSION

Transform healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

THE ISSUES WE WORK ON

SAFER CHEMICALS

The ubiquitous exposure to man-made synthetic chemicals in everyday life has increasingly become a health concern. Unfortunately, many products used in healthcare can also contribute to hazardous exposures.

Healthcare institutions have a particular ethical responsibility to use products containing chemicals that pose less risk to human health. Due to its massive purchasing power, the healthcare system can play a key role in shifting the economy towards green chemistry.

Our work on chemicals revolves around:

- Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)
- Mercury
- Nanomaterials and nanomedicine



HCWH Europe team in 2016

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Greenhouse gas emissions are resulting in increasingly common environmental disasters and public health consequences - leading to a growing awakening amongst medical professionals and healthcare providers. Climate change has a range of complex health impacts including temperature-related health complications and death, injuries and illnesses due to extreme weather events, the spread of infectious disease vectors, increases in water borne illnesses, and a wide range of health complications from air pollution.

Our climate and energy work focuses on three key pillars:

- **Mitigation** - Reducing healthcare's own carbon footprint and fostering low carbon healthcare
- **Resilience** - Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease
- **Leadership** - Educating healthcare staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change

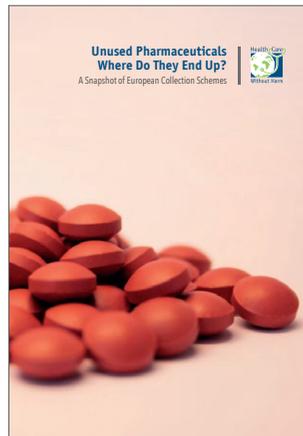


PHARMACEUTICALS

Pharmaceutical residues are found in the environment throughout the world and the harm these might be doing to human health and the environment is increasingly concerning. In Europe, ageing populations, newly emerging diseases, and a general growing dependence on pharmaceutical drugs are increasing the demand for pharmaceuticals and an increase in medicine consumption is expected; **pharmaceuticals are a priority area from an environmental health perspective.**

HCWH Europe's pharmaceuticals work is divided into two defined sub-issues:

- Pharmaceuticals in the environment
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)



Our reports inform key policy-makers in Europe

Our publications present our member's work and inform key policy makers



Sustainable food procurement and reducing food waste in healthcare improves the quality of patient care whilst reducing costs and environmental impacts

HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Healthcare facilities across Europe are recognising that food systems (how our food is produced and distributed), are misaligned with dietary guidelines, and are largely reliant on methods of production and distribution that harm public and environmental health.

Furthermore, the poor quality of food served in many of Europe's hospitals has become a cause for increasing concern as the links between an unhealthy diet and serious medical conditions have become blatantly clear.

By adopting sustainable and healthy food policies, healthcare organisations demonstrate a commitment to HCWH's mandate - first, do no harm. They recognise that aligning their public procurement strategies with such policies helps provide better quality meals and reduce food waste - protecting the environment, saving money, and improving the health of patients, staff, and communities.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

With 2.8 million hospital beds and 12,990 hospitals, the European healthcare sector is a major public purchaser of goods and services. In the process of treating patients, the healthcare sector consumes large amounts of energy and water, as well as disposable products, building materials, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices.

Sustainable Procurement is the practice by which authorities, including hospitals and health systems, address green and social/ethical considerations in their purchasing practices. **By implementing sustainable procurement strategies, such as applying green and social criteria to tendering processes, hospitals can improve their environmental footprint and become socially responsible, as well as managing their way towards long-term change.**



Discuss your challenges at CleanMed Europe and work together to develop solutions



Share ideas with other sustainable healthcare leaders at CleanMed Europe

OUR PROJECTS AND EVENTS



CleanMed Europe is the leading conference on sustainable healthcare in Europe. The conference addresses the environmental impact of the healthcare sector on a local, regional, and global level and showcases cutting-edge practices in sustainable healthcare.

www.cleanmedeurope.org ►►

SAFER MEDICAL DEVICES DATABASE

This online database is intended for health procurers to help staff responsible for procuring medical devices and to carry out informed decisions and purchase phthalate and PVC-free medical devices. The database assists regulatory bodies in dealing with the pre-market authorisation process of medical devices, and for manufacturers and other interested parties to promote their products in the European market.

www.safermedicaldevices.org ►►



Pharmaceuticals in the environment are a global problem – more than 600 pharmaceuticals and their metabolites have been found in the environment worldwide. They enter the environment (through water, soil, sludge, and organisms) at all stages of their life cycle and can end up in drinking water, and accumulate in fish, vegetables, and livestock.

The aim of the Safer Pharma campaign is to protect the environment from pharmaceutical pollution at all stages of their life cycle.

www.saferpharma.org ►►



Membership of HCWH Europe is based on an organisational commitment to our mission and goals



HCWH Europe supports members in lobbying national authorities and policy demands

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of HCWH Europe is based on an organisational commitment to the mission and goals of the organisation, and a desire to participate fully in helping to achieve them.

Groups that join the campaign do not need to contribute dues but benefit from a wide range of advantages, such as:

- Assistance in promoting environmental initiatives and best practices
- Access to the latest news, developments, and information from the European Commission, European Parliament, European Council, and Member States
- Mediation of member organisations' input at the European level
- Direct involvement in HCWH Europe's EU-level activities
- Assistance in lobbying national authorities and support with policy demands
- Information on European and global funding opportunities
- Networking and partnership opportunities with other members

Find out more about HCWH Europe membership at

www.noharm-europe.org/content/europe/become-member ►►

FUNDING

We are a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation. All of our funds are used for educational and informational purposes targeted to our key audiences: the health sector, health professionals, policy makers, and the general public. Our funding generally comes from foundations, the European Commission, national health and environment ministries within Europe, and individual supporter donations.

SUPPORTING HCWH EUROPE

By supporting our work, you directly contribute to a building a healthcare system that is truly healing to people and the environment. As HCWH Europe takes no money from companies for its programmatic work (only for CleanMed Europe sponsorship), your donation will help us to continue our work as an independent and respected organisation that brings the voice of healthcare professionals to the European policy debate about key environmental issues.

As a contributor, you become a key partner in transforming healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community pillar for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Donate now at www.noharm-europe.org/europe/donate ►►

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM - AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

With regional offices on four continents, partners around the world, and global and regional initiatives, HCWH is leading the global sustainable healthcare movement.

Health Care Without Harm comprises:

- Four regional offices (based in Buenos Aires, Brussels, Manila, and Washington, DC) that develop regional work and initiatives in Latin America, Europe, South East Asia, and the United States, respectively. A Global staff also facilitate programs with global impact, including (but not limited to) Global Green and Healthy Hospitals - a worldwide network of hospitals and health systems acting together for environmental health.

- Strategic partners that represent our interests and lead the development and implementation of HCWH-related work in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Nepal, and South Africa.
- Practice Greenhealth, a nonprofit health care sustainability membership organisation, and Greenhealth Exchange, a green purchasing cooperative, both based in the United States.

The guiding and decision-making body of HCWH, the International Council, is composed of the Executive Directors from each region, the President and co-founder of HCWH, and the International Director for Program and Strategy.



HCWH Europe works with other organisations to host important workshops



As a stakeholder in many international processes, HCWH Europe attends high-level meetings around the world

GLOBAL GREEN AND HEALTHY HOSPITALS

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH), is an international network of hospitals, healthcare facilities, health systems, and health organisations dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health.



As of January 2018, GGHH has 983 members in 51 countries on 6 continents representing the interests of over 32,300 hospitals and health centers. Our members use innova-

tion, ingenuity, and investment to transform the health sector and foster a healthy, sustainable future.

To support members' efforts to implement initiatives and projects related to the network's 10 Agenda Goals, GGHH offers access to exclusive and innovative tools and resources, such as:

- **GGHH Connect** is the connective tissue of the GGHH network; an innovative, online platform, that puts the GGHH member community at your fingertips to connect with leading hospitals, health systems, and experts from around the globe.
- **Hippocrates Data Center** is the first international platform of its kind designed for the health sector to measure actions towards reducing its environmental footprint. A cutting edge resource, Hippocrates puts the power of data man-



2020 HEALTHCARE Climate Challenge





agement, goal benchmarking, and progress tracking into the hands of each GGHH member. Housed on GGHH Connect, Hippocrates allows members to track, store, and visualise their data on a secure, web-based platform.

- **GGHH Guidance Documents for Sustainability Action** provide a comprehensive and global view into the GGHH sustainability goals. Written and reviewed by leading experts from around the world, each document introduces a specific GGHH sustainability goal and covers various opportunities for GGHH members to act and reduce their environmental footprint.
- **The GGHH webinar series** offers informational, educational, and interactive monthly web events to learn about the latest from the field of sustainable health from experts and GGHH members around the globe.

- **The Green Health Challenges** are a data-driven initiative designed to help healthcare organisations commit to sustainability goals and track their own environmental projects and efforts, challenging the robust GGHH network to commit to reducing their environmental footprint.

Membership in GGHH is free and open to hospitals, health care facilities, health systems, and health and academic organisations. Join the movement today at www.greenhospitals.net ►►



The GGHH Green Health Challenges help healthcare organisations commit to sustainability



Leading experts support GGHH members to act and reduce their environmental footprint.



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Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe is the European arm of a global not-for-profit NGO whose mission is to transform healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. HCWH's vision is that healthcare mobilises its ethical, economical, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.

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