Towards Climate-smart Healthcare

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About HCWH Europe

- European arm of HCWH (founded 2003)
- Office located in Brussels
- Membership – 142 organisations:
  - 74 individual healthcare providers, 68 health/environment/academic organisations
  - From 27 different European countries
  - 14 participants in the Health Care Climate Challenge (more on this later)
Our Programmes

Climate-smart Healthcare: Decarbonise the healthcare sector, increase resilience to climate change and increase climate advocacy by healthcare leaders

Safer Pharma: Reduce pharmaceutical presence in the environment

Safer Chemicals: Reduce human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals in healthcare

Sustainable Food: Increase sustainability of food production and consumption in healthcare

Sustainable Procurement & Circular Economy: Reduce negative environmental, social, and health impacts through healthcare procurement
Decarbonise the European healthcare sector, increase resilience to climate change, and increase climate advocacy by healthcare leaders
EU healthcare emissions

### European Union

#### European Union health care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate footprint</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>MtCO$_2$e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions per capita</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>tCO$_2$e/capita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissions as % of national footprint</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure per capita</td>
<td>3668</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure as percentage of GDP</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health sector footprint equivalence to coal power plant emissions$^{32}$</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>coal-fired power plants in one year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do we respond to this?

- 249 MtCO$_2$e makes the EU world’s third largest emitter – responsibility to take action
- **Overall goal: need to set the system on course for zero emissions by 2050**
- Climate-smart healthcare *needs to become* mainstream and business-as-usual
- **Next 10 years is critical window** – will use report to build a Roadmap for Climate-smart healthcare in Europe for 2030
CO₂ intensity varies

- Switzerland: 1.02tCO₂e/capita (11.5% of GDP)
- Sweden: 0.46tCO₂e/capita (11.1% of GDP)
- Gaps in understanding...
Three key areas of work in Europe

1. **Data intelligence**: hotspots, measuring progress, benchmarking best practice and greater insight into supply chain emissions (Scope 3)

2. **Political commitment**: engage EU and Ministries of Health, define system-level goals (NECPs, NDCs)

3. **Bottom up action and support**:
   - Board approved plans
   - Reconciling business drivers with decarbonisation goals
   - Low-carbon care models
   - Increasing carbon literacy and skills development – make Climate-smart healthcare *the way we do things*