Transforming Health Care in the Era of Climate Change:
Resilience, Mitigation, and Leadership Strategies

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President and Founder
BE WORRIED.
BE VERY WORRIED.
Climate change isn’t some vague future problem—it’s already damaging the planet at an alarming pace. Here’s how it affects you, your kids and their kids as well.
EARTH AT THE TIPPING POINT
HOW IT THREATENS YOUR HEALTH
HOW CHINA & INDIA CAN HELP SAVE THE WORLD—OR DESTROY IT
THE CLIMATE CRUSADERS
At a broad level, the kind of changes that we're seeing, as a result of climate change, will have profound negative impacts on everybody on the planet. We've never really faced, as a global civilization, this level of public health threat.
Annual Global Deaths (Millions)

President Trump Signs Executive Order Rolling Back Obama-Era Environmental Regulations

Updated: Mar 28, 2017 5:03 PM ET | Originally published: Mar 27, 2017

Trump is deleting climate change, one site at a time

The administration has taken a hatchet to climate change language across government websites. Here are several of the more egregious examples by Oliver Milman and Sam Morris

Trump withdraws US from Paris climate agreement

7:53 AM ET Fri, 2 June 2017

The world is reacting to President Trump’s decision to pull America out of the Paris climate agreement.
Paying with Our Health

Global fossil fuels subsidies: $5.3 trillion
- 6.5% of global GDP
- More than health spending of all the world’s governments

More than half of these subsidies are externalities
- Health care costs for treating victims of air pollution
- Lost income from ill health and premature deaths

Ending these subsidies would:
- Prevent 1.6 premature deaths each year
- Significantly reduce health care costs
- Reduce CO2 emissions by 20%

Source: International Monetary Fund 2015
**Climate change and our health** | Health care itself is a major contributor to the deterioration of environmental health conditions.

Hospitals are major polluters and energy consumers.

Hospitals serve food that contributes to diabetes, obesity, and antibiotic drug resistance.

Hospitals are significant users of toxic chemicals and produce billions of pounds of waste and chemical effluents.
Toxic Chemicals Exposure in the Health Care Setting

- low/no-VOCs, no added antimicrobials
- plant-based binders
- anodized coating
- IGU with aluminum spacer, silicone and polyisobutylene sealants
- mineral (rock) or natural wool insulation
- ABS or other plastic types (plastic trim), certified ANSI/BIFMA M7.1-2011 (emissions), no flame retardants added per TB-117-2013, no stain treatments, polished metal

Other alternatives:
- PVC without phthalates (flooring)
- other plastic flooring types
- non-wood look flooring (rubber, linoleum, etc.)
- stone, engineered stone, sintered stone (counter top)
- no added flame retardant treatment; no stain resistant treatment
- no added antimicrobial, not resin based
- no alternates known at this time

Photo courtesy Perkins+Will, may not be used without permission

Source: Perkins+Will
Our Vision

We envision health care as a climate-smart, innovative sector that protects public health from climate change and accelerates the transition to a low-carbon economy while improving community resilience, health equity, and access to care.
Health care’s opportunity

Mitigate health care’s impacts
The health care sector can clean up its house by mitigating its direct environmental and public health footprint.

Create community health and resilience
Health care systems can partner with communities through social, economic, and ecological strategies that build health, wealth, and resilience at individual, community, and global scales.

Lead broader societal transformation
Health care leaders can advocate for policies that are more protective of both human health and the ecosystems that sustain all life.
Health Care Climate Challenge

- Mobilizes health care institutions to protect the public from the climate crisis: focus on resilience, mitigation and leadership
- 180 participants representing 17,000 hospitals in 26 countries have committed to the Challenge
- 1200 hospitals in ten countries have committed to 100% RE
Train and Mobilize Health Leaders as Climate Messengers
Nurses Climate Challenge

A national campaign to mobilize nurses to educate 5,000 health professionals on the impacts of climate change on human health. A collaboration between Health Care Without Harm and Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Leading pulmonologists ask Env Min to implement emission standards for coal plants

Press Trust of India | New Delhi
Last Updated at August 2, 2018 21:10 IST

Thirteen leading pulmonologists and chest physicians from six cities asked the Environment Ministry to implement emission standards of coal plants, one of the biggest contributors to air pollution, without...
Climate Change | The Greatest Health Opportunity of the 21st Century

- Transitioning away from fossil fuels to a low carbon economy
- Fuels a clean energy/green chemistry revolution that creates millions of jobs
- Reduces health impacts from fossil fuels/toxic chemicals
- Lowers health care costs
- Helps solve the climate crisis
HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM