

On Earth Day, Health and Human Services launched an initiative to catalyze the health care sector to decarbonize. **HHS is asking health care institutions to join a [voluntary pledge](#) to decarbonize and plan for climate resilience to best protect the communities they serve.**

To move our health care institutions toward signing, we're reaching out through our state affiliate and individual advocate network. ***We're asking you to write to your clinic directors, healthcare CEO's, or other leaders within your institutions asking them to join the pledge.*** This is an opportunity to start a dialogue with your health care leaders at your practice, even if you have never advocated for this issue with them before. If you have worked on health care sustainability, this is an opportunity to push your leaders to do more.

We have provided two opportunities for outreach, developed in collaboration with Health Care Without Harm:

1. **An individual sign-on letter.** You can take the language below and cut and paste into an email or google document to send to your health care leader after filling out the appropriate fields.
2. **A group sign-on letter using Google Document.** This will likely be more impactful but requires a few more steps:
  - a. Cut and paste your letter into a new google document, fill out the appropriate fields to personalize the letter.
  - b. Share the link to the document with others at your health care institution, asking them to sign their name at the bottom of the document. Be careful who you share with as the letter can get altered or deleted using this method.
3. **A group sign-on letter as an online petition that collects signatures.** This is likely the best and most secure way to collect signatures, but requires prior experience with tools like change.org or Google Survey. Again, you can cut and paste the language below to adapt for your letter.

Thanks for all that you do and we hope you can join us in advocating to your healthcare leaders for this important opportunity!

Sincerely,

The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health & Health Care Without Harm

## **Letter from an individual**

Dear [ ],

I am writing today in the hopes that [health system] will join an unprecedented movement to decarbonize health care to improve health, equity and resilience at our institution and in our community by signing onto this U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [voluntary pledge](#) by June 3rd.

On Earth Day, HHS, in partnership with The White House, issued a [call to action](#) to the health care sector to commit to tackling the climate crisis by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resilience. [Federal health systems](#) are already taking action to reduce emissions under the leadership of the Biden Administration, as are many [leading health systems](#) across the country.

Health care is on the front line of the climate crisis. Our patients experience the adverse health effects of a changing climate along with injuries, illness, and mental health impacts related to extreme weather events, which can also disrupt health care access, delivery and supply chains. Yet ironically, the health care sector is responsible for [8.5% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions](#), contributing significantly to the climate crisis and to the associated public health impacts.

The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated how swiftly and effectively the health care sector, including [health system] can respond to a crisis. I am asking you to demonstrate that same bold leadership in response to the climate crisis by committing to the transition to resilient, climate-smart health care to protect health by signing the HHS [pledge](#) by June 3rd.

The pledge asks hospitals and health systems to commit to:

1. Joining the Administration on the path to net-zero emissions by making an initial commitment to at a minimum reduce their Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030 and to be carbon neutral for those emissions by 2050, with a goal of matching the Administration's [net-zero commitment](#), which by definition includes all direct and indirect emissions ([Scopes 1, 2, and 3](#))
2. Completing an [inventory of Scope 3](#) emissions, the largest source of emissions, by the end of 2024
3. Developing climate resilience plans for their facilities and communities by the end of 2023
4. Designating an executive lead for this work by the end of 2023

I believe that [signing the pledge](#) would be a wonderful opportunity for [health system] to advance its position as a leader in the movement to decarbonize health care and increase climate resilience. There will be a White House event to celebrate the commitments from the health care sector after the June 3 submission deadline, with some health system CEOs being invited to attend.

If you feel our institution cannot sign the pledge at this time, I welcome a dialogue about how my colleagues and I can support you in making climate leadership an organizational priority.

Thank you again for your ongoing leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. I appreciate all that you have done to protect our patients, community and health care workers during these uncertain times. I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

[ ]

## **Letter from a group of individuals**

Dear [ ],

We are writing today in the hopes that [health system] will join an unprecedented movement to decarbonize health care to improve health, equity and resilience at our institution and in our community by signing onto this U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [voluntary pledge](#) by June 3rd.

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If you feel our institution cannot sign the pledge at this time, we welcome a dialogue about how we can support you in making climate leadership an organizational priority.

Thank you again for your ongoing leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. We appreciate all that you have done to protect our patients, community and health care workers during these uncertain times. We look forward to hearing your response.

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[ ]