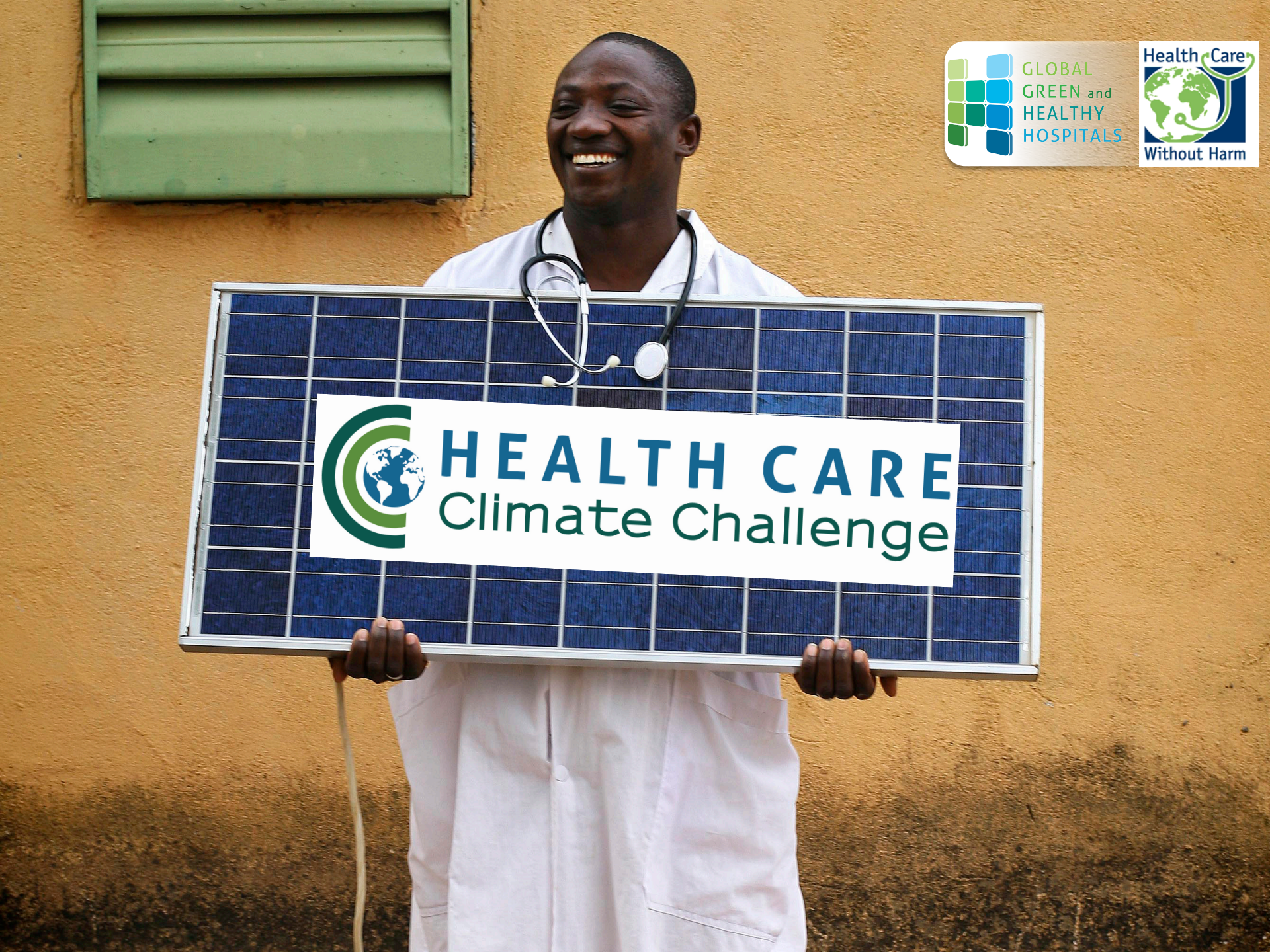
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The Challenge

Climate Change is exacerbating a wide range of health problems the world over.

As the climate crisis continues to accelerate, GGHH is organizing the Health Care Climate Challenge to mobilize health care around the world to protect public health from climate change.

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Carbon Footprint of the Health Sector

~3-5% of the annual carbon emissions of developing countries comes from the health sector

~5-7% of the annual carbon emissions of developed countries comes from the health sector[1]

1- World Bank- Climate-Smart Health Care: Low-Carbon and Resilience Strategies for the Health Sector. 2017

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Health care is not prepared for climate change

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Health Care's Opportunity

Health Care contributes to CO2 Emissions

- Health Care can set a powerful example by reducing emissions

Health Care is on the front line of climate change

- We need to prepare for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease

Health Care can lead the way

- Health care can influence change by encouraging policies, investment strategies, etc.

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The Challenge is based on three pillars:

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

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Objectives:

Engage leading hospitals and health systems from across the globe to make major commitments to reducing their carbon footprint.

Measure collective health sector carbon footprint reduction.

Encourage the development of increasingly climate-smart health systems around the world.

Mobilize health care to play a leadership role to advocate for a healthy climate via economic, policy and communications strategies.

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Who Can Participate?

Hospitals, health centers health systems and health organizations from everywhere in the world are encouraged to participate and help foster climate-smart health care

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How to Participate

Each participant will:

- Sign a pledge to reduce their carbon footprint, become more climate resilient and exert leadership for a healthy climate.
- Establish carbon reduction targets
- Share data on progress over time.
- Compete for Health Care Climate Awards which will recognize leaders globally, by region, and for each of the three pillars.
- Receive an automatic membership in GGHH and with it, access to member exclusive tools and resources.

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Participants from around the globe:

The Health Care Climate Challenge currently has over 180 participants, representing the interests of more than 17,500 hospitals and health centers in 26 countries.

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Tools and Resources

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Climate data tools

Data entry forms are available in the Hippocrates Data Center on GGHH Connect.

- Targets & Baseline
- Current emissions
- Resiliency & Leadership

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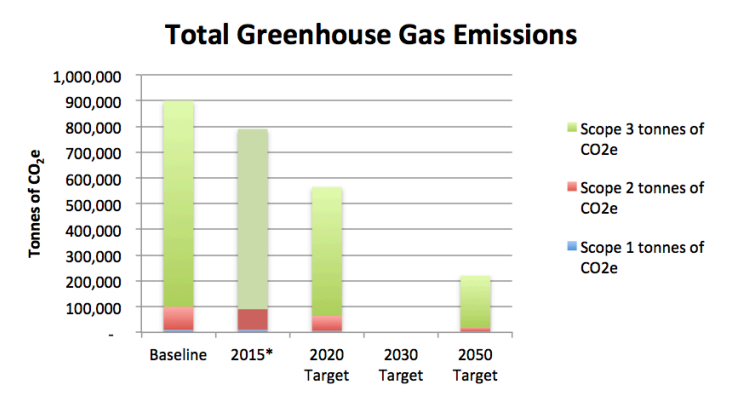
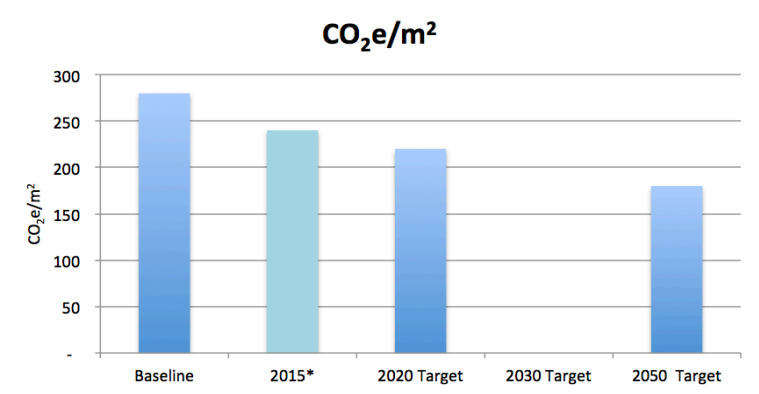
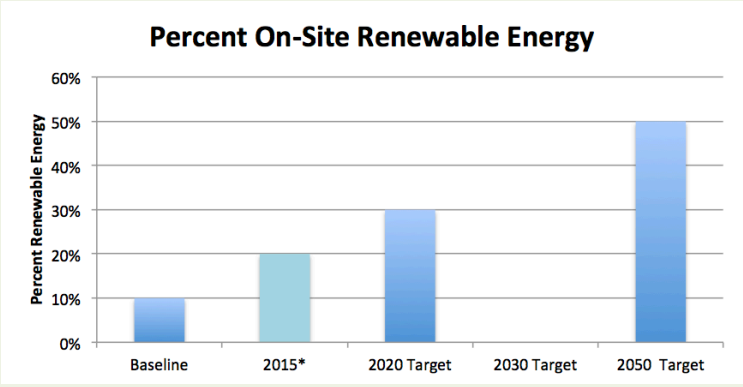
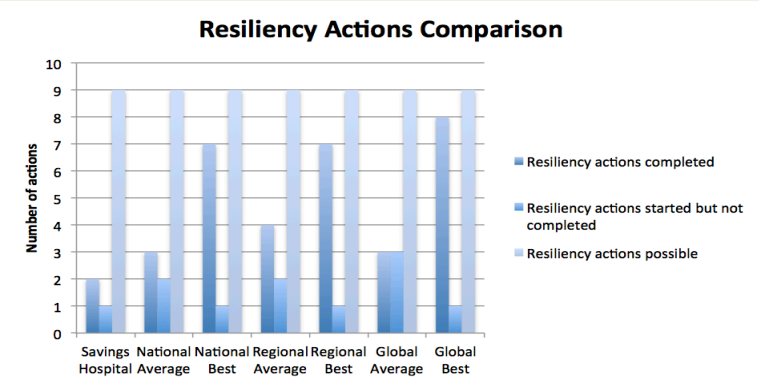
Track your progress









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The IMPACT of the Health Care Climate Challenge

By the year 2020, Challenge participants are committed to reducing their cumulative greenhouse gas emissions

16 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CO2e

This is equivalent to

A year of carbon emissions from **4 COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS**

Emissions reduction from installing and running **4 THOUSAND WIND TURBINES** for a year

1.7 MILLION (U.S.) homes' energy use for one year

SAVING $1.7 BILLION (USD) in health costs related to air pollution (*)

Climate Challenge participants also report saving

US$381 MILLION

through energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Greenhouse gas equivalents calculated using the U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator: https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

(*) Approximation based on the operation of four coal-fired power plants for one year. Sources: Epstein et. al. (2011), http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.2010.05890.x; US EPA (2017), eGRID year 2014 data, http://bit.ly/2EyAIIP; US EPA (2018), Coal-fired power plant emissions for one year, http://bit.ly/2BLQbMV.

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For more information

and to sign the pledge to join the Health Care Climate Challenge:

www.greenhospitals.net

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