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
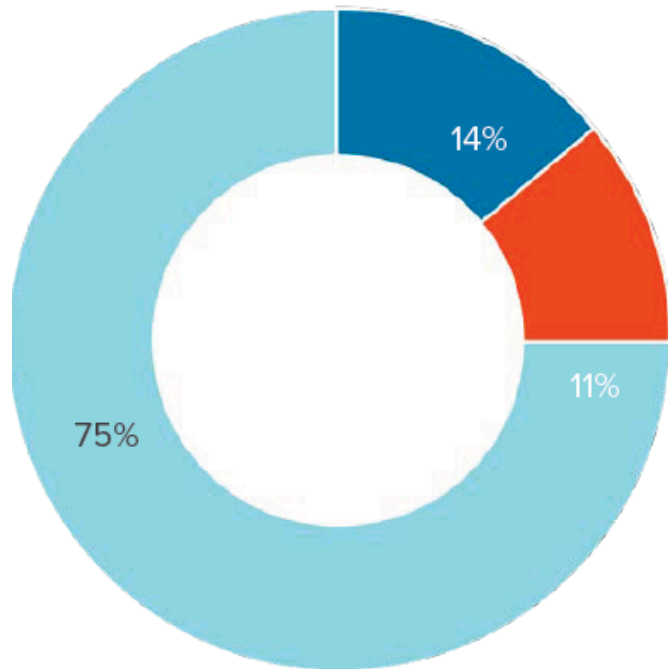
Climate-smart Healthcare

Decarbonise the European healthcare sector, increase resilience to climate change, and increase climate advocacy by healthcare leaders

EU healthcare emissions

European Union

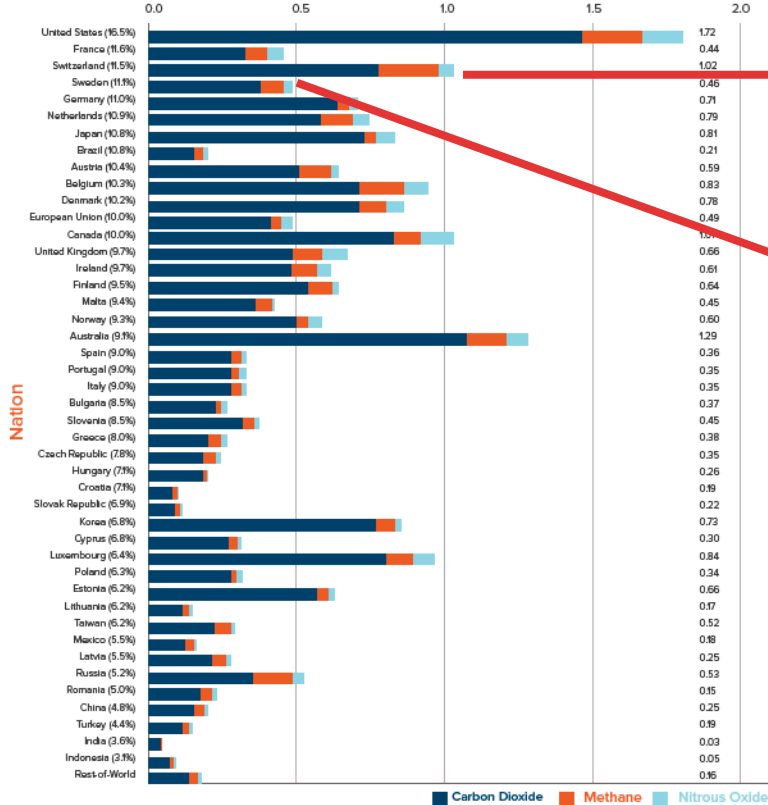| European Union health care	Value	Unit
Climate footprint	249	$MtCO_2e$
Emissions per capita	0.49	$tCO_2e/$ capita
Emissions as % of national footprint	4.7	%
Expenditure per capita	3668	USD
Expenditure as percentage of GDP	10.0	%
Health sector footprint equivalence to coal power plant emissions[32]	64	coal-fired power plants in one year

Pie chart values: 14%, 11%, 75%

- 249 $MtCO_2e$ 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

CO$_2$ intensity varies

Health care footprint per capita (tCO$_2$e/capita)

- Switzerland 1.02tCO$_2$e/ capita (11.5% of GDP)

- Sweden 0.46tCO$_2$e/ 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*