



Acting **TODAY**

For A Healthier And Sustainable

TOMORROW

2023 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



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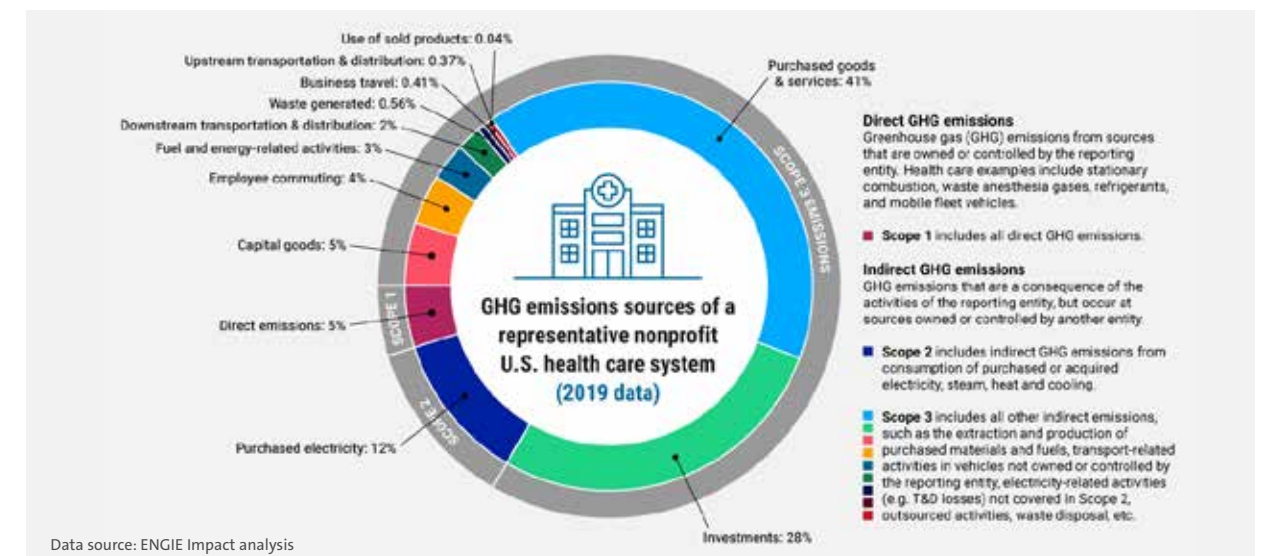
Summary

Climate change, environmental justice and human health are one indivisible crisis that must be tackled together to preserve health and foster equity. In fact, more than 200 health journals have called upon the United Nations, political leaders and health professionals to lead change through action.

In 2022, OhioHealth signed onto the Health and Human Services (HHS) climate pledge to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050**. As of today, it remains the only hospital system in Ohio to have signed the HHS pledge.

Sustainability is at the heart of our mission to provide exceptional care for all. As a large health system, we have a responsibility and opportunity to reduce our environmental footprint — but it's not just about reducing waste, using different energy sources or removing chemicals of concern. Environmental health equals public health. It's about improving patient and associate health, which includes overcoming help disparities based on socioeconomic status. OhioHealth is committed to accelerating sustainable practices that lessen our environmental impact without sacrificing quality or safety.

With support from an external partner, we're continuously tracking and monitoring our greenhouse gas emissions through Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. We've also started to conduct an inventory of our Scope 3 emissions.



OhioHealth has integrated this work throughout the system using a strategic framework, with a governance structure in place that includes senior leaders of the organization to our CEO and Board of Directors. The board is regularly updated on our sustainability progress. We have also continued to measure impact through yearly associate engagement surveys, which show that sustainability and corporate social responsibility are considered to be high priorities for our associates and reaffirm our mission to “improve the health of those we serve.”



SUSTAINABILITY

Categories and health impacts

Our sustainability journey focuses on five key areas:





HIGHLIGHTS

from FY23 include



Sustainable Procurement and Health



In 2022, OhioHealth implemented its first Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy, ensuring that we purchase the most sustainable medical devices and products available through partners aligned with our climate goals.

During our first year with the policy in place, we spent over \$10 million on sustainable goods and services. This helped earn us an EPEAT award for our purchases of sustainable IT devices, which resulted in saving over 1.7 million kilograms of CO2 equivalent. We also earned a supplier award for buying back over 70% of reprocessed items and reducing 44,000 pounds of waste.

We prioritize reusable medical supplies and landfill diversion within our procurement work, and assess life cycle costs / cost per use for our items. For example, we prioritize washable isolation gowns rather than single-use plastic gowns in order to reduce landfill waste. In 2022, we diverted 23 tons of waste from the landfill and reduce plastic usage just by switching to washable isolation gowns in applicable clinical spaces.

All of this means we're able to continue *providing excellent care* while still protecting our environment.




“OhioHealth signed a pledge that focuses on **climate change and health equity**. We’ve pledged to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and develop a climate resilience plan that focuses on vulnerable communities that experience disproportionate health impacts as a result of climate change.”

Our pharmacy and clinical teams reduced our Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions by reducing our desflurane consumption by over 98%. With this work, we have reduced our anesthetic gas emissions by 706 metric tons of CO2 equivalent. Our pharmacy team also worked with our internal research team to conduct a study analyzing the emissions resulting from our inhalers, which global studies estimate to be a major contributor to Scope 3 emissions.



Healthy Buildings

OhioHealth’s design and construction teams worked alongside our internal and external partners to create building standards focused on sustainability, including: energy efficiency, landfill diversion processes for construction/demolition debris, native landscaping, electric vehicle charging stations and more.

Before renovations even begin, our teams work to ensure any existing items are donated to local nonprofits rather than sent directly to landfills. These standards not only ensure that our buildings are reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the very start, but also consider the health impacts our spaces have on associates, patients and communities. This includes prioritizing access to natural daylight, respite areas and walking paths, and using healthy building materials.

We want our spaces to be healthy and sustainable so our associates and providers can continue to provide the best care. Some of our work is even hidden behind walls, like one of our newest medical office buildings which uses recycled denim as insulation!

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Less Waste

While healthcare can be inherently wasteful, we’re working to change that. Whether it’s through our procurement work or within operations, we have goals to divert waste from landfills by recycling within our public, associate and clinical spaces.



All OhioHealth acute care spaces have recycling programs, which diverted

3,000 tons of waste from landfills in 2022 by recycling.

We have also been tackling food waste through improved procurement practices, varying mechanisms of composting, converting waste to animal feed and food donations. No food waste enters from our kitchens enters landfills, whether it’s from food preparation, buffet lines or uneaten food on patient trays.

About 120 tons of food waste was diverted from landfills in 2022, and some of that came back to OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital as natural fertilizer for our flower beds — talk about a circular economy!

Speaking of a circular economy, we’re addressing non-traditional waste in our operating rooms like sterilization wrap. Sterilization wrap is wrapped around medical devices to ensure the devices are sterile until use. It’s considered a “hard-to-recycle” plastic and is typically sent to the landfill.



Our operating room team at OhioHealth Marion General Hospital wanted to do something about it. They started by building a box in the main lobby of the hospital to help visualize the amount of wrap entering the landfills. In just a week, the box was full.

Marion General is now piloting a recycling program that turns the sterilization wrap into tote bags to be used as giveaway bags for events and more.

Nearly 1 million pounds of food waste enters the landfills in central Ohio each day. Each time we divert waste from our landfills, we support our environment and help mitigate any negative human health impacts. As waste decomposes in landfills, it releases gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which are large contributors to nationwide greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills also have negative impacts on those living near landfills, often triggering or worsening existing chronic conditions, such as asthma and other respiratory problems.

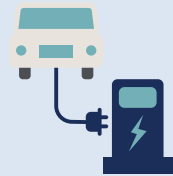


Green Transportation

OhioHealth's sustainable fleet of vehicles is a Scope 1 greenhouse gas emission that we've been tracking for the last few years. Tailpipe emissions from combustion engine vehicles have a direct impact on human health by contributing to air pollution. In 2023, there were more air quality alerts than in the last two decades. And on each of those days, our electric vehicles travelled their routes without adding to the poor air quality.



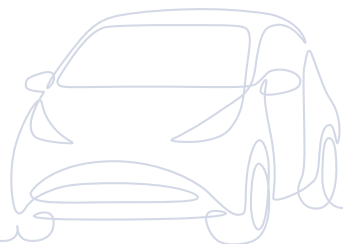
We have an internal procurement policy that requires each vehicle purchased to be assessed for low/zero emission potential, which has led to electric vehicles (EVs) running our lab courier and protective services patrolling routes. We also continue to provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout our system with over 70 charging stations — more than any other organization in Ohio! This helps ensure equal access to our communities and associates at no cost.



Our system has over **70 electric vehicle charging stations** — more than any other organization in Ohio!

Our investments in EV charging infrastructure has empowered our partners to switch their courier operations to EVs as well. In 2023, OhioHealth's longstanding courier partner, MedSpeed, converted its fleet of vehicles running our routes to EVs. With our charging infrastructure in place, MedSpeed could test its EV capabilities here in central Ohio as the first all-EV healthcare operations in the country — saving over 124 metric tons of CO₂e each year! The average passenger vehicle emits about 400 grams of CO₂ per mile. In addition to carbon dioxide (CO₂), automobiles using gasoline produce methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) from the tailpipe and all vehicles.

We're also reimagining care delivery through a futuristic alternative with low/zero emissions: drones! OhioHealth has partnered with a drone company, Zipline, to deliver prescriptions directly to patients' homes and move lab samples and supplies between OhioHealth facilities. This method of transportation will mean a 97% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



Smart Energy

We started our path to decarbonization by reducing our energy consumption before moving to electrifying our buildings and adding in renewable energy. Currently, our energy consumption makes up the majority of our Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions. We're working hard to ensure that our existing buildings are retrofitted to be more energy efficient and new construction buildings are energy efficient from the start.

In 2023, we achieved our goal of reducing our energy consumption per square foot by 15% (based on our 2018 baseline). Through our energy saving efforts, we've avoided roughly 45,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year — a 21% reduction of our carbon footprint per square foot compared to the 2018 baseline.

We've also finished large energy savings projects, such as converting 100% of the 25,000 lights across our system to LEDs and implementing unoccupied settings to control our HVAC and lighting in our non-24/7 spaces. All of this work lead to OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital earning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® certification in 2022 for superior energy efficiency.



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Climate Resiliency and Safety

As a healthcare system, we follow stringent emergency preparedness requirements. In the event of an emergency, we must be able to continue providing care for our community. Climate change will be a risk to our operations, supply chain and more. That's why we've added climate change as a leading risk to our organization.

We see opportunities to expand our emergency preparedness work to be more resilient in the face of climate change. In the Midwest, flooding, high winds, poor air quality, extreme temperatures and grid outages affect our care sites across the system. We want to prepare for those events to happen more frequently so we can ensure access to care for all. To do that, we have engaged our internal stakeholders and community partners, including public health departments, regional planning commissions and other key businesses and local nonprofits. Together, we're identifying climate risks that our region will face in the coming years and closing gaps within our own emergency preparedness processes.

Our gap analysis revealed opportunities to educate our internal stakeholders about the region's climate risks, identified resources needed to manage ongoing climate resiliency work within our Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) team and spurred intentional discussions with design and construction teams as we build new construction projects and renovate spaces with future needs in mind.

Education needs to happen on an ongoing basis, alongside our EHS team and external community partners. We meet with regional experts and public health specialists to ensure to identify upstream and downstream effects that might impact our hospitals in the event of a disaster, as well as work with internal leadership at our care sites to monitor ongoing resiliency opportunities.

Additionally, we've identified the need for more support in implementing solutions to our identified climate risks. As a result, our EHS team will expand to include a resource with dedicated time to tackle climate resiliency.

Finally, we need build for the future — keeping climate risks in mind throughout all of our building designs. Whether it's mitigating heat island effects, improving stormwater management designs or preparing for grid outages beyond our 96-hour requirements, we are working with our construction partners on the mitigation and resiliency efforts on our campuses.

While we have a lot of work to do beyond our gap analysis and initial identification of mitigation strategies, we will continue to collaborate locally and nationally to address lessons learned and best practices from other healthcare systems regarding climate-related disasters.



