

Environmentally Sustainable Opportunities for Health Systems

Organizational Readiness for Sustainability

For successful sustainability interventions within healthcare, organizations need to understand **Why, What & How** they can mobilize and guide action.

The Organizational Readiness Playbook compiles resources to answer these questions, so that organizations can move forward strategically. It provides a framework for completing a **high-level readiness assessment** & identifies priority areas of focus & opportunities to increase the visibility & impact of sustainability efforts.

Climate change is a threat to health and high quality healthcare



WHY THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Why should healthcare organizations prioritize sustainability?

- ▶ To protect population health & health equity
- ▶ To build resilience to adapt to climate realities, which can challenge system capacity & increase care needs
- ▶ To promote sustainability & reduce the climate harms of healthcare
- ▶ Because there are health co-benefits of climate action

4X4 ACTIVITY MATRIX WHAT

Identify priority domains of concern

Climate Change

Sustainability



Greenhouse gas reductions:
Reduce the climate harms of healthcare



Social sustainability:
Support sustainable development (environmental, social & economic)



Climate adaptation & resilience:
Develop resilience to climate shocks (e.g., through infrastructure, land use, climate informed practice, etc.)



Natural environment:
Restore, maintain & protect nature (e.g., reduce air pollution, minimize resource use, etc)

Identify priority areas of activity



Service design & delivery:
Rethink care to improve patient outcomes, make care less carbon intensive & reduce the need for care



Facilities & estates:
Increase ambition in areas of traditional sustainability expertise



Procurement & supply chain:
Leverage purchasing power to secure low carbon, sustainable products & services



Food & nutrition:
Mobilize food services to support health & wellbeing

TOOLS FOR CHANGE: 4X4 ACTIVITY MATRIX

Select opportunities for sustainability action by domains of concern and areas of activity

		Domain of Concern			
		Climate Change		Sustainability	
		Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions	Climate adaptation & resilience	Natural environment	Social sustainability
Area of Activity	Service design & delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Procurement & supply chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Facilities & estates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Food & nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HOW STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS

How can organizations develop the capacity and strategy to accomplish ambitious sustainability goals?



Leadership & governance

Engage senior leaders and governors to develop and deliver effective climate and sustainability strategy



Capacity & coordination

Enable cross-organizational coordination and ensure sustainability activity is embedded and enabled across the organization



Partnership & impact

Secure opportunities for impact through sectoral and cross-sectoral partnerships & actions



Measurement & reporting

Develop an integrated measurement strategy, recognizing the importance and limitations of metrics



References

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The playbook was developed from a rapid environmental scan and discussions with sustainability professionals and leaders from the CoP from January through June 2022. The Working Group comprised:

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