



# SUSTAINABILITY focus



## 2023 Practice Greenhealth Awards



Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center



Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center



Blanchfield Army Community Hospital  
Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center  
Eisenhower Army Medical Center  
Irwin Army Community Hospital  
Madigan Army Medical Center  
Womack Army Medical Center



Bassett Army Community Hospital  
BG Crawford Sams Army Health Clinic  
Blanchfield Army Community Hospital  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Eisenhower Army Medical Center  
Evans Army Community Hospital  
Fort Belvoir Community Hospital\*  
Guthrie Ambulatory Health Care Clinic  
Ireland Army Health Clinic  
Irwin Army Community Hospital  
Kenner Army Health Clinic  
Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center  
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center  
Madigan Army Medical Center  
Martin Army Community Hospital  
Moncrief Army Health Clinic  
Reynolds Army Health Clinic  
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center  
Weed Army Community Hospital  
William Beaumont Army Medical Center  
Winn Army Community Hospital  
Womack Army Medical Center

\*Fort Belvoir Community Hospital is now named Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center

Congratulations to this year's Practice Greenhealth (PGH) Award winners! We appreciate all your hard work during this PGH cycle and commitment to sustainability. And special congrats to the Military hospitals and clinics that achieved higher-level awards in Greening the OR, and to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center for once again receiving the Top 25 Award—Practice Greenhealth's highest honor for hospitals!

**Benchmark report cards and facility-level trend reports are now available on your PGH awards dashboard!**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## New Chief Sustainability Officer!

DHA has named its first-ever chief sustainability officer (CSO). COL Pamela DiPatrizio, AN, Deputy to the Deputy Assistant Director of Healthcare Operations, will assist the Program as it expands into more facilities and more topic areas. COL DiPatrizio will help to set DHA sustainability targets and ensure active participation from all functional areas. She will also represent DHA in federal, Department of Defense and industry working groups and collaborative efforts. We are thrilled to be working with her!

## Updated Food Guidance and Resources from Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth (PGH) has expanded and updated their food guidance and resources which can help reduce your facility's climate impact through guidance on food purchasing, food waste solutions, plant-forward menus, and more!

Check out PGH's guidance, resources, and tools here:

<https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/food>

## CleanMed 2023 Success!

In May, the federal sector was well represented at CleanMed—the premier conference for leaders in health care sustainability—held annually by Practice Greenhealth. Thank you to all CleanMed presenters and attendees for making this year's conference a huge success! Please reach out if you're interested in attending next time.

A special thank you and congratulations to our DHA speakers at CleanMed who gave inspiring presentations on health care sustainability and waste management from a federal perspective. One session was entirely focused on DHA, and captivated a large audience during their deep dive on building successful programs for reprocessed single-use devices and greening the operating room. Another session was co-led by Defense Center for Public Health-Aberdeen and generated thoughtful questions and discussion on overcoming challenges in pharmaceutical waste disposal. If you missed their presentations, the slides are available on our Sustainability SharePoint site, in the Training folder: Workshops, Conferences, and Events: CleanMed 2023.



Christine Velasquez and Heather Queen from DCPH-Aberdeen.



(Left to Right) CPT Paige Becker, MAJ Kandice Hines, and MAJ Jesse Rivera-Rosario.



DHA Sustainability Team and a few of the DHA attendees/presenters at CleanMed 2023.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued



## Meet Our Newest Team Member!

Please welcome the newest member of our team, Mr. William Haas, as our new environmental compliance lead. William comes to us from the Texas Hill Country town of New Braunfels. He brings experience managing installation-level environmental compliance programs at overseas locations, providing our team with a “regulated community” perspective. Aside from a peculiar interest in hazardous waste and hazardous materials management, William’s passions include sustainable communities, green development, and natural resource conservation. Away from the office, William can be found working on his native plant landscape or with his houseplants. Otherwise, you might find him traveling to odd corners of the globe hiking, climbing, SCUBA diving, or just exploring. Welcome William!

## Welcome New Military Hospitals and Clinics!

Our Team has been busy training new Air Force and Navy sites and bringing them into the DHA Sustainability Program.

### 88th Medical Group, Wright Patterson AFB



### Naval Medical Center San Diego



### 96th Medical Group, Eglin AFB



### 673d Medical Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson



# SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

## New Tool for Health Sector Investments in Resilience and Emissions Reduction

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) recently released new tools to accelerate health sector investments in resilience and emissions reduction to fight against growing health threats associated with climate change. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed into law by President Biden in August 2022, provides billions of dollars in grants, loan programs, and tax credits that can help transform the health industry by funding resilient and renewable infrastructure. The newly released OCCHE Quickfinder for Leveraging the IRA for the Health Sector identifies and explains how the health sector can use IRA programs and incentives to advance climate action.

The health sector accounts for 8.5% of U.S. carbon emissions, contributing to the climate change threat to human health. Health effects related to climate change include heat stroke, respiratory issues, and vector-borne diseases. "Health sector organizations can actively reduce the potential for harm by anticipating these challenges, investing in resilient infrastructure, and reducing contributions to climate change through improvements in sustainability and efficiency," states OCCHE.



Improvements such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and building envelope upgrades or retrofits may be particularly helpful for hospitals, the second most energy-intensive commercial buildings in the country. For example, the Veterans Health Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is one of the largest integrated health care systems in the nation, serving 9 million enrolled veterans each year. The VA upgrades its facility infrastructure and equipment and installs renewable power where possible. From these efforts, VA has successfully reduced its energy intensity (kBtu/gross square foot) by over 26% since 2003. Overall, VA hospitals use 38% less energy per square foot than the national average for all hospitals.

Visit the link below to learn more about the Quickfinder tool and how to use it to invest in sustainable improvements at your facility!

<https://www.hhs.gov/climate-change-health-equity-environmental-justice/climate-change-health-equity/quick-finder-ira/index.html>

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

## New Memo from Biden-Harris Administration to Help Supply Federal Facilities in Midwest with Carbon Pollution-free Electricity



“ This nation’s clean energy utilities are stepping up to power the federal government with 100% carbon-free electricity in line with President Biden’s ambitious Federal Sustainability Plan. Powering our government with clean energy is good for jobs, our economy, and our environment. ”

– Ms. Brenda Mallory,  
Chair of CEQ

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced a new memorandum of understanding with major U.S. power company, Xcel Energy, to work toward providing federal facilities in Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin with 100% carbon pollution-free electricity (CFE) by 2030. CFE is electrical power produced from resources that generate no carbon emissions such as solar, wind, and geothermal energy. It will advance the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of sourcing 100% CFE to power federal facilities by 2030, at least half of which will be locally-supplied clean energy to meet 24/7 demand.

Under the new memo, GSA and Xcel Energy will develop a plan for meeting the federal government’s 100% CFE targets in this Midwest region. It aims to encourage the development of additional CFE sources and provide federal agencies with a more reliable, resilient, and cleaner power grid into the future.

<https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/bidenharris-administration-announces-mou-to-help-supply-federal-facilities-in-five-midwest-states-with-100-carbon-pollutionfree-electricity-06072023#:~:text=The%20MOU%20will%20advance%20the,to%20meet%2024%2F7%20demand>

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

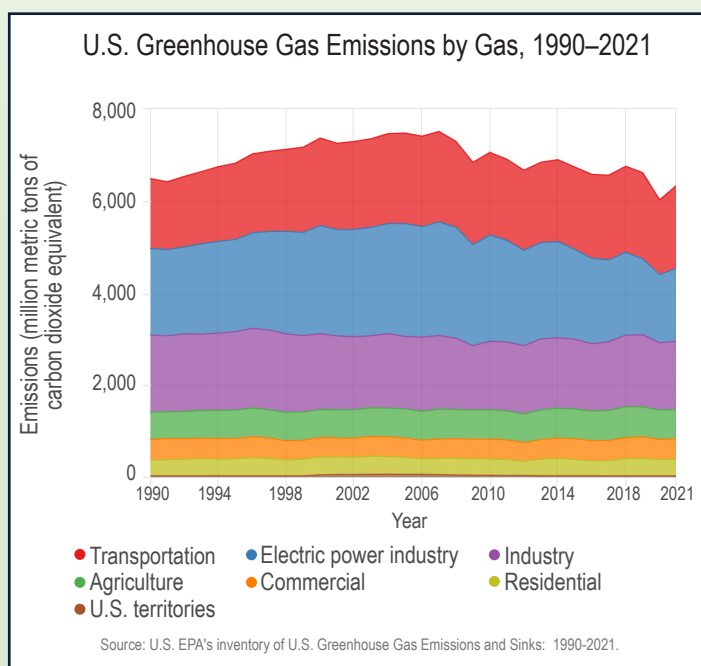
## EPA's Annual U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 30th annual Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (GHG Inventory), which presents a national-level overview of annual GHG emissions from 1990 to 2021. GHGs absorb the sun's infrared radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere and making the planet warmer. The most important GHGs directly emitted by humans include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, and several fluorine-containing halogenated substances.

U.S. GHG emissions in 2021 totaled about 6,000 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents, a 6% increase from 2020. This was largely driven by increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion during the economic activity rebound after the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Transportation activities were the largest source of total U.S. GHGs and, from 1990 to 2021, transportation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion has increased by 19%.

As the second largest source, the electric power sector accounted for 25% of total emissions in 2021. Electric power generation increased by 3% in 2021 while electric power-related emissions increased by 7% partly due to an increase in coal consumption to produce electricity. However, even with the increase in 2021, electric power-related emissions are still lower than pre-pandemic 2019 levels and have decreased by approximately 15% since 1990.

This inventory provides high-level perspective necessary to understand the country's total emissions or "carbon footprint" and helps us better understand the sources and types of GHG emissions at individual facilities. Through this report, we can manage GHG risks and identify reduction opportunities. As transportation and the electric sector are reported as the highest source of emissions, we can work on mitigating these emissions through actions like carpooling, electrifying the federal fleet, and investing in sustainable and efficient electric power.



<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks>

### SUSTAINABILITY MISSION

Enhance Military Health System readiness and resiliency by safeguarding human health and the environment through the efficient use of resources and on-going process improvement.



### SUSTAINABILITY VISION

We are leaders in delivering world-class health care solutions with minimal environmental footprint to support those who serve in the defense of our country. We focus on securing a sustainable and resilient future for all.