

This table is supplemental to a Commonwealth Fund blog post, Emily Hough, “National Incentives to Promote Health Care Climate Action,” *To the Point* (blog), Commonwealth Fund, July 27, 2023, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2023/national-incentives-promote-health-care-climate-action>.

Examples of National Mechanisms to Decarbonize Health Care

Lever	Examples
Legal or regulatory requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2022, the National Health Service (NHS) in England was the first health system to see net zero requirements embedded into legislation, supported by statutory guidance - Inclusion of Green NHS requirements in both the NHS Standard Contract and broader procurement contracts for purchases over £5 million per year
Voluntary commitments and pledges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2022, the Biden administration confirmed that more than 61 health care organizations, representing more than 650 hospitals, have committed to reduce emissions by 50 percent by 2030 as part of the administration’s Health Sector Climate Pledge. Federal systems like the Indian Health Service, Veterans Health Administration, and Military Health System are working together to meet these goals. - Since its launch in November 2022, more than 200 organizations have signed up to the voluntary Dutch Green Deal 3.0. It includes aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 55% in 2030 and be neutral by 2050, in line with the National Climate Agreement and the European Green Deal.
National plans or roadmaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2020, the NHS in England was the first health system to publish a plan to deliver a net zero health system by 2040 for directly controlled emissions and by 2045 for all emissions the NHS can influence - In 2022, the NHS in Scotland published a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy outlining five themes and supporting actions that will help deliver a net zero health system by 2040 - In May 2023, the French government published a Roadmap for Ecological Health System Planning, which includes a steering committee to oversee progress across seven areas
National teams focused on climate change and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australia’s National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit was established in 2022 to ensure all Australians have access to a health system that can adapt to the challenges presented by climate change - Austria’s Climate and Health Competence Center aims to develop sustainable strategies for the health system and scientific content and databases for the development of health policy framework conditions - The U.S. Office of Climate Change and Health Equity was established in 2021 to help address the impact of climate change on the health of the American people
Government investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity and capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 2022, Australia committed \$3.4 million over four years to develop Australia’s first National Health and Climate Strategy and a National Health Sustainability and Climate Unit - Facilities, energy, and transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 2021–22 the NHS in England saw £310 million capital investment in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and lighting through the NHS Energy Efficiency Fund and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - Research and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 2023 the French Directorate General for Healthcare Supply of the Research Program on the Performance of the Healthcare System (PREPS) has identified around 15 million euros for projects focusing on the environmental impact of the system of care
Data and reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English NHS organizations are required to report on a number of emissions and environmental factors through their annual Estates Returns Information Collection return. In 2021, the NHS also launched the Greener NHS Data Collection to form a baseline and help demonstrate progress in reducing emissions. - Scottish NHS Health Boards are also required to report annually on 16 different areas of sustainability through their National Sustainability Assessment Tool, which will inform the annual NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability report from 2023 - The Norwegian Specialist Health Service’s annual report for Social Responsibility sets out emissions reductions from the specialist health services, with a dashboard showing progress against agreed targets

Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The French roadmap sets an ambition to train 6,500 supervising professionals from the public hospital service in ecological transformation by 2025. To support this, elements relating to environmental health are being included in continuing professional development guidelines with training on climate change, transitions, and health available to health professionals. - The NHS in England, working with the Carbon Literacy Project, has launched a training program and tool kit to help improve carbon literacy across staff
Networks and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Dutch Center of Expertise for Sustainable Care is the knowledge center for reducing CO2 emissions from buildings in the health sector and providing roadmaps and advice for health systems - The National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector is a public–private partnership, bringing together leaders committed to addressing the health sector’s environmental impact and providing a platform and resources to align action across the sector - The NHS Healthier Planet, Healthier People staff campaign was developed to empower all 1.3 million people working in the NHS to take action, supported by communication tool kits, regular engagement, and a Healthier Futures Action Fund