

Clinical Decarbonization Organizational Assessment

This tool is designed to help organizations evaluate their infrastructure and current activities to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from clinical care activities.

We encourage several members of a team familiar with climate activities at your organization to complete this assessment individually. Then compare your scores and discuss the differences.

For definitions of key terms, please refer to the glossary in [Reducing Healthcare Carbon Emissions: A Primer on Measures and Actions for Healthcare Organizations to Mitigate Climate Change](#), prepared by IHI for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2022.

Instructions for each team member completing the assessment:



1. Review the description in the first column and consider the statement:
 - “The conditions or activities described are in place in my organization.”
2. In the second column, enter a score on a scale of 1–5
 - 1 – Strongly Disagree
 - 2 – Disagree
 - 3 – Neutral
 - 4 – Agree
 - 5 – Strongly Agree
3. In the third and fourth columns, list one to three strengths or assets and one to three opportunities for improvement.
4. Reflect as a team. How do your scores vary?
 - Areas with low scores can direct you and your team to areas with high potential to begin improvement activities.
 - Some areas with high scores may require effort to carry out consistently. Others may serve as “bright spots” to test for spread and scale and share with others.

Strategy & Description	Score (1-5)	Strengths	Opportunities
<p>Leadership Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public commitments to climate action Executive leadership responsible for sponsoring climate activities 			
<p>Organizational Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate action plan Dedicated budget for climate action and financing and resourcing plan to implement interventions Governance structure for accountability and internal reporting 			
<p>Targets and Timelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific GHG emissions reductions goals and associated timelines for decarbonization targets <p><i>For example: 50 percent emissions reduction by January 1, 2030 (interim benchmark) and net zero emissions (goal)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline year assessment of emissions Interim annual decarbonization targets (e.g., SMART goals, key performance indicators (KPIs) and process for tracking and reporting progress to leadership 			
<p>Actionable System-wide Carbon Measurement Dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement dashboard for emissions (Scopes 1 & 2, ideally Scope 3 categories as well) to inform strategic activities and track progress Cross-functional team to manage data collection Data is reviewed, reported up to leadership, and acted upon regularly 			

Strategy & Description	Score (1–5)	Strengths	Opportunities
<p>Anesthetic Gases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommissioned or avoided construction of central nitrous oxide piping Minimized access to anesthesia and medical gases with high emissions (e.g., in place of desflurane and nitrous oxide, use isoflurane or sevoflurane) Minimized fresh flow gas rates Provider awareness of the cost and climate impact of anesthetic choices 			
<p>Pharmaceuticals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinicians equipped with best practice decision support tools, promoting appropriate choices of pharmacologic interventions Detailed formulary review of propellant-based greenhouse gas emissions for each inhaled medication formulation Clinicians encouraged to shift from the carbon-intensive metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) to low-carbon alternatives, such as dry-powder inhalers or soft mist inhalers 			
<p>Medical Devices and Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource stewardship across all areas of clinical care and support Carbon literacy and “life cycle thinking” used by health care leadership and workforce Circular policies and practices related to reuse, reprocessing, repair, repurposing, and recycling Shift from single-use to reusable or reprocessible items in procurement and in practice (e.g., policies for rational use of single-use devices) Preferential contracting with manufacturers and suppliers participating in transparent, standardized reporting frameworks with approved science-based targets Use of carbon intensity as a consideration in purchasing decisions, in addition to cost, quality, and patient safety 			