A System Approach to Climate Action

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About Kaiser Permanente

Recognized as one of the U.S.’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans

Kaiser Foundation
Health Plan

Permanente Medical Groups

Kaiser Foundation Hospitals

10 million members

$54 billion annual operating revenue

18,000 physicians; 175,000 employees

8 states, Wash DC

38 hospitals; 700 medical offices; 75 M sq ft
Many Factors Drive and Shape Health

- Personal Behaviors: 40%
- Family History and Genetics: 30%
- Environmental and Social Factors: 20%
- Medical Care: 10%

Source: McGinnis et al, Health Affairs, 2002
A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being for all people.

We are committed to helping our members, our workforce, their families, and our communities achieve Total Health through the services we provide and by promoting clinical, educational, environmental, and social actions that improve the health of all people.
Health Care’s Big Environmental Footprint

- 8% of greenhouse gas emissions in U.S.
- 2 million tons of waste every year
- Top 10 water users in their communities
- Chemicals of concern are contained in food, building materials and products we purchase
It’s about health:

• Climate change: extreme weather events, spread of infections, respiratory illness and more.

• Toxic chemicals in products and food: cancer, reproductive disorders, neurological problems and more.

• Pollution of air, water, soil reduces Earth’s resiliency, and compromises ecosystems.

• Waste that is poorly managed contaminates soil and water, and can create respiratory and other illnesses.
Sustainable Health Care

- Climate & Energy
- Safer Chemicals
- Sustainable Food
- Waste Reduction
- Water Conservation
Climate change will cause health effects that will directly impact Kaiser Permanente’s ability to fulfill our promise of quality affordable care …
“Climate change is undermining 50 years of progress in global health.”

“Climate change is the greatest health opportunity of this century.”

“The health community has a vital part to play in accelerating progress to tackle climate change.”
“Humans are contributing to climate change.

“The poor are impacted the most.”

“We have a moral obligation to address it.”
A Systems Approach

For the future, I suggest a radical new idea – that we stop building hospitals and clinics for sick people. Let’s concentrate on a new first in the world. Let us conceive a building for health – designed, streamlined and geared to serve our healthy members.

– Sidney Garfield, MD
1960
KP’s Actions: New Energy Agreements

• 30% GHG emission reduction three years early
• Half of our electricity in California will be from new solar and wind installations
• Two components: offsite and onsite =
  • 223 megawatts
  • Generate 590 million kilowatt-hours annually
  • Equivalent to 82,000 American homes
Power Purchase Agreements

• 20-year contract with NextEra Energy Resources
• 110 megawatts of solar, Riverside County, CA
• 43 megawatts of wind, Altamont Pass, CA
Onsite

• NRG Energy
• 70 megawatts of solar
• 100+ hospitals and California campuses by the end of 2016
Three More Benefits of Renewable Energy

• Cost neutral or cost savings; no down payment
• Employee discount on residential solar from NRG
• Tremendous water savings
Climate Action Beyond Renewable Energy

• Sustainable Resources Council
• Sustainable Energy Policy
• LEED Gold on $10M+ projects
• Care delivery innovations provide more options to our members AND reduce resource use
• Supplier selection includes climate action
KP’s Sustainable Energy Policy

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020 (from 2008 levels)
  - Establish Sustainable Resources Council
  - Increase renewable sources
  - Decrease energy demand
  - Publicly report GHG emissions
LEED Policy

To implement an industry-standard methodology for achieving our sustainability goals:

- Adopt LEED-HC for Hospitals
- Adopt LEED-NC for MOBs over $10M
- Require Gold certification
- Perform cost/benefit analysis for LEED Platinum to maximize life cycle savings
- Compile project LEED cost-benefit data to further refine business case
Energy-Water Nexus

- Sierra snowpack hit 0% of normal on May 28, 2015
- In California, 20% of energy use is related to water use.
Energy-Water Nexus

Renewable Energy Initiatives

- By 2017, KP will be purchasing over 600,000 MWH/year of renewable energy generated by wind and solar
- This will reduce the “water profile” of our energy consumption by over 100 million gallons per year.