



Greenhealth Exchange's Statement on the U. S. Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord

June 5, 2017—Greenhealth Exchange, a Public Benefit Corporation formed by eight of the nation's leading health care systems seeking better, more sustainable goods and services is deeply dismayed over President Donald Trump's decision to exit the Paris accord. A 2016 World Health Organization report found that "Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health—clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter".

"Health systems in the United States that are serious about community health must now step up to even larger leadership positions, along with the suppliers who provision them," said Gary Cohen, co-founder and president of Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth, and co-chair of Greenhealth Exchange's board.

Greenhealth Exchange is examining products to reduce the venting of anesthetic gases into the atmosphere, working to source organic, regional produce and meat for its' members, and examining materials that contain known chemicals of concern used in products commonly found in U.S. health care providers.

"We are seeking meaningful relationships with health care providers who are concerned about the long-term impacts of these chemicals on their patients, staff, and visitors," said John Strong, president of Greenhealth Exchange. "We are also seeking suppliers who have a demonstrated interest in this space to work with Greenhealth Exchange to launch and scale cleaner and more sustainable products in the health care supply chain."

With the U. S. health care industry accounting for 10-12% of all greenhouse gas emissions, now is the time to continue building on the efforts of committed health care providers and suppliers. If the federal government is not willing to take a global leadership position in this space, health care must.

About Greenhealth Exchange

Greenhealth Exchange (GX) is a Public Benefits Corporation structured as a purchasing cooperative created by Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and leading health systems deeply committed to environmental sustainability in health care. GX makes it easy to source products and services used in health care settings that are good for people, the planet and the bottom line. We work with our members to spark innovation in the supply chain: getting to next generation products, smarter and faster.

<http://www.greenhealthexchange.com/>