The Netherlands is assigned to the steep decline trajectory, which requires immediate, aggressive action to implement a rapid and deep decrease in emissions.
Charting a course: Decarbonizing the Netherlands’ health care sector

Health sector projected GHG footprint per year (MMt CO₂e)

Business as usual (BAU)

Progress in line with governments’ energy and climate commitments up to 2017.
Further health care decarbonization opportunities through the three pathways and seven actions in the Road Map.

Acting on emissions: Seven high-impact actions for health care decarbonization

Health sector projected GHG footprint per year (MMt CO₂e)

1. Power health care with 100% clean, renewable, electricity
2. Invest in zero emissions buildings and infrastructure
3. Transition to zero emissions, sustainable, travel and transport
4. Provide healthy, sustainably grown, food and support climate-resilient agriculture
5. Incentivize and produce low carbon pharmaceuticals
6. Implement circular health care and sustainable health care waste management
7. Establish greater health system effectiveness

Driving change: Recommendations for achieving zero emissions health care

The following are four high-level recommendations for all nations that can serve as a basis for health care decarbonization.* In addition, each country will need to develop a customized approach that is tailored to its own situation.

1. **Commit to zero emissions health care:** Make a public commitment to achieve net zero, climate-resilient health care by 2050 or sooner, include health care decarbonization in the Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, establish a baseline, create a national roadmap, develop a detailed action plan, and invest in implementation.

2. **Link zero emissions with health equity and climate resilience:** Align cost-effective climate-smart health care with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as COVID-19 response and recovery. Implement decarbonization and resilience strategies, like powering health care with onsite renewable energy, in order to improve access to health care delivery while fostering facility, system, and community resilience.

3. **Promote cross-sectoral climate and health action:** Engage with the health care supply chain to foster zero emissions energy, buildings, transport, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and industry. Incentivize innovation and a circular economy approach. Support the implementation of climate commitments and policies in the wider economy and society that reduce air pollution, protect public health from climate change, and foster health care decarbonization.

4. **Communicate and activate:** Lead by example. Train health professionals as climate leaders and implementers. Mobilize the sector’s ethical, economic, and political clout to influence and accelerate climate action in other sectors of society.

* For a full set of recommendations and specific actions see Chapters 6 and 7 of the Road Map as well as Appendix 3.