

How to read this Road Map

This Road Map establishes a vision, a set of navigational tools, and a set of pathways by which the health care sector can chart a course toward zero emissions, while simultaneously building climate resilience and achieving global health goals (see Figure 3 for the Global Road Map infographic).

It is a living document to help traverse an ever-shifting landscape. It can be discussed, debated, amended, and tailored to national and local circumstances. It can be embraced by health care and climate leaders around the world as a navigational “North Star” or “Southern Cross” that can help the sector chart a course to reinventing itself and providing societal leadership in the age of climate change. It establishes a global vision, and, in Annex B, country specific information for 68 nations to begin to develop their own analysis and national road maps or action plans.

This Road Map provides a set of navigational tools and charts a course for health care to reach zero emissions, climate resilience and global health goals.

THE ROAD MAP IS DIVIDED UP INTO FOUR MAJOR SECTIONS:

- 1. Understanding the topography:** Using a structural path analysis, this section deepens our understanding, derived from Green Paper One and other research, about health care’s climate footprint operationally and within the global health care supply chain. Deeper understanding of this topography is essential to chart a course for transformation.
- 2. Analyzing the sector’s trajectories:** This section considers where the sector is now, the direction it is headed, and the course corrections that are needed to align with the ambition of the Paris Agreement and achieve zero emissions by 2050. It proposes four emissions trajectories for the health care sector, taking into account countries’ common but differentiated responsibility for emissions and respective capabilities, levels of economic development, and development pathways in the health sector.
- 3. Charting a course:** Based on the topography analysis and the forecasted trajectories, this section charts a course for health care climate action.

Three pathways: Three main interrelated pathways set the contours of this course toward zero emissions. They are:

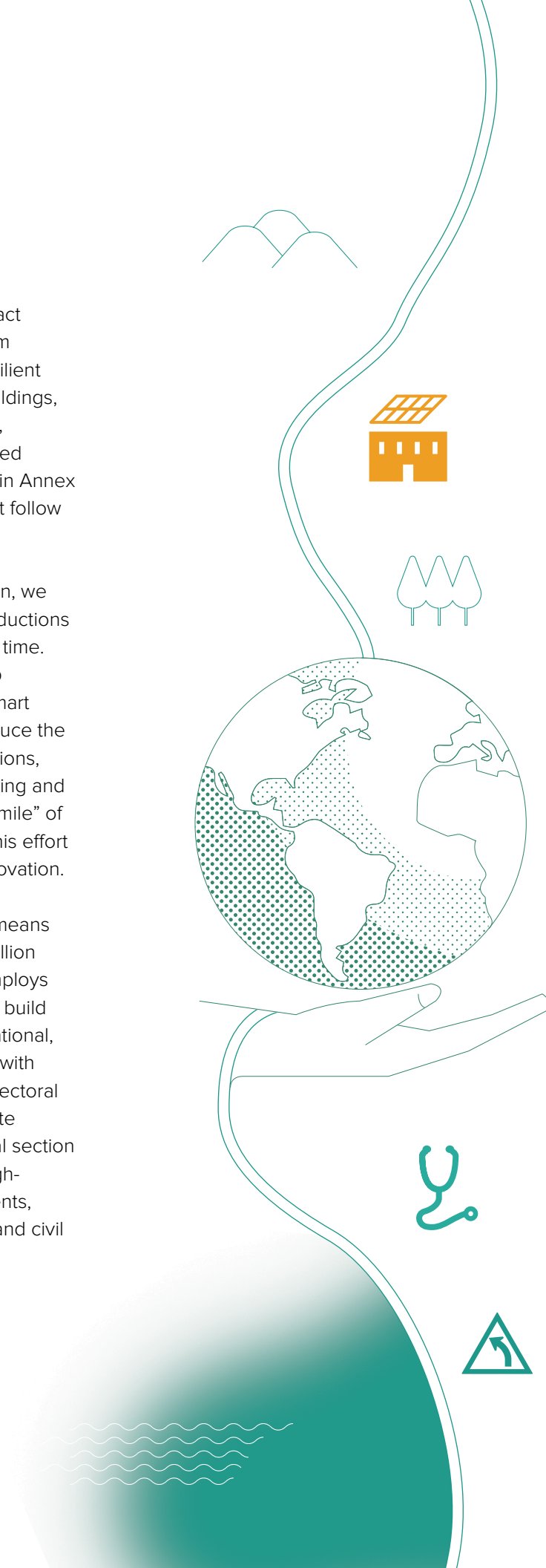
- Decarbonize health care delivery and build resilience
- Decarbonize the health care supply chain
- Accelerate decarbonization in the wider society and economy

To help guide the sector along each pathway, we provide a series of topline or high-level prescriptions.

Seven high-impact actions: Spanning and connecting these paths are seven high-impact actions that the sector must take to transform health care into a decarbonized, climate-resilient sector. These actions address electricity, buildings, and infrastructure, travel and transport, food, pharmaceuticals, circular health, and improved system effectiveness. For each action area, in Annex C, we recommend specific interventions that follow the pathway contours described above.

Exploring uncharted territory: In this section, we begin to explore opportunities for further reductions to close the health care emissions gap over time. This uncharted territory includes ramping up telehealth, assuring investment in climate-smart UHC, reducing the burden of disease to reduce the need for resource-intensive health interventions, and other transformational changes. Identifying and forging these solutions to address this “last mile” of decarbonization is a crucial component of this effort that will require creativity and significant innovation.

4. Driving change: To embark on this course means driving change in a sector that spends \$8 trillion a year, comprises 10% of world GDP, and employs 170 million workers. It requires leadership to build consensus for transformation at the local, national, and global levels. It also requires alignment with global climate and health goals, and cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve health equity, climate justice, and community resilience. In this final section of the Road Map, we propose a series of high-level policy recommendations for governments, international institutions, the private sector, and civil society.



How the Road Map charts a course toward zero emissions

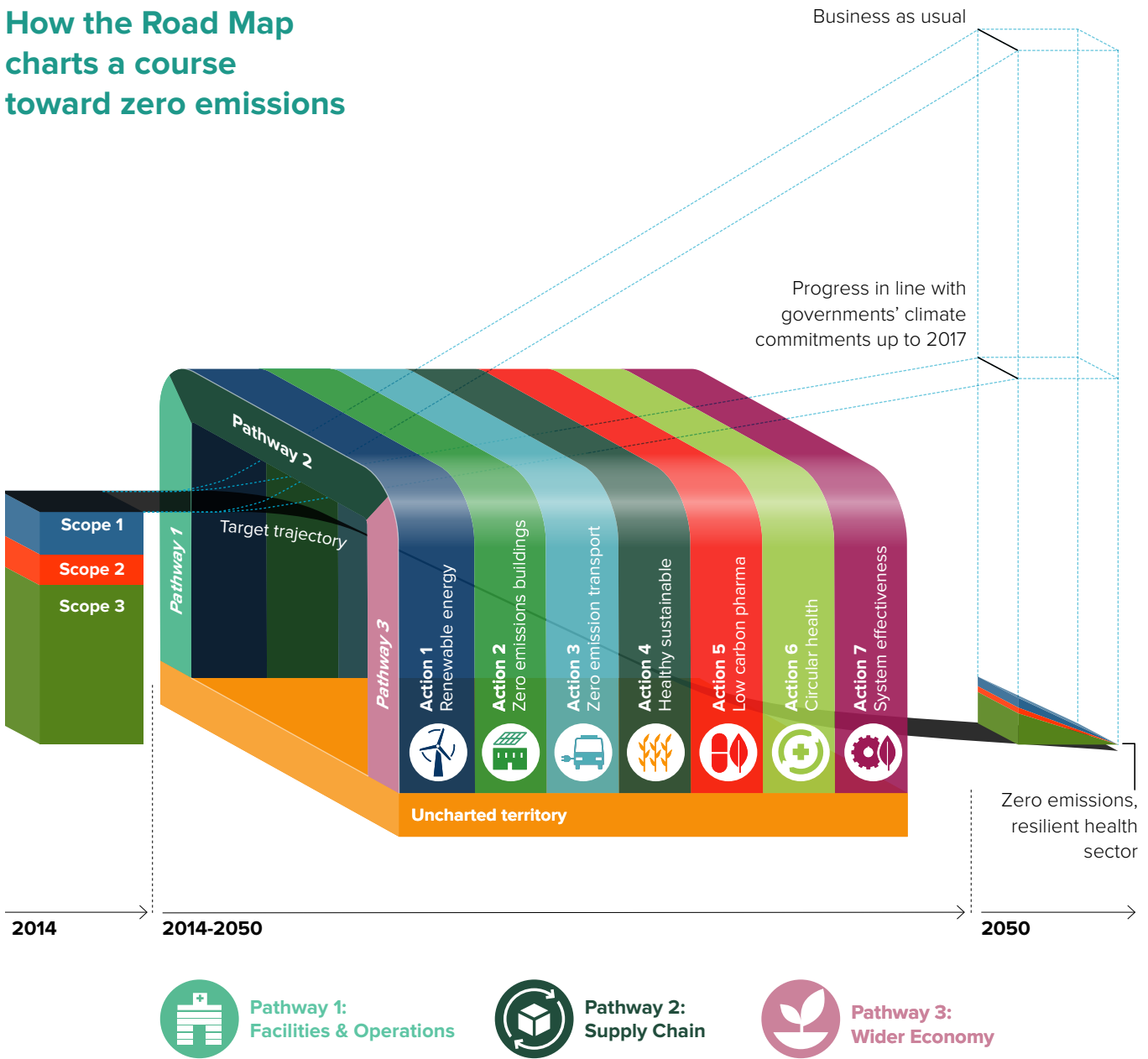


Figure 3. Assuming countries meet their initial Paris Agreement commitments, three intertwined pathways connected to seven high-impact actions come together to deliver health care decarbonization leading toward a zero emissions, resilient health care sector.