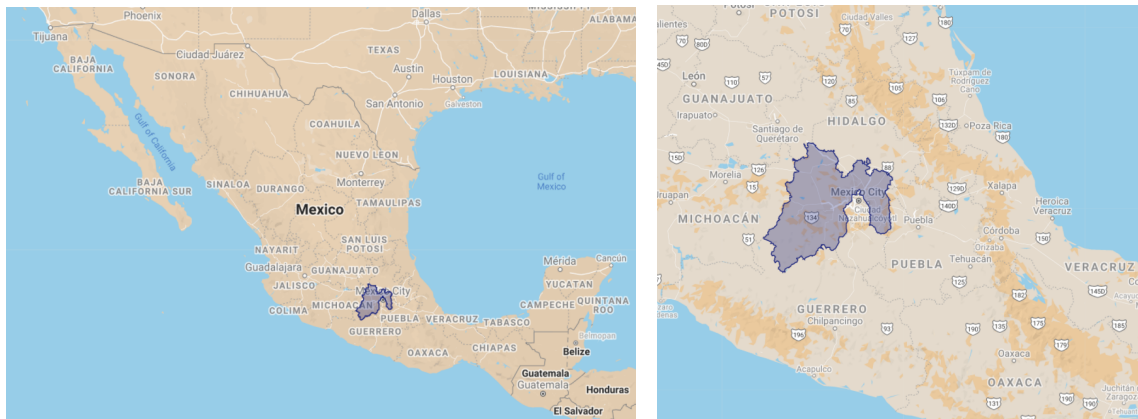




## Case Study: CEVECE and the State of Mexico

### Leadership

The State of Mexico is located at the south center of the country and is its most populated state, with around 17 million people. The Center for Epidemiological Surveillance and Disease Control (CEVECE in Spanish) is a decentralized organization within the structure of the Ministry of Health of the State of Mexico. Its leaders have been tackling environmental health issues for over 25 years. Following the adoption of institution-wide sustainability commitments in 2016, they started working with the directors of different health care facilities of the State of Mexico health system to hold training workshops about environmental health topics.



*State of Mexico*

As a result, an inter-institutional working group with several health care facilities was created. The key participants included the state Ministry of Environment, the state Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Mexico's Health Institute (which includes health care centers). Their objective was to coordinate initiatives among the members and implement collaborative programs to have a more significant impact, instead of achieving specific goals based only on the individual, institutional efforts.

The authorities at CEVECE were already familiar with Health Care Without Harm's work, including the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network. To improve their engagement, they invited members of the working group to join GGHH and start implementing its [Agenda](#). To that end, CEVECE organized an [Awareness Forum on Climate Change and Health](#), with Health Care Without Harm Latin America explaining the organization's work, vision, and the power of the health care sector to be climate action leaders. After discussing the State of Mexico's mitigation plans, the state Ministry of Health announced that many of their health care facilities would become members of the GGHH network.

To begin, each institution assessed their environmental performance on areas such as water, infrastructure, waste, and regulations. After the initial diagnosis, the working group was ready to implement mitigation measures.

## Working with Health Care Without Harm

By 2019, **CEVECE and 63 facilities** of the State of Mexico had become members of GGHH. Each facility designated a specific person who would liaise with CEVECE, which was assigned to lead the network at a local level.

From the beginning, the working group was supported by Health Care Without Harm and relied on the organization's guidelines, training sessions, and various tools. Their main motivation was being part of an international network of health institutions that share the same values, perspectives, and climate commitments. According to the Head of CEVECE, the "[Menos huella, más salud](#)" program ("Less Footprint, More Health") was a creative approach that inspired the facilities to compete for awards in the categories of **Leadership, Waste, Energy**, and other aspects of the GGHH Agenda.

The network also used **Climate Impact Checkup**, a tool developed by Health Care Without Harm that calculates the GHG emissions of health care facilities. Although Checkup provided valuable data points for tracking emissions and mitigation progress, the facilities' staff still needed more in-depth training to clarify how to gather and complete the information required by the calculator. Therefore, CEVECE organized a meeting with Health Care Without Harm and representatives from all the participating institutions to train them in the use of the tool.

The event, called **Huellatón**, took place at the beginning of 2020 in the city of Naucalpan. Over 100 people from 63 different facilities attended. The aim was to practice Checkup implementation, solve questions, and strengthen capacity to achieve reliable results that each center could use as their baseline for action planning. The experience also enhanced their inter-institutional relationships, where professionals from all over the State of Mexico met for the first time, displayed their work, exchanged lessons learned, and had the chance to share their facilities' projects.

# Carbon footprint calculation and plans

2019 was the first time the hospitals of the State of Mexico calculated their carbon footprint. In 2020, the State of Mexico's facilities had one of the highest numbers of COVID-19 patients, which demanded all of their resources and efforts. As a result, most of their health centers could not estimate their GHG emissions in 2020.

Regardless, with the information obtained in 2019, many facilities designed mitigation and adaptation plans. For example, Dr. Nicolás San Juan Hospital reduced fuel consumption by establishing a limited number of hours per day for personnel showers. Before this decision, there was a constant consumption of energy and water for this purpose. This action resulted in significant energy and cost savings. The result also demonstrated that many energy-saving measures do not require economic investment but rather a policy redesign from a conservation approach.

In a similar way, many hospitals designed implementation plans and proposals such as:

- Replacing light bulbs with photoconductive cells
- Implementing infrastructure improvements
- Integrating environmental criteria into their procurement practices, including:
  - choosing local products.
  - eliminating the purchase of products with hazardous chemicals.
  - choosing efficient materials for building renovations, window and door replacement.

## Race to Zero

In 2020, [nine health care facilities of the State of Mexico were recognized or awarded](#) by Health Care Without Harm's "*Menos huella, más Salud*" program. Together with others who had successful experiences, these facilities were invited by CEVECE to join the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\) Race to Zero campaign](#), where Health Care Without Harm is the [health care sector partner](#).

Ten facilities expressed their intention to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Three of the ten, the CEVECE, the Jiquipilco Hermenegildo Galeana State Hospital, and the Villa del Carbón State Hospital, joined the Race to Zero after evaluating their facilities' characteristics—project engagement, accomplishments, commitments, and human and financial resources.

In joining the Race to Zero, CEVECE confirms its commitment to protecting the environment and health, and helps establish global climate action leadership, serving as a role model for health institutions worldwide. Its participation is supported by the state Ministry of Environment, which will collaborate with the communication of the campaign and the different projects carried out,

and facilitate access to financing. In the mid-term, CEVECE plans to incorporate the rest of the working group facilities in a second cohort that will join the campaign, as well as to gradually include other health centers of the State of Mexico committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

## Conclusion

Inspired by their leadership's vision, CEVECE and a group of health care facilities of the State of Mexico built **a multi-institutional local network focused on environment and health, 63 of which have become GGHH members**. Each facility worked on diverse goals, with nine recognized by Health Care Without Harm for their outstanding achievements so far. CEVECE, the Jiquipilco Hermenegildo Galeana State Hospital, and the Villa del Carbón State Hospital belong to the **first cohort of health care facilities that joined the Race to Zero campaign**, uniting with other committed global climate action leaders.

Each year, CEVECE and this network of health care facilities of the State of Mexico raise the bar by adopting more ambitious objectives, reinforcing the state health sector's commitment to climate action, and demonstrating that inspiring leaders can achieve long-lasting and expansive impacts.