

RICHARD E. NEAL  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
CHAIR

LLOYD DOGGETT, TEXAS  
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA  
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT  
EARL BLUMENAUER, OREGON  
RON KIND, WISCONSIN  
BILL PASCRELL JR., NEW JERSEY  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK  
TERRI A. SEWELL, ALABAMA  
SUZAN DELBENE, WASHINGTON  
JUDY CHU, CALIFORNIA  
GWEN MOORE, WISCONSIN  
DAN KILDEE, MICHIGAN  
BRENDAN BOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
DON BEYER, VIRGINIA  
DWIGHT EVANS, PENNSYLVANIA  
BRAD SCHNEIDER, ILLINOIS  
THOMAS R. SUOZZI, NEW YORK  
JIMMY PANETTA, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHANIE MURPHY, FLORIDA  
JIMMY GOMEZ, CALIFORNIA  
STEVEN HORSFORD, NEVADA  
STACEY PLASKETT, VIRGIN ISLANDS

BRANDON CASEY,  
MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

# Congress of the United States

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3625

Washington, D.C 20515-0348  
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

KEVIN BRADY  
TEXAS,  
RANKING MEMBER

VERN BUCHANAN, FLORIDA  
ADRIAN SMITH, NEBRASKA  
TOM REED, NEW YORK  
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA  
JASON SMITH, MISSOURI  
TOM RICE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
DAVID SCHWEIKERT, ARIZONA  
JACKIE WALORSKI, INDIANA  
DARIN LAHOOD, ILLINOIS  
BRAD R. WENSTRUP, OHIO  
JODEY ARRINGTON, TEXAS  
DREW FERGUSON, GEORGIA  
RON ESTES, KANSAS  
LLOYD SMUCKER, PENNSYLVANIA  
KEVIN HERN, OKLAHOMA  
CAROL MILLER, WEST VIRGINIA  
GREG MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA

GARY ANDRES,  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 24, 2022

Re: Request for Information Related to the Climate Crisis and Health Industry

To Whom It May Concern,

The impact of the climate crisis on health is well documented – from increasing rates of asthma in vulnerable communities, to an increase in deaths from extreme weather events, heat, infectious and vector-borne diseases, and compromised food supplies.<sup>1</sup> Yet, less attention has been paid to the fact that the health care industry as a whole is responsible for an estimated 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States (U.S.) and more than four percent of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2, 3</sup> If the global health sector were a country, it would be the fifth-largest emitter on the planet.<sup>4</sup> With U.S. greenhouse gas emissions rising by an estimated six percent between 2010 and 2018, it is clear that all actors in the health care system have roles to play in addressing their contributions to the climate crisis.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, the Ways and Means Committee requests input on the ways your organization integrates climate-related policies into daily operations, in addition to your future plans in this area. Please review the PDF of questions attached, gather relevant information across your organization, and respond to the request for information electronically at [REDACTED] by the end of the day on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Please note that the Ways and Means Committee may choose to publish the results from this request for information (RFI) on its [website](#).

<sup>1</sup> John Balbus et al., *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*, GLOBALCHANGE.GOV (2016), [https://health2016.globalchange.gov/high/ClimateHealth2016\\_FullReport.pdf](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/high/ClimateHealth2016_FullReport.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Matthew J. Eckelman & Jodi Sherman, *Environmental Impacts of the U.S. Health Care System and Effects on Public Health*, 11:6 PLOS ONE (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0157014>.

<sup>3</sup> Mathew J. Eckelman et al., *Health Care Pollution and Public Health Damage in The United States: An Update*, 39:12 HEALTH AFFAIRS (2020), <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01247>.

<sup>4</sup> Josh Karliner et al., *Health Care's Climate Footprint*, HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM (Sept. 2019), [https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint\\_090619.pdf](https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint_090619.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Mathew J. Eckelman et al., *Health Care Pollution and Public Health Damage in The United States: An Update*, 39:12 HEALTH AFFAIRS (2020), <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01247>.

Tackling the climate crisis requires a commitment from all sectors. Our nation's health care sector strives to keep people healthy, and that includes protecting Americans from the impacts of the climate crisis. Your responses will be vital in helping us develop policies and supports to promote climate action in the health care sector. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. For additional questions, including questions or assistance with responding to the RFI, please contact the Committee on Ways and Means Majority staff at [healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov](mailto:healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "E".

Richard E. Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means

## Climate Crisis: Request for Information

### Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for answering the following questions about your organization's work to combat the climate crisis. Please note that the Ways and Means Committee may choose to publish the results from this survey on its website <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/>.

If you need to change your answer to a previous question before final submission, please use the "PREV" button at the bottom of the page rather than the "BACK" button on your computer's browser.

Questions on the online survey will flow based on your answers, so the question numbers on your PDF version may differ slightly from the online survey. Please note that questions marked with an asterisk are required, and you will not be able to move on to the rest of the survey without first answering the question.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov](mailto:healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov). We look forward to receiving your responses by the end of the day on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

### PART I – Overview of Organization and Climate-Focused Leadership

The following questions will provide us with information about your organization's leadership and the ways you dedicate organizational resources to address the climate crisis.

\* 1. What is the name of your organization?

\* 2. Which of the following best describes your organization?

- Health System (e.g., at least one hospital and at least one group of physicians in one organization)
- Multi-hospital Health System (i.e., two or more hospitals owned by the same organization)
- Independent Hospital
- Other (please specify)
- Nursing Home Corporation (i.e., multiple nursing facilities under same corporation)
- Independent Nursing Home

\* 3. What type of facility/facilities is/are in your organization?

*(Check all that apply)*

- Urban Hospital
- Rural Hospital
- Teaching Hospital
- Disproportionate Share Hospital
- Other (please specify)
- Special Hospital Type (e.g., Rural Referral Center, Sole Community Hospital, Medicare-Dependent Hospital)
- Critical Access Hospital
- Inpatient Rehabilitation or Long-Term Care Hospital
- Skilled Nursing Facility or Nursing Facility

\* 4. Please select all geographic regions where your facilities are located.

*(Check all that apply)*

- New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT)
- Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, and PA)
- East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI)
- West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, and SD)
- South Atlantic (DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, and WV)
- East South Central (AL, KY, MS, and TN)
- West South Central (AR, LA, OK, and TX)
- Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY)
- Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, and WA)
- U.S. Territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- Outside of the U.S.

\* 5. What is your organization's ownership type?

- For-profit
- Non-profit
- Government-owned

\* 6. Please list your Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) if you use one:

- No GPO used
- GPO (please specify)

\* 7. Are the following issues standing agenda items for your organization's board?

*(Check all that apply)*

- The impact of the climate crisis on your organization
- The impact of your organization on the climate crisis
- Neither

\* 8. Please describe the topic areas of your standing board-level discussions on the following climate-related issues. If one of these topics is not a standing agenda item, please explain why not.

*(Each response limited to 500 words)*

The climate crisis's impact on your organization

The impact of your organization on the climate crisis

\* 9. Please explain why climate-related issues are not standing agenda items for your organization's board.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 10. Does your organization have any established working groups at the executive level assessing the following issues?

*(Check all that apply)*

- The climate crisis's impact on your organization
- The impact of your organization on the climate crisis
- Neither

\* 11. Please describe the goals and responsibilities of the executive-level climate working group(s) focused on these climate-related issues.

*(Response limited to 750 words)*

\* 12. Please explain why you do not have any established working groups for climate related issues at the executive level.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

13. Does your organization have any dedicated staff at the system, leadership, and/or corporate levels in charge of assessing the following:

*(Check all that apply)*

- The impact of the climate crisis on your organization in an ongoing capacity
- The impact of your organization on the climate crisis in an ongoing capacity
- Neither

\* 14. Please describe the following for each employee at the system, leadership, and/or corporate levels dedicated to climate-related issues:

- Professional background
- Roles and responsibilities
- Reporting Structure
- When the role was established

\* 15. Approximately how many full-time equivalents (FTEs) across the entire system are dedicated to the ongoing assessment of climate-related issues?

*(Answer must be a decimal number (e.g. 2.0))*

\* 16. Does your organization have formal plans to dedicate new or additional expert staff to ongoing assessment of the following:

*(Check all that apply)*

- The impact of the climate crisis on your organization
- The impact of your organization on the climate crisis
- None of the above

## PART II – Impact of the Climate Crisis on Your Organization and Its Operations

**Impacts of the climate crisis – from the increase in wildfires, to excessive heat and severe drought, to other cataclysmic weather events – have negatively affected many communities and businesses, interrupting operations, saddling organizations with unexpected costs or operational challenges, and otherwise harming mission-critical work. The following questions explore the impact of the climate crisis on your organization and your response.**

\* 17. Please estimate the number of times climate-related weather events (e.g., fires, hurricanes, heat waves, etc.) have affected your organization's operations in the last **five** years.

\*Answer includes a drop down menu with the following options: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, more than 5

\* 18. Please list the top five most catastrophic climate-related weather events that have affected your organization's operations in the last five years. Please explain the type of event; the locations affected; and how your organization's physical structures, staffing, and ability to maintain quality of care were affected. For each event, please also include the estimated monetary cost to your organization.

*(Each response limited to 500 words)*

Event 1	<input type="text"/>
Event 2	<input type="text"/>
Event 3	<input type="text"/>
Event 4	<input type="text"/>
Event 5	<input type="text"/>

19. If there are other climate-related weather events you would like to describe, please upload the information here.

*(Single file upload only)*

\* 20. Has your organization created a climate action plan to respond to climate-related weather events that disrupt the delivery of care?

Yes

No

\* 21. Please upload your current climate action plan here.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

### PART III – Impact of your Organization's Operations on the Climate Crisis

**These questions examine the extent to which your organization understands its impact on the climate and the steps you have taken to mitigate those effects. It will also explore supports that could assist your organization in addressing its climate impact.**

\* 22. President Biden has set the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for the U.S. economy by no later than 2050, limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and adapting to the acute and chronic impacts of the climate crisis.

Does your state or locality where you are headquartered or have your principal place of business have additional climate-related goals, including, but not limited to, goals that reduce carbon emissions more quickly than the ones identified by the White House?

Yes

No

\* 23. Please describe the steps your organization is specifically taking (or has taken) to meet these federal, state, and/or local goals.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 24. Is your organization in a position to achieve more quickly (or has already achieved) any of the targets established by federal, state, and/or local government?

Yes

No

\* 25. Please list your current target dates for meeting each of the federal, state, and/or local goals. If you have already met these goals, please include the date here.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

**The following questions take a more in-depth look at your organization's current impact on the climate crisis and steps you have taken to mitigate that impact.**

\* 26. Does your organization track its carbon emissions?

Yes

No

\* 27. Please provide an estimate of your direct and indirect fossil fuel emissions and the proportion across [Scopes 1, 2, and 3](#), to the extent applicable to your tracking system.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

28. Please upload any additional information here.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

\* 29. Does your organization have internal sustainability targets to guide operations in a manner that will reduce your carbon footprint?

Yes

No

\* 30. When were these sustainability targets established?

\* 31. Are these sustainability targets publicly disclosed?

Yes

No

\* 32. Please list your organization's specific internal sustainability targets and the metrics used for each target.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

33. Please upload any additional information here.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

\* 34. Does your organization have future plans (within the next two to three years) to adopt new or additional sustainability targets to guide your internal operations?

Yes

No

\* 35. Please describe these new or additional sustainability targets.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 36. Please describe why you do not have plans to adopt new or additional sustainability targets.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 37. Please list the three most significant challenges your organization faces when considering opportunities to reduce its carbon footprint. If none, please respond "None" in one of the boxes below.

*(Each response limited to 50 words)*

Challenge 1

Challenge 2

Challenge 3

*The following questions will examine your organization's use of outside tools and resources to assist with your efforts to mitigate its impact on the climate crisis.*

\* 38. Does your organization participate in any programs (public or private) that assist you in meeting climate-related goals by offering resources, guidance, or economic incentives to transition to renewable electricity, investing in building and vehicle electrification, or otherwise aiding in efforts to reduce your organization's carbon footprint?

Yes

No

\* 39. Please list and describe any federal, state, or local assistance programs or incentives your organization has used. Please provide a count of type (e.g., tax, grant, technical assistance) and amount (dollar value) at each level (federal, state, and local).

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 40. Please describe cost savings your organization has achieved from using any of these programs or incentives (e.g., lower energy bills, reduced transportation costs).

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 41. If your organization has experienced any obstacles in accessing federal, state, or local assistance programs aimed to reduce your carbon footprint (e.g., lack of awareness of programs or lack of central repository of information), please describe and prioritize those challenges below. If none, please respond "None" below.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 42. Has your organization used any verifiable, industry-standard tools or resources (e.g., [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)'s Energy Star Program](#), [The Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#) or [Science-Based Targets](#)) to help you measure your carbon footprint?

Yes

No

\* 43. Please list each of these tools and describe how you have utilized each.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

44. Please upload any additional information on these tools.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

\* 45. If you listed more than one tool or resource, which have you found most useful to achieving your carbon footprint-related goals and why?

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

#### PART IV – Workforce Impact on Carbon Footprint

**These questions address your organization's efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of your workforce.**

\* 46. Does your organization have any incentives or programs in place to address the carbon footprint of your workforce (e.g., public transportation subsidies or bike share memberships)?

Yes

No

\* 47. Please list each current incentive or program your organization has in place to address the carbon footprint of your workforce and what percentage of the workforce uses each.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 48. What percentage of your workforce utilizes at least one of your organization's current incentives or programs that attempt to reduce the carbon footprint of your workforce?

Do Not Track 100

\* 49. Please list and describe work your organization has done in your community (as part of a coalition or individually) to enhance access to services to reduce the carbon footprint of your workforce, such as expanded transit options or other transportation modalities. If not, please reply "None".

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 50. What are the three most significant barriers to reducing the carbon footprint of your workforce?

*(Each response limited to 500 words)*

Barrier 1

Barrier 2

Barrier 3

***The next set of questions addresses the relationship between costs related to the impact of the climate crisis on your organization and your organization's efforts to mitigate its impact on the climate crisis.***

\* 51. Has your organization compared the cost impacts of weather-related climate incidents on your operations relative to the outlays and savings (real or estimated) associated with mitigating your organization's impact on the climate crisis?

Yes

No

\* 52. Please share any high-level findings from these cost comparison analyses.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

53. Please upload any additional information on these cost comparisons.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

## PART V – Holding External Partners Accountable for Climate-Related Impacts

**These questions address the steps your organization has taken to hold external partners (e.g., business partners, suppliers, or contractors) accountable for their respective carbon footprints.**

\* 54. For approximately what proportion of your business partners, suppliers, and/or contractors does your organization have sustainability targets?

0%

>0% to 25%

>25% to 50%

>50% to 75%

>75% to <100%

100%

\* 55. Please list the external partners for which you do **not** have sustainability targets as well as why you do **not** have established targets for each.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 56. Please list the external partners for which you have sustainability targets and what the targets are for each.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 57. For each type of relationship, please describe how you enforce sustainability targets for external partners. Please be specific about any reimbursement mechanisms used.

*(Response limited to 750 words)*

\* 58. When were these sustainability targets for external partners established? Please be specific for each type of relationship if these dates vary.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 59. Are your sustainability targets for your external partners publicly disclosed?

Yes

No

60. Please upload additional information on sustainability targets for your external partners here.

*(Single file upload only)*

Choose File

\* 61. Does your organization have future plans (within the next two to three years) to adopt new or additional sustainability targets for your interactions with your external partners?

Yes

No

\* 62. Please list and describe your plans to implement the new or additional sustainability targets for your external partners, to the extent they have already been developed.

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

\* 63. Please describe why you do not have plans to adopt new or additional sustainability targets for your interactions with external partners.

*Response limited to 500 words)*

## Climate Crisis: Request for Information

### PART VI – Final Thoughts

**These questions will address any other information you may want to provide to the Committee on Ways and Means, including proposed policy solutions to help assist with climate related issues.**

\* 64. Please describe any additional federal, state, and/or local policies that would assist your organization in responding to and/or mitigating your impacts on the climate crisis.

*(Each response limited to 500 words)*

Federal

State

Local

\* 65. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your organization's work to address the climate crisis?

*(Response limited to 500 words)*

66. Please upload any other information that you would like to share with the Committee related to the climate crisis.

*(Single file upload per question, additional upload links below)*

Choose File

67. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File

68. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File

69. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File