



Competence Center
Climate and Health

Agenda
Health Promotion

The Austrian Strategy Towards a Net Zero Healthcare System

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29th Healthcare Towards The Green Path

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Agenda
Health Promotion

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection

Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH 



Global Costs Climate Crisis

38 trillion dollars p.a.

Source: Kotz, Levermann, Wenz 2024

Photo: Freepik

Footprint



Credit: Colin Behrens, Pixabay



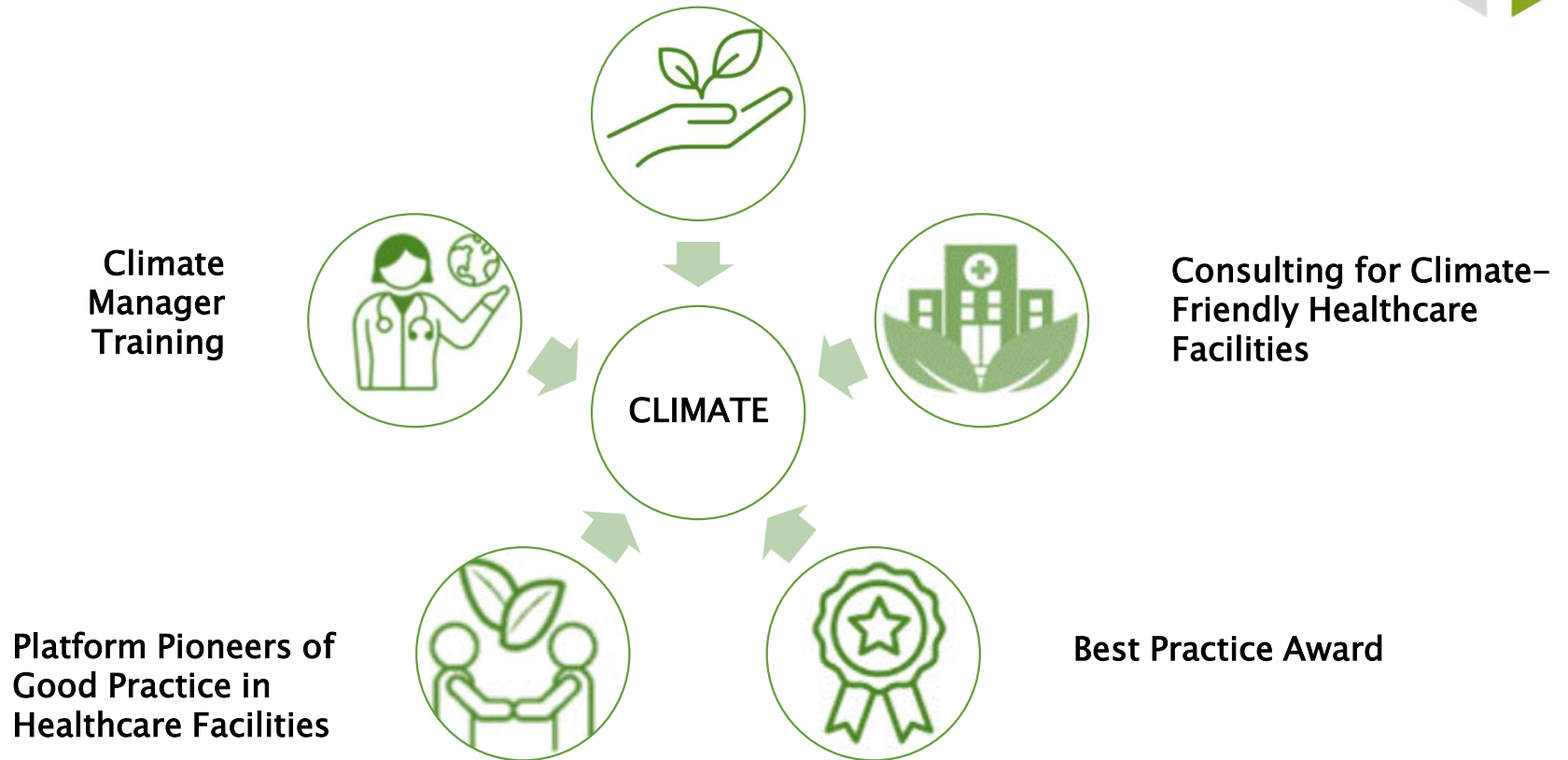
Health Sector
6.7 Percent of the Austrian national footprint

Source: Weisz et al. 2020

Big Five



Strategy Net Zero Healthcare System





Project “Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System”



Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System



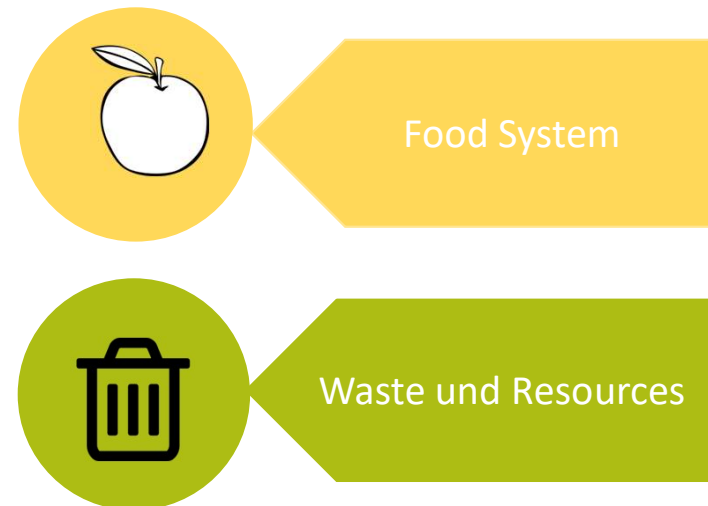
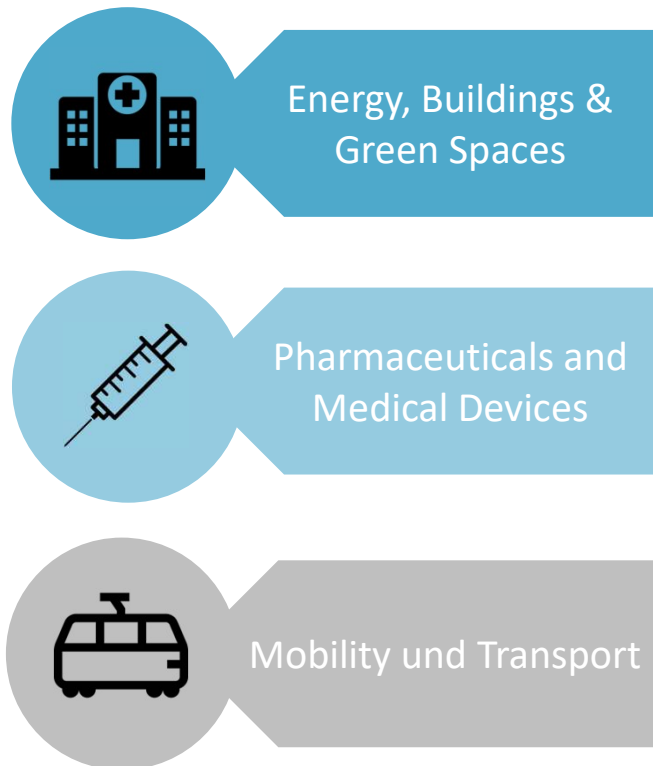
The strategy aims to tackle health services and to reduce their emissions, optimize their efficiency and environmental performance, in order to significantly promote the transformation to climate neutrality on a broad basis.

Analysis and definition of the framework conditions, fields of action and options for action for the structural anchoring of climate protection in the healthcare sector

Key elements and the way to the strategy:

- Engaging Experts and Stakeholders
- Presentation “Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System” on 24th of October, 2023
 - Johannes Rauch, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
 - Leonore Gewessler, Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
- Peer Review
- Final Public Presentation on 25th of June, 2024

Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System – Action Fields



Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System – Framework Conditions



Governance



Financing and Funding



Strategic/legal framework conditions



Monitoring and Indicators



Research and Innovation



Awareness raising and Communication



Awards and Certification



Competencies



Digitalization and Telemedicine

Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System





Project “Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities”



Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



Aims:

- Providing the necessary expertise, guidance and support to develop a carbon-neutral healthcare facility from one single source
- Reduction of costs and consequential costs for the healthcare facility and healthcare system as well as for society
- Holistic anchoring of climate protection in the organization
- Health promotion and health protection
- Climate neutrality of healthcare
- Strengthening secure services and resilience

Target groups:

- Hospitals and rehabilitation centres, retirement homes, nursing facilities, day clinics, primary care units, doctor's offices, pharmacies

Healthcare Facilities in the Project



Type of Healthcare Facility	Number
Hospital	70
Rehabilitation Clinic	30
Retirement and Care Facility	98
Outpatient Center	17
Primary Care Unit	14
Doctor's Office	95
Pharmacy	93
TOTAL	417

Source: GÖG, 2024

Project Phases



Phase 1: Document and data analysis
climate action plan with concrete goals and measures

Phase 2: Implementation of measures and support by
consultants

Phase 3: Evaluation of climate action plan and further
development



Fields of Action Addressed



Benefit structure



- **Reduction of energy and resource consumption**
 - Contribution to cost reduction
- **Reduction of CO2 emissions**
 - Contribution to mitigating the climate crisis
 - Reduction of economic consequential costs
- **Creation of a well-founded basis for the holistic integration of climate protection in healthcare facilities**
- **Creation of a climate-friendly and health-promoting environment for employees and patients**
- **Strengthening the image of the healthcare facility**
- **Increasing attractiveness as an employer – employer branding**
- **Strengthening the resilience and security of supply**
- **Results of the evaluation are the basis for further developments and recommendations as well as the derivation of political recommendations for action**

NEW: 350 Million Euros for Energy Efficiency in Healthcare Facilities



Building on the results the project “Climate friendly Healthcare Facilities” of the Competence Centre Climate and Health, the Ministry of Climate Protection (BMK) has developed two new funding schemes together with the Ministry of Health (BMSGPK) and the Competence Centre Climate and Health of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG).

The aim is to raise energy efficiency potentials!

Target groups:

- Hospitals and rehabilitation clinics
- Retirement homes and nursing facilities

The Ministry of Climate Protection has currently reserved up to 350 million euros in funding climate protection until 2030!



Project “Climate Manager Training”



Climate Manager Training



Aims:

- Creation of a training course on climate protection, climate change adaptation, climate change and health promotion
- Sustainable integration and anchoring of climate protection in healthcare facilities and strengthening of resilience

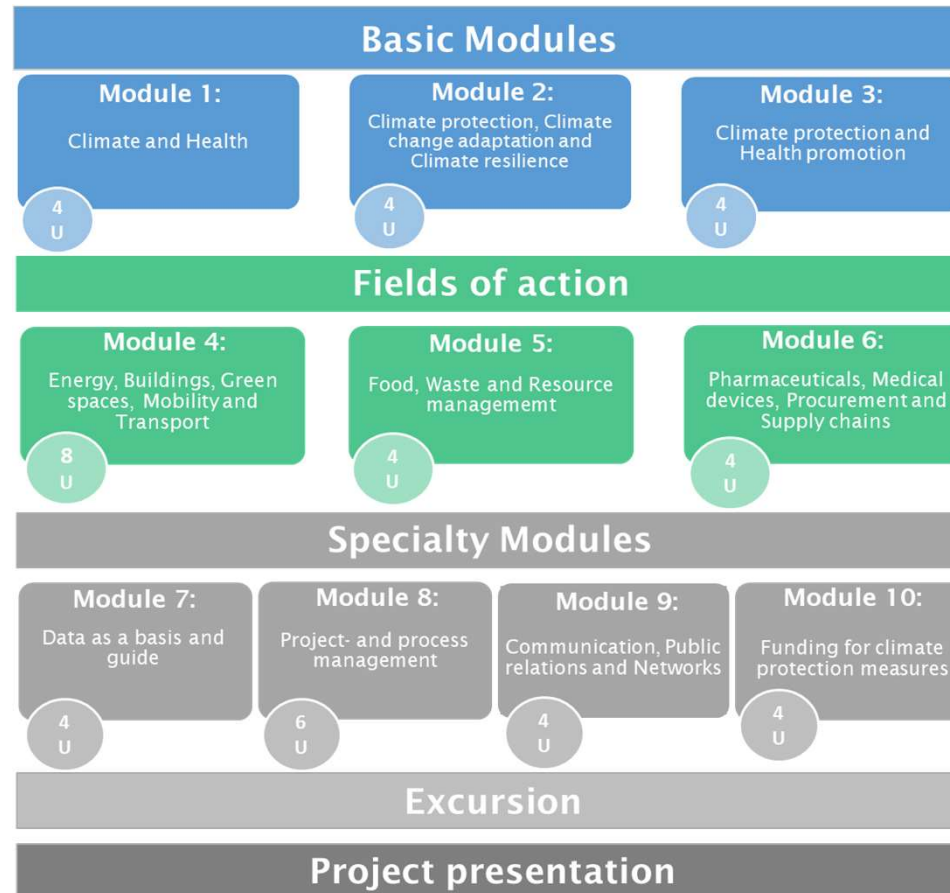
Target groups:

- Employees of healthcare facilities (hospitals, retirement homes and nursing facilities) participating in the project “climate-friendly healthcare facilities”.

Duration and type:

- 10 modules and 46 units
- online learning and in person

Climate Manager Training – Modules



Climate Manager Training





Project

“Best Practice Award: Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities”



Best Practice Award Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



Aims:

- The minister for health gives awards to flagship projects in the healthcare system and showcases how healthcare facilities can become climate friendly and sustainable
- Awards for flagship projects in the healthcare system and showcasing how healthcare facilities can become more climate-friendly
- Identifying innovative projects, establishing a knowledge base and encouraging transfer of knowledge on climate change mitigation between healthcare facilities

Categories:

- Buildings, energy and greenspaces
- Mobility
- Food system
- Waste and resource management and sustainable procurement
- Communication and raising awareness

Best Practice Award Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



- **Assessment and selection of projects by a jury of experts**
- **Overarching evaluation criteria:**
 - contribution to climate change mitigation / achieved reduction of THG emissions
 - innovative character and long-term nature of projects
 - reproducibility of measures and willingness for transfer of knowledge
 - contribution to health promotion
- **Handing over of awards by the Austrian minister for health as part of an award ceremony**
- **Showcasing of awarded projects on a best practice platform**

Best Practice Award Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities





Project

„Platform: Good Practice Pioneers in Healthcare Facilities“



Platform: Good Practice Pioneers in Healthcare Facilities



Aims:

The platform for the 'Pioneers of Good Practice in Healthcare Facilities' aims to promote knowledge transfer, innovation and networking

- Online tool
- Climate action projects of good practice
- Inspiration and motivation

Platform: Good Practice Pioneers in Healthcare Facilities – Example



Explant Recycling: From Medical Product to Secondary Raw Material

[Return to Action Search](#)

Healthcare Facility

Orthopädisches Spital Speising GmbH
Speisinger Straße 109
1130 Wien

Type of Healthcare Facility

Hospitals/ Rehabilitation Clinics

Greenhouse Gas (CO₂eq) Savings

Currently not quantified

Received Awards

Best Practice Award for Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



Best Practice Award

Klimafreundliche
Gesundheitseinrichtungen

Greenhouse Gas Savings (Level)

Moderate to High

Field of Action

Resource and Waste Management

With the patient's consent, the healthcare facility collects explants, such as titanium plates, artificial hips and screws, which are produced during revision operations and are mostly made of high-quality metals such as titanium, iron, aluminium or stainless steel, which are also used in industry. The explants collected are cleaned in-house sterilisation and taken over by a recycling company and melted to ensure that the valuable raw materials remain in the material cycle. The secondary raw materials can be used in new production processes, particularly in the automotive or shipbuilding industries. In the medical sector, the recycled metals can then be used as new implants or prostheses. The collection of high-quality explants is an important contribution to the circular economy and climate protection.

What is necessary and what do we have to do?



- Awareness among stakeholders
- Suitable framework
- Knowledge about how to make the health sector green and sustainable

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Climate protection is health protection

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