

The UPMC Center for Sustainability

From operations to the operating room, the UPMC Center for Sustainability champions environmental responsibility for UPMC, a world-renowned, nonprofit health care provider and insurer committed to delivering exceptional, people-centered care and community services. UPMC's 95,000 employees — including more than 5,000 physicians — care for patients across 40 hospitals and 800 doctors' offices and outpatient sites in Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland, as well as overseas.

Building upon years of targeted initiatives, UPMC formed its Center for Sustainability in August 2022 and named chief medical and administrative sustainability officers. Less than a year later, the Center for Sustainability is fully staffed and works across UPMC departments from supply chain to food services.

UPMC was the lead sponsor for CleanMed 2023, an international conference dedicated to healthcare sustainability, and continues its leadership among academic medical centers with the development of a strategic plan outlining short- and long-term initiatives.

[Read further to learn about UPMC Center for Sustainability's top initiatives.](#)



The new UPMC Mercy Pavilion is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.



UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh has been honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for tree planting and education programs.

UPMC | **CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY**



Top Sustainability Initiatives

The Center for Sustainability fully embraces a bold vision for a more sustainable UPMC. Below are aspirational goals for 2024 and beyond.

REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT



Reduce the system's carbon footprint by 50% by 2030, and work toward net zero emissions by 2050.

UPMC signed the White House and U.S. Health and Human Services' health care sustainability pledge and joined the Green Building Alliance's 2030 regional challenges for Pittsburgh and Erie.

FACILITIES



Increase building efficiency and use of renewable energy.

Three strategic projects will be in process by 2025 in the areas of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

FOOD AND NUTRITION



Reduce food waste and increase use of plant-based foods.

Plant-forward themed days begin in all UPMC cafeterias in 2024. Systemwide goals by 2030 include diverting 90% of food waste from landfills through donations and composting.

SUPPLY CHAIN



Source sustainably and think reuse.

Short-term goals include incorporating sustainability into all purchasing contracts by 2025, identifying recycled content, packaging, and sourcing information.

TRANSPORTATION



Expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, continue with environmentally friendly transport vehicles, and encourage alternative forms of transportation.

Many facets of transportation – including EV strategies, delivery logistics, operations, ambulance services, and employee commuting – are an important part of UPMC's carbon footprint and sustainability planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Increase recycling and decrease waste.

UPMC is enhancing recycling through source separation and creating systemwide processes for reuse, reprocessing, and donation.

SURGICAL SERVICES



Refine supply lists and reduce use of anesthetic gases.

UPMC eliminated use of desflurane in 2023 and will reduce use of nitrous oxide by 15% in 2024.

COMMUNITY



Increase number of sustainability teams at UPMC hospitals.

Hospital sustainability teams engage employees, assist with pilot projects, and help to develop and track metrics. The Center for Sustainability is working toward having teams at all 40 UPMC hospitals by 2025.

AWARENESS



Grow national and international recognition for sustainability leadership and models of care.

UPMC executive leadership is committed to incorporating sustainable and environmentally friendly care models across clinical decision-making.

To learn more about the Center for Sustainability, visit UPMC.com/Sustainability. UPMC employees can also find program and event information via Infonet, Daily Extra, and Viva Engage.
