

Kaiser Permanente's 2025 Environmental Stewardship Goals



As the nation's largest integrated health system, Kaiser Permanente is committed to a healthy environment through responsible stewardship and sustainability practices. Climate change poses a significant threat to human health by affecting our food and water sources, air quality, weather patterns, and interactions with the built and natural environments. As climate change accelerates, the risks to human health continue to grow. In 2016, Kaiser Permanente pledged to achieve 7 goals aimed at raising the bar on environmental responsibility by 2025.

"Our 2025 goals define an even more striking future that inspires us and can raise the performance of the health care sector and broader economy in the U.S. and globally."

– Kathy Gerwig, Vice President,
Environmental Stewardship Officer

7 BOLD GOALS



CLIMATE ACTION On its way to being carbon net positive, Kaiser Permanente signed renewable energy agreements in 2018 that will enable it to become carbon neutral in 2020, and the largest renewable energy purchaser in the U.S. health care sector.



SUSTAINABLE FOOD Buy all of its food locally or from farms and producers that use sustainable practices, including administering antibiotics responsibly. Of the dollars spent on food, 34% currently goes towards purchasing sustainable food.



WASTE REDUCTION Recycle, reuse, or compost 100% of its non-hazardous waste. Kaiser Permanente recycles 42% of its non-hazardous waste, and safely remanufactures nearly 325 tons of medical devices annually.



WATER CONSERVATION Reduce the amount of water it uses by 25% per square foot of buildings. Since 2013, it has reduced its water use by 11%.



SAFER PRODUCTS Increase its purchase of products and materials that meet stringent environmental standards to 50%.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY Meet international standards for environmental management at all its hospitals. In 2018, 2 hospitals implemented environmental management systems that conform with the ISO 14001 standard.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION Pursue new collaborations to reduce environmental risks to the foodsheds, watersheds, and air basins supplying its communities. Kaiser Permanente helped found the California Health Care Climate Alliance to focus on state policy in support of climate-smart health care.

Southern California: Environmental Goals in Action

To continue making progress on its environmental goals, Kaiser Permanente is developing new strategies in operations, investments, grant making, public policy, research, and community collaborations. These innovative solutions are evident in every state where Kaiser Permanente provides health care services.

Let's take a closer look at how Kaiser Permanente members in Southern California are benefiting from these sustainable practices at Kaiser Permanente hospitals and medical offices.



CLIMATE ACTION

I pull into Orange County-Irvine Medical Center and park my car at the hospital's electric vehicle charging station. I head to my appointment and notice solar panels on the building's parking garage.

- 26 facilities in Southern California host onsite solar panels, and offer 93 electric vehicle charging stations
- This Medical Center balances its energy consumption with electricity generated from a wind turbine and solar thermal panels



WASTE REDUCTION

After my appointment, my doctor discards a needle into a reusable sharps container and disposes of a compression sleeve that will be remanufactured and repurchased for future use.

- Southern California reuses, recycles, or composts 44% of the nonhazardous waste it generates
- Annually, Southern California collects roughly 116 tons of single-use medical devices and then repurchases these items from an FDA-approved remanufacturer



WATER CONSERVATION

In the restroom after my appointment, I wash my hands under automatic faucets that minimize wasted water. On my way out, I take a few pumps of hand lotion that is free from chemicals like triclosan and triclocarban.

- Water use intensity declined across facilities in Southern California by 6% between 2013-2018



SAFER PRODUCTS

I check in for my appointment and relax in the patient waiting room on furniture free of harmful chemicals (such as fluorochemical additives, added microbial agents, and chemical flame retardants). My feet rest on flooring and carpet that is free of PVC, a plastic that uses toxic chemicals and causes pollution during its production and disposal.

- All gloves, vascular catheters, and breast pump equipment are 100% free of the harmful chemicals PVC and DEHP



SUSTAINABLE FOOD

I order a healthy meal at Medical Center's cafe, choosing from antibiotic-free chicken, grass-fed beef, or sustainably-sourced seafood. I take my meal to go in 100% compostable carry out containers.

- 33% of food purchased for Southern California facilities is sourced locally or from farms and producers that use sustainable practices