

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

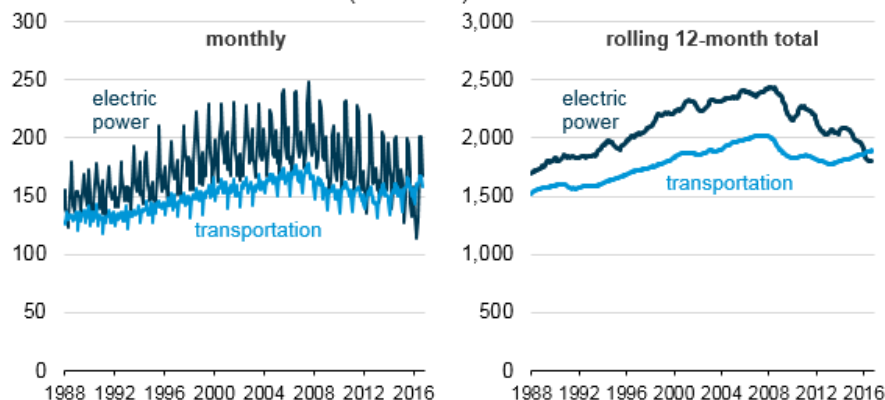
Transportation Toolkit

Why health care must track transportation, set a goal, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Transportation is the No. 1 contributor of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. As major employers with complex supply chain logistics, hospitals are well positioned to reduce transportation GHGs by influencing employee commutes, transitioning to low- or zero-emission fleet vehicles, and scrutinizing supply chain distribution practices.

More than 76 percent of U.S. workers drive alone to and from work daily in cars and light-duty trucks, which comprise 60 percent of the transportation sector's GHG footprint. In 2017, Americans drove an estimated 1.3 billion miles in vehicles that were 95 percent reliant on petroleum, according to the U.S.

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions (Jan 1988 - Sep 2016)
million metric tons of carbon dioxide (MMmt CO₂)



Source: <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=29612>

The atmospheric, financial, and medical evidence is irrefutable: When we eliminate the air pollution from fossil fuels associated with tailpipe emissions, we greatly reduce some of our most expensive and tragic health care challenges: premature death, neurological disorders, chronic bronchitis, asthma, cardiovascular and their associated emergency room visits, and much more, while protecting brain and lung development in the very young and improving life expectancy.

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SENIOR DIRECTOR OF HEALTH CARE, GREEN BUILDING, AND ENERGY, HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM

Census Bureau and Department of Transportation. Nearly 123 million Americans live in communities with pollution levels that exceed the [EPA's national air quality standards](#). According to the [World Health Organization](#), the known adverse public health impacts of current transportation systems and resulting exposure to air pollution include asthma and respiratory illness, heart disease and stroke, cancer, low birth weight and prematurity, infant mortality and decrease in male fertility, nervous system and inflammatory reactions, premature death, and traffic injuries.

This toolkit will help you:

1. Create a project team to set a baseline and conduct an annual assessment for:
 - a. Employee commutes
 - b. Fleet vehicle management
 - c. Supply chain practices
2. Set goals for selected transportation categories
3. Identify strategies to make progress and meet transportation goals

Toolkit resources:

Practice Greenhealth members have access to the full [Transportation Toolkit](#) with health care-specific resources, including:

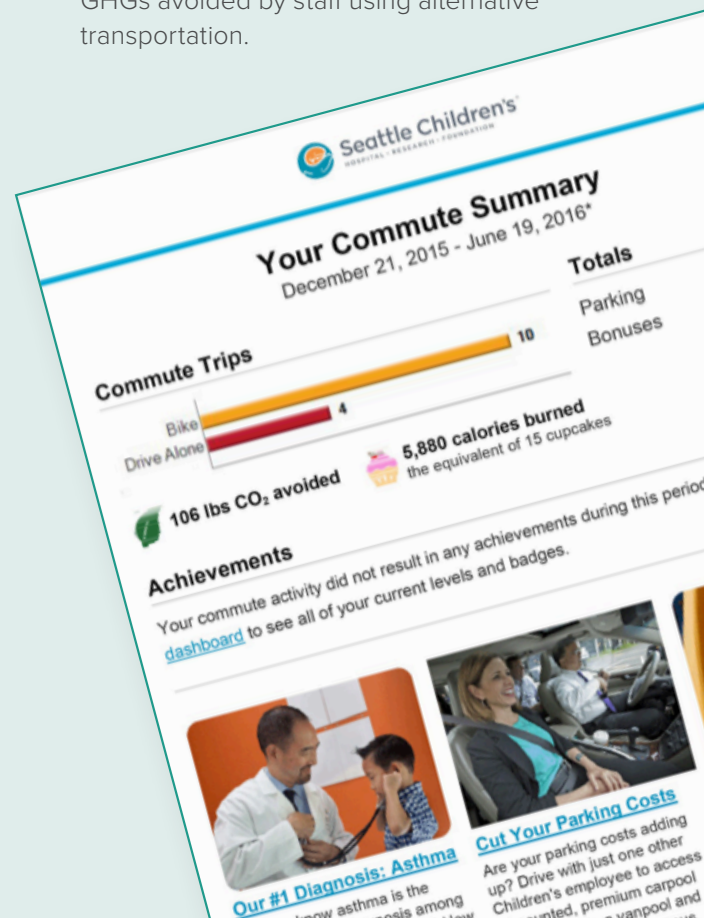
- Get-started guide with suggested goals
- Checklist to identify strategies toward progress
- Sample employee commute survey
- Example policies, posters, and educational materials from Practice Greenhealth members
- Case studies from Practice Greenhealth members working on transportation strategies
- Additional resources such as webinars, cohort learning groups, and one-on-one support are available through Practice Greenhealth membership

The EPA provides general tools and resources on [transportation, air pollution, and climate change](#).



Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Seattle Children's Hospital's award-winning transportation program continues to drive down single-occupancy vehicle commuting by their staff using a mix of incentives (alternative commute bonuses, subsidized bus passes, bike program, pedestrian and bike-friendly campus) along with disincentives (parking rate increases). They also send staff personal commute profiles, including calories burned and greenhouse gas emissions. The profiles are generated by a third-party platform that calculates GHGs avoided by staff using alternative transportation.



Let Practice Greenhealth help you lead change in your hospital. To get started today, email membership@practicegreenhealth.org.