



Competence Center
Climate and Health

Agenda
Health Promotion

Transitioning towards an environmentally sustainable health system: experience from Austria

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Global Costs Climate Crisis

38 Trillion Dollars p.a.

Source: Kotz, Levermann, Wenz 2024

Footprint



Credit: Colin Behrens, Pixabay

Health Sector

6.7 Percent of the Austrian national footprint

Pharmaceuticals and medical goods and services
37.5 percent of the footprint of the Austrian health sector

Source: Weisz et al. 2020

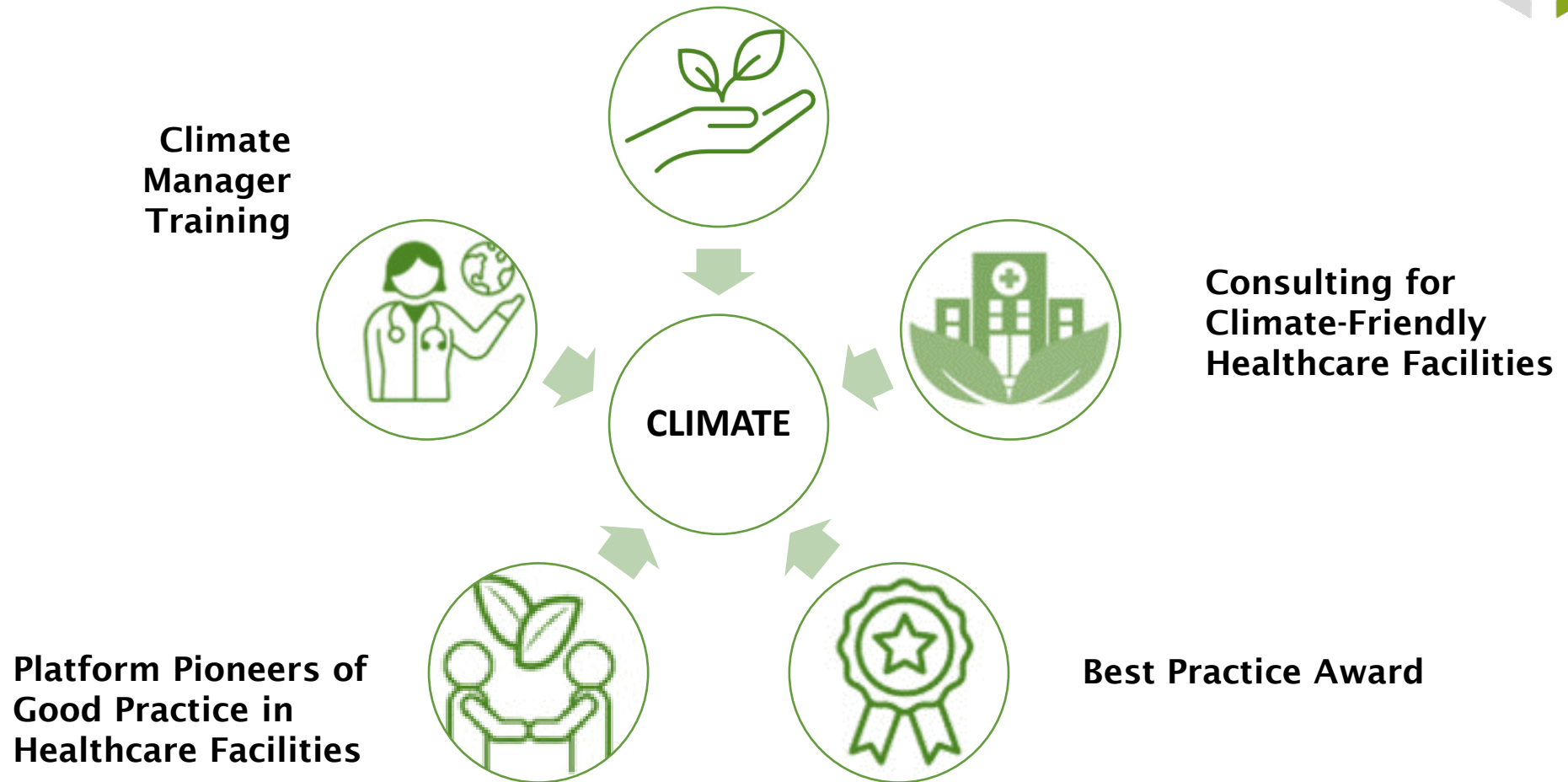


Photos: Lichtenecker, Sayles, Doan

BIG FIVE



Strategy Net Zero Healthcare System



Strategy for a Net Zero Healthcare System



Climate neutrality in the healthcare sector!

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

Role of pharmaceuticals in the project

- Field of action – dedicated to pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Stakeholder and expert workshop on the topic of pharmaceuticals and medical products

Focus & Facts

- Environmental compatibility as a criterion for approval
- sustainable procurement criteria
- nearshoring
- labeling and information system
- environmentally friendly manufacturing process of pharmaceuticals

Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



Providing the necessary expertise, guidance and support to develop a carbon-neutral healthcare facility from one single source. Holistic anchoring of climate protection in the organization.



Target groups

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

405 Healthcare Facilities

93 Pharmacies

The consultation of the health care facilities has three phases: data analysis and climate action plan, support and evaluation

Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



Role of pharmaceuticals in the project

- The project covers eight field of actions: pharmaceuticals are covered in the action fields, buildings and energy, mobility, sustainable procurement, Resource and waste management

Focus & Facts

- renewable energy • strengthen energy efficiency • renovate building • efficient heating systems • e-mobility • better sorting of surgical waste • avoiding waste through reusable packaging • optimising the medication ordering system and warehousing • using medication before expiry date through internal transfer • defining green criteria for procurement processes for medical devices and pharmaceuticals • replacing anaesthetic gases with high greenhouse gas potential with more climate-friendly alternatives
- replacing COPD and asthma metered dose inhalers with high greenhouse gas potential with more climate-friendly alternatives • switching from disposable products to reusable products (incl. creating options for reprocessing) • reducing unnecessary medication (“choosing wisely”) • switching to digital X-ray equipment

Climate Manager Training

Development of a training course on climate protection, climate change adaptation, climate change and health promotion for healthcare facilities employees. Target is the sustainable integration and anchoring of climate protection in healthcare facilities and strengthening of resilience.



Role of pharmaceuticals in the project

- One of the modules covers the topics of pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Projects Group “anaesthetic gas recycling & saving energy”

Focus & Facts

- Sustainable procurement of medical devices & pharmaceuticals • circular systems
- sustainable production

Best Practice Award Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities



The minister for health awards flagship projects in the healthcare system and showcase how healthcare facilities can become climate friendly and sustainable.

Role of pharmaceuticals in the project

- Pharmacies are one of the target groups for the Best Practice Award “climate-friendly healthcare facilities”
- One of the categories is “sustainable procurement and resource management”

Focus & Facts

- 8 pharmacies submitted projects out of which one pharmacy has won an award in the category “communication and raising awareness”
- Two hospitals have won an award for their anaesthetic gas recycling projects

Platform: Good Practice Pioneers in Healthcare Facilities



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


Role of pharmaceuticals in the project

- There are some pharmacies on the platform

Focus & Facts

- Renewable energy and energy saving
- Anaesthetic gas recycling & saving energy” - The aim of this project is a 90% reduction of carbon emissions produced by anaesthetic gas
- The pharmacy Biotheke offers premium consulting services regarding sustainability and climate-related information

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

Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH 



Climate protection is health protection



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