Climate and Healthcare
UNMC and Nebraska Medicine
United States Emissions

- Ranks #2 in the world for CO2 emissions

U.S. Healthcare

- Energy Intensive
  - 24/7/365 business
  - No recirculating air

- Would rank #7 in the world if counted as its own country
In 2013, pollution from U.S. Healthcare resulted in:

470,000 lost YEARS of “healthy” life

We can have a far-reaching, positive impact by reducing emissions
Sustainability at UNMC & Nebraska Medicine

Mission Oriented:
“…Leading the world in transforming lives, creating a healthy future for all individuals and communities…”

We can’t meet our mission without doing this.

Working towards Zero Net Emissions reduces pollution, can demonstrate a direct link to:

- Asthma Attacks
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Premature Death
- Lost Work Days
- Reduced Emergency Room Visits and Hospital Stays

This is healthcare.
Environmental Impacts (2010-17)

• Reductions of 251,384,865 kilowatt hours (kwh)
• Equivalent of 237,338 Metric Tons of CO2
  – GHG Emissions from 50,833 passenger vehicles (581,833,333 miles driven)
  – CO2 Emissions from 26,711,826 gallons of gasoline consumed
  – CO2 Emissions from 35,580 homes’ electricity use for one year
  – Carbon sequestered by 6,152,182 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

Source: EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator
Health Impacts (2010-17)

• Changes from baseline result in reductions of:
  – SO2, 636.63 tons
  – NO2, 477.44 tons
  – CO2, 237,388.43 tons
  – Mercury, 11.38 tons

• Benefit to local health; reducing:
  – Premature death, chronic bronchitis, asthma attacks, hospital visits, respiratory symptoms, & work loss days

• Saves:
  – $ 2,773,534 in Direct Medical Costs
  – $19,853,585 in Societal Value

2030 Sustainability Goals

- **Net zero building emissions**: Reduce energy use in buildings and use only renewable energy sources.

- **Zero Waste**: Divert 90% of materials from the landfill through reuse and recycling.

- **54% reduction of water use**: Water use equal to the amount of water that falls on campus in a year.

LiveGreenNebraska.com
Promoting Biking, Busing, Carpooling, & Walking

- **Free bus pass**
  - New bus benches/shelters around campus

- **Free access to lockers and showers**
  - Free indoor/secure bike parking and additional outdoor racks

- **Free carpool pass**
  - Free carpool matching program

- **Emergency Ride Home**
  - A free and quick ride home is available if an emergency occurs on a day that you bike, bus, carpool, or walk.

- **Risk-Free Trial Period**
  - If you decide to cancel your parking permit, you have a 3-month trial period to request it back for the same parking lot.

- **Daily-Rate Flexible Parking**
  - If you cancel your parking permit, you can use convenient $3 daily-rate flexible parking when you need to drive alone to campus.

Learn more and register at LivegreenNebraska.com/TravelSmart | Contact us: TravelSmart@unmc.edu / 402.559.8580 (ext. 3)
Results:

~500 staff/students have cancelled parking permits

- Numerous people who don’t get parking permits as new employees/student.
- Open stalls on a daily basis from those who have a permit but still participate.
  - Allows overselling of lots, decreases administrative expenses
- New, 600 car parking garage will cost a minimum of $22Million

- Less cars on campus = Less traffic
  - Less congestion around campus
  - Better experience for patients and visitors
  - Decrease in tailpipe emissions
    - Less pollution
    - Increase in health
  - Aligns with “Little Steps Big Impact” campaign
    - EPA air quality standard with economic impacts
Active Transportation

Numerous health benefits to participants

• Lower Stress Levels
  • More time to do something else
  • No traffic/weather concerns
  • Time to finish work or decompress

• Increases Physical Activity
  • Use this time instead of going to gym, essentially multitasking
  • Weight loss/lower BP
  • Decreases risk for diabetes, heart disease, cancer
  • Lowers health care costs
1,500 Solar Panels
0.5MW total on 3 buildings, is the largest rooftop solar array in Nebraska
Equal the average annual electricity use of 60 Omaha homes