



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Sustainability Strategic Plan

2026 - 2030

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030



Our Commitment

At Loma Linda University Health, our commitment to whole person care recognizes that the health of individuals and communities is closely connected to the condition of the environment in which they live. This plan is intended to guide sustainability efforts across Loma Linda University Health, encompassing Loma Linda University and its affiliated hospitals. Rooted in our mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, we seek to promote health and well-being in ways that sustain both people and the natural environment. Our institutional strategic plan reflects this responsibility, affirming our commitment, both organizationally and personally, to reducing our carbon footprint and adopting strategies that protect our God-given natural environment. Environmental sustainability is therefore not separate from our work. It is an important way to protect health, reduce environmental health risks, and ensure that future generations can thrive.

As a major healthcare provider, academic institution, and anchor institution in the Inland Empire, Loma Linda University Health has both an opportunity and a responsibility to lead. The environmental challenges facing our region, including extreme heat, wildfires, air quality concerns, water scarcity, and energy disruptions, have real implications for community health and for the reliability of healthcare delivery. Addressing these challenges requires both reducing our environmental impact and strengthening the resilience of the health system and the communities we serve.

This Sustainability Strategic Framework outlines priorities to guide our work across three key areas, which are intended to be advanced concurrently. First, we seek to foster a culture of sustainability through governance, engagement, and transparency. Second, we aim to integrate sustainability into clinical, operational, and facilities practices where meaningful improvements in environmental performance and operational efficiency can be achieved. Third, we will strengthen institutional and community resilience to environmental and climate-related risks so that our health system and our region are better prepared to respond to disruptions. This framework is intended to guide sustainability efforts across Loma Linda University Health over the next five years.

Implementation will be guided by the Environmental Sustainability Committee in collaboration with leaders and teams across the health system and university. Progress will be tracked through sustainability dashboards, benchmarking tools, and ongoing collaboration across departments to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation.

Through these efforts, Loma Linda University Health will embed sustainability more deeply into the way we care, lead, and serve. This work is about more than reducing harm. It is about building a health system that is wiser in its use of resources, stronger in the face of change, and more responsive to the needs of the communities around us. In doing so, we can help shape a healthier, more resilient, and more hopeful future for the Inland Empire.



GOAL

Advance climate-smart, sustainable practices across Loma Linda University Health to improve health outcomes, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen institutional and community resilience to climate-related risks.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Foster a culture of sustainability through governance, engagement, and transparency

Initiative	Actions
Strengthen governance and leadership alignment	Advance enterprise sustainability governance through the Environmental Sustainability Committee and executive leadership.
Set measurable environmental performance targets	Establish system-wide targets for greenhouse gas reduction, waste diversion, energy intensity, and water use aligned with national healthcare climate commitments.
Build accountability through data and benchmarking	Develop and maintain sustainability dashboards to track progress, support decision-making, and enable transparent reporting over time. Submit annual benchmarking data through Practice Greenhealth.
Establish structured clinician engagement pathways	Build awareness and implementation capacity within clinical departments, create channels to capture frontline ideas, and support clinician-led sustainability initiatives within care delivery.
Expand staff, faculty, and student engagement	Provide structured education opportunities and participation pathways to increase awareness and shared ownership of sustainability goals. Offer opportunities for hands-on engagement, such as volunteer activities, campus and community initiatives, and sustainability-focused events.
Advance research and education	Support research, clinical education, and student engagement related to climate change, environmental health, and sustainable healthcare delivery.
Establish internal sustainability recognition program	Create awards to recognize departments, clinicians, staff, and learners who demonstrate leadership and measurable impact in advancing sustainability initiatives.
Institutionalize sustainability in communications and workforce practices	Share regular internal updates on sustainability progress through established communication channels. Integrate sustainability into human resource and recruitment practices to reinforce shared responsibility across roles.
Elevate external engagement and thought leadership	Share sustainability progress and lessons learned through conference presentations, articles, academic journals, professional networks, and community forums.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Integrate sustainability into clinical, operational, and facilities practices

Initiative	Actions
Advance energy efficiency and clean energy	Improve building performance, reduce energy intensity, and expand renewable energy across hospitals and university facilities where feasible and financially responsible.
Reduce emissions from clinical care	<p>Prioritize anesthetic gas reduction and operating room improvements while maintaining patient safety, quality, and clinical effectiveness.</p> <p>Expand clinical decarbonization efforts beyond anesthetic gases to include low-carbon care pathways, reduction of unnecessary resource use, telehealth where clinically appropriate, and sustainable operating room practices.</p>
Strengthen waste reduction and circularity	Expand reuse, reprocessing, recycling, and waste prevention initiatives and improve consistency in waste measurement and practices across facilities.
Advance water stewardship	Implement operational efficiency measures and strengthen tracking of water use across clinical and campus operations.
Advance sustainable food systems	Prioritize sustainable food sourcing, expand wholesome edible food recovery, and reduce food waste through composting, donation, and improved purchasing practices.
Embed sustainability in supply chain and procurement	Advance environmentally preferable purchasing, reduce unnecessary single-use items, and increase visibility into chemicals of concern and vendor environmental practices. Collaborate with suppliers to increase transparency on product lifecycle impacts, reduce packaging and waste, and prioritize vendors with science-based climate commitments.
Support lower-emission commuting and fleet transition	Improve access to alternative commuting options including expanding access to rideshare, transit, and active transportation, increase alternative-fuel and electric fleet vehicles, and align transportation strategies with workforce and regional conditions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Build institutional and community resilience to environmental and climate-related risks

Initiative	Actions
Strengthen infrastructure and energy resilience	<p>Assess facility vulnerability to power shutoffs, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding, and improve backup power reliability, critical system redundancy, and filtration capacity.</p> <p>Incorporate climate risk, emissions reduction, and resilience considerations into capital planning and infrastructure investments.</p>
Enhance continuity of clinical operations	<p>Integrate climate-related scenarios into emergency preparedness and supply chain continuity planning.</p> <p>Identify and safeguard critical clinical functions to mitigate interruptions in patient care during environmental emergencies.</p>
Support workforce resilience and safety	<p>Strengthen protections and operational support for staff during extreme heat, poor air quality, and other environmental disruptions.</p>
Advance community health resilience	<p>Identify climate-related health risks in the communities we serve and align prevention, outreach, and community benefit efforts to reduce vulnerability.</p>
Reduce climate-related health disparities	<p>Prioritize climate and environmental health interventions that reduce disparities in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution, extreme heat, and other climate-related risks.</p>
Integrate climate-informed patient education into clinical care	<p>Provide patient education on heat, air quality, and emergency preparedness, particularly for vulnerable populations and those dependent on medical equipment.</p>
Strengthen regional partnerships and anchor leadership	<p>Collaborate with public health agencies, local governments, and community partners to support coordinated resilience planning and response.</p>



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**Many Strengths.
One Mission.**