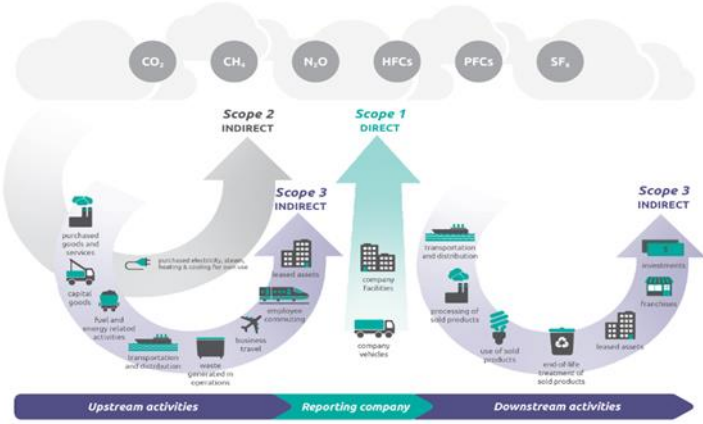


## Climate Change: Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Melina Ovchian; MelinaO@wsha.org</b>
<b>Measure eligibility:</b>	All acute care hospitals that participate in MQI are eligible to complete this metric
<b>Clinical Rationale:</b>	<p>The Climate Change initiative for 2024 builds upon the progress made in 2022 and 2023, which received significant attention from the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA’s) Board, Safety and Quality Committee for the MQI Program. For the 2024 MQI, the focus for hospitals will be on implementing a phased yearly approach for a more sustainable, long-term strategy to address the reduction in greenhouse gasses as part of the climate change measure. Hospitals will be asked to delve deeper into emission reduction measures and establish a dedicated team and work plans to address the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).</p> <p>WSHA and the HCA recognize the unique needs of hospitals in WA State and provide flexibility in how they can achieve emission reductions (GHG). Through a phased approach and the integration of these recommendations, WSHA, in collaboration with HCA, aims to develop a climate change measure that is both considerate of the challenges hospitals face in terms of implementation, resource allocation, and policy development with climate change and aims to make the work plans meaningful for hospitals to address moving forward.</p> <p>The U.S. health sector is responsible for an estimated 8.5% of national carbon emissions.</p> <p>The climate crisis is a public health and equity crisis.</p> <p>Ameliorating the health care sector’s environmental effects and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions could not only improve health for everyone, but also reduce costs of care.</p> <p><b>Overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain</b></p> 

	<p><b>Selected References:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GHG Inventory Development Process and Guidance   US EPA. (2022, December 6). US EPA. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/scopes-1-2-and-3-emissions-inventorying-and-guidance">https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/scopes-1-2-and-3-emissions-inventorying-and-guidance</a></li> <li>2. World Resources Institute   Making Big Ideas Happen. (n.d.). World Resources Institute. <a href="https://www.wri.org/">https://www.wri.org/</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>Definition:</b></p>	<p>Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization (e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles).</p> <p>Scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Although scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where they are generated, they are accounted for in an organization’s GHG inventory because they are a result of the organization’s energy use.</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by the reporting organization, but that the organization indirectly affects in its value chain. Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within an organization’s scope 1 and 2 boundary. The scope 3 emissions for one organization are the scope 1 and 2 emissions of another organization. Scope 3 emissions, also referred to as value chain emissions, often represent the majority of an organization’s total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</p> <p>Scope 1, 2, and 3 refer to different categories used to classify greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) according to their origin in a company's activities.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <p>Scope 1 - What your facility burns (direct emissions from owned or controlled sources).</p> <p>Scope 2 - Energy your facility buys (indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heat, etc.).</p> <p>Scope 3 - Everything beyond that (all other indirect emissions throughout the value chain).</p>
<p><b>Included Populations:</b></p> <p><b>Exclusions:</b></p>	<p>All locations associated with the hospital tax ID.</p> <p>No exclusions.</p>

<p><b>Fields to be reported:</b></p>	<p>The 2024 MQI Climate Change measure comprises four key components. A total of 10 points will be awarded for the measure broken out by the four components (see below).</p> <p>1. Hospitals to complete a "greenhouse gas emission survey" in QBS, which includes the question of whether hospitals track GHG emissions.</p> <p>Part 1: Submission of survey response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Does your hospital monitor greenhouse gas emissions?</b> Answer Yes/No in QBS. Only an answer of Yes will hospitals attain 2 points. No point awards will be received for a No response.</li> <li><b>2. Hospitals will be asked to form a dedicated team</b> of two or more individuals at their facility to help address the reduction of GHG emissions. Answer Yes/No in QBS.</li> <li><b>3. Hospitals will be asked to collaborate with the established team to set two or more goals</b> for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Answer Yes/No in QBS.</li> <li><b>4. Hospitals will be asked to identify and submit two or more barriers to tracking greenhouse emissions</b> in QBS as a free text field. List your barriers in order of priority.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Data Collection period:</b></p>	<p>2024 Calendar year data reported once during the performance period.</p>
<p><b>Reporting deadline:</b></p>	<p>30 days after the close of the performance period or by January 31, 2024.</p>
<p><b>Audits and validation: Do not change</b></p>	<p>Data are subject to audit by the state. WSHA will not audit but will complete a few basic validity checks.</p>
<p><b>Submission Frequency:</b></p>	<p>For all four components submit once during the performance period from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.</p>
<p><b>Data collection system:</b></p>	<p>Washington State Hospital Association Quality Benchmarking System, QBS.</p>
<p><b>Data Scoring:</b></p>	<p>Hospitals received the full 10 points on the submission of all four components.</p>

Thresholds	Submission of GHG survey. *Yes/No, ONLY a response of Yes will receive point awards*	Form a team of 2+ to address GHG	Collaborate with team to establish 2+ goals to reduce GHG	Submit 2+ barriers on tracking GHG
Point Awards 2024	2 points = Yes response  0 points = No response	4 points	2 points	2 points