

WHO GUIDANCE FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Interventions listed below can be rated as follows:

	Indicates either low performance, or unavailable activity, or unable to complete.
	Indicates either medium performance, or activity in progress, or incomplete.
	Indicates either high performance or completed activity, or achieved and tested.

The complete **WHO guidance for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities**, along with other intervention tables, are available in English, French and Spanish on the WHO website at who.int/publications/i/item/9789240012226.

Water, sanitation and health care waste interventions – environmental sustainability

Interventions on environmental sustainability




Monitoring and assessment: Information regarding water, sanitation, chemical and health care waste management considers climate resilience and environmental sustainability for promoting action.

Water, sanitation, chemical and health care waste – environmental sustainability

Interventions (level of achievement)	Action level			Observations
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; width: 20px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="background-color: yellow; width: 20px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="background-color: green; width: 20px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> </div>			
Measure where and how water is used, and areas of potential savings and reuse examined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Measures implemented to conserve and save water in staff training especially during the induction of new staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Surveillance of diseases related to insufficient quality water, sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Classified and assessed types of waste issues and hazards to establish segregation collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Implemented and monitored a waste reduction programme including waste management training for all staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Risk management: Strengthened capacity of health care facilities to manage water, sanitation and health care waste risks to workers, patients and serving communities by including assessments of climate resilience and environmental sustainability in responding to hazards and identifying and reducing exposures and vulnerabilities.

Water, sanitation, chemical safety and health care waste – environmental sustainability

Interventions (level of achievement)	Action level			Observations
	 Low: unavailable, unable	 Medium: in progress, incomplete	 High: completed, achieved	
Reinforced messaging about water use through signs and notices to promote saving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Increased patient and visitor awareness about water conservation including signs and notices in patient rooms and visitor restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Plastic bottled water eliminated where drinking tap water is available*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eating utensils are washed immediately after use (reducing water and energy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wastewater is safely managed through use of on-site treatment (such as septic tank followed by drainage pit) or sent to a functioning sewer system*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Established recycling programme for all types of non-hazardous waste*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Established segregation collection of different types of waste according to hazards*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phased out of incineration of medical waste: a variety of non-burn technologies are available to safely disinfect, neutralize or contain waste (such as autoclaving)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste disposal system includes separate bins for potentially infectious waste, sharps, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, non-hazardous wastes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cleaning products that contain hazardous chemicals such as those found in some soaps, disinfectants and pesticides are clearly labeled following the Globally Harmonized Classification System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduced use of mercury-containing medical devices and measures in place to manage mercury spills and mercury-contaminated wastes*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improved packaging, labeling and identification of chemical waste in separate chemical-resistant containers (i.e. not mixing hazardous chemical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

wastes of different types)*				
Improved packaging and identification of low-level radioactive waste that may be collected in containers clearly labeled with the international radioactive symbol and the words “radioactive waste”*)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improved packaging, identification and storage of radioactive waste in containers that prevent dispersion of radiation (storage behind lead shielding)*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Health and safety regulation: Water, sanitation, chemical safety and health care waste regulations are implemented taking into consideration climate variability and change, and environmental sustainability.

Water, sanitation, chemical and health care waste – environmental sustainability

Interventions (level of achievement)	Action level			Observations
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<div><input type="checkbox"/> Low: unavailable, unable</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Medium: in progress, incomplete</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> High: completed, achieved</div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Establish and inform on the water conservation policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Harvested rainwater or grey water is safely used to flush toilets, clean outdoor pavement areas, water plants when possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring systems in place for early detection and control of health care associated infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hand hygiene facilities (water and soap and alcohol-based hand rub) are available at points of care and before health care facility entry during outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hand hygiene facilities (water and soap and alcohol-based hand rub) are available within five metres of all toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health care facility safely disposes of hazardous wastewater and liquid waste into the sanitation system through pre-treatment (such as oils and fats, corrosive waste and other wastes, depending on the level of concentration)*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health care facility safely disposes of hazardous wastewater and liquid waste that may be infectious*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Facilitate the use of safer alternatives and sound management of health care waste, drawing on relevant guidance from WHO and others, such as that adopted under multilateral environmental agreements*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

* Actions that need the support of local or national governments, or of other sectors