Climate Smart Healthcare

Addressing resilience, equity
and decarbonisation together

Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization

healthcareclimateaction.org/roadmap

The landscape | Health care and the climate crisis

- Climate crisis is accelerating.

- COVID-19 response and recovery provides an opportunity.

- Prevention, preparedness, and equity are paramount.

- Systems change is central.

UNFCCC Race to Zero | Health care zero emissions commitments in partnership with Health Care Without Harm announcement in May

Sustainable low carbon health systems

An initiative with the UK COP26 Presidency and partners including: UNFCCC Climate Champions Team; Health Care Without Harm; Greener NHS Team; and WHO.

- Health systems are substantial sources of emissions and local air pollution.

- It is important that all countries develop plans for implementing low-carbon, resilient health systems that align their health sectors with the ambition of the Paris Agreement and realise the health benefits and cost-savings of a sustainable, low carbon health system.

- The focus of this initiative is for countries to develop an action plan for a low carbon sustainable health sector that aligns with the Paris Agreement and also contributes to greater resilience. Ideally countries should also commit to reaching net zero by a specific target date (ideally 2050 at the latest).

Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization

A navigational tool for achieving zero emissions with climate resilience and health equity

Health Care Without Harm
Climate-Smart Health Care Series

Green Paper Number Two

Produced in collaboration with ARUP

The health sector must:

1. Take on the climate crisis– a greater health threat than COVID-19

2. Achieve decarbonization in the context of achieving both greater health equity and climate justice between nations.

3. Transform itself and in doing so contribute to broader societal transformation

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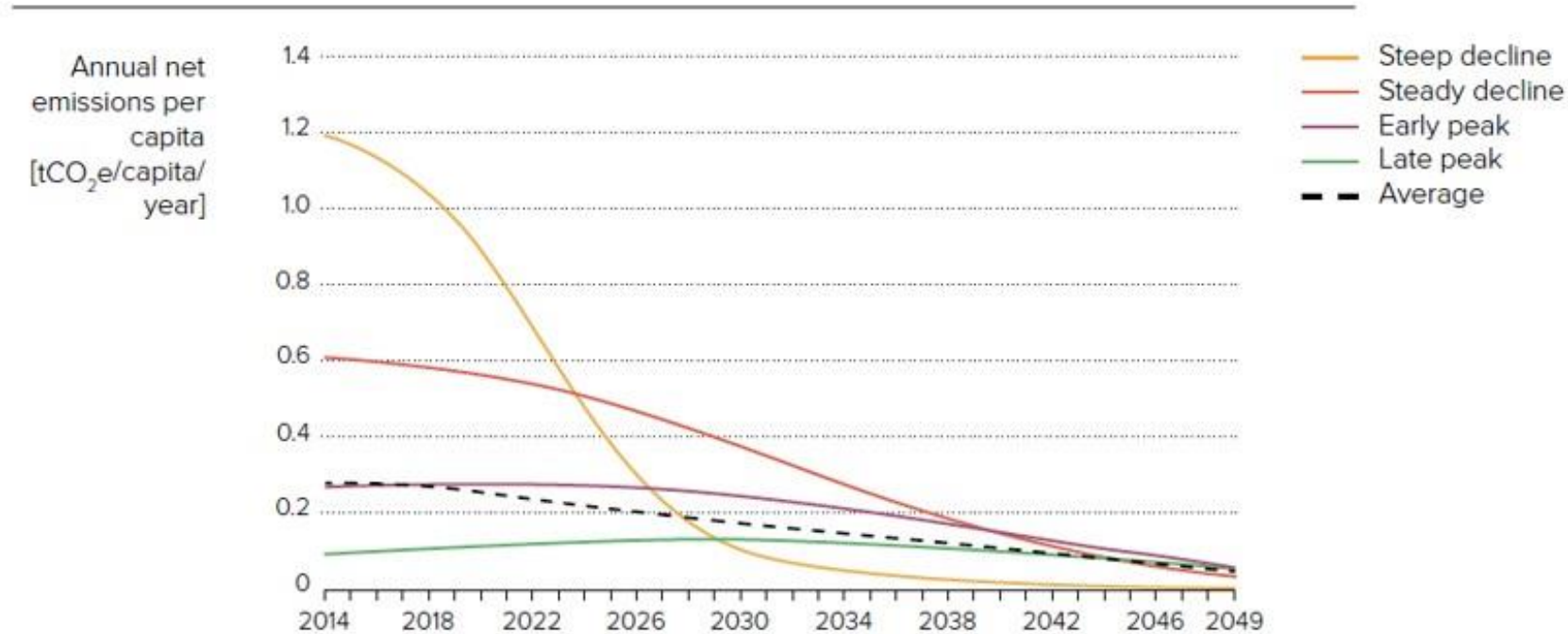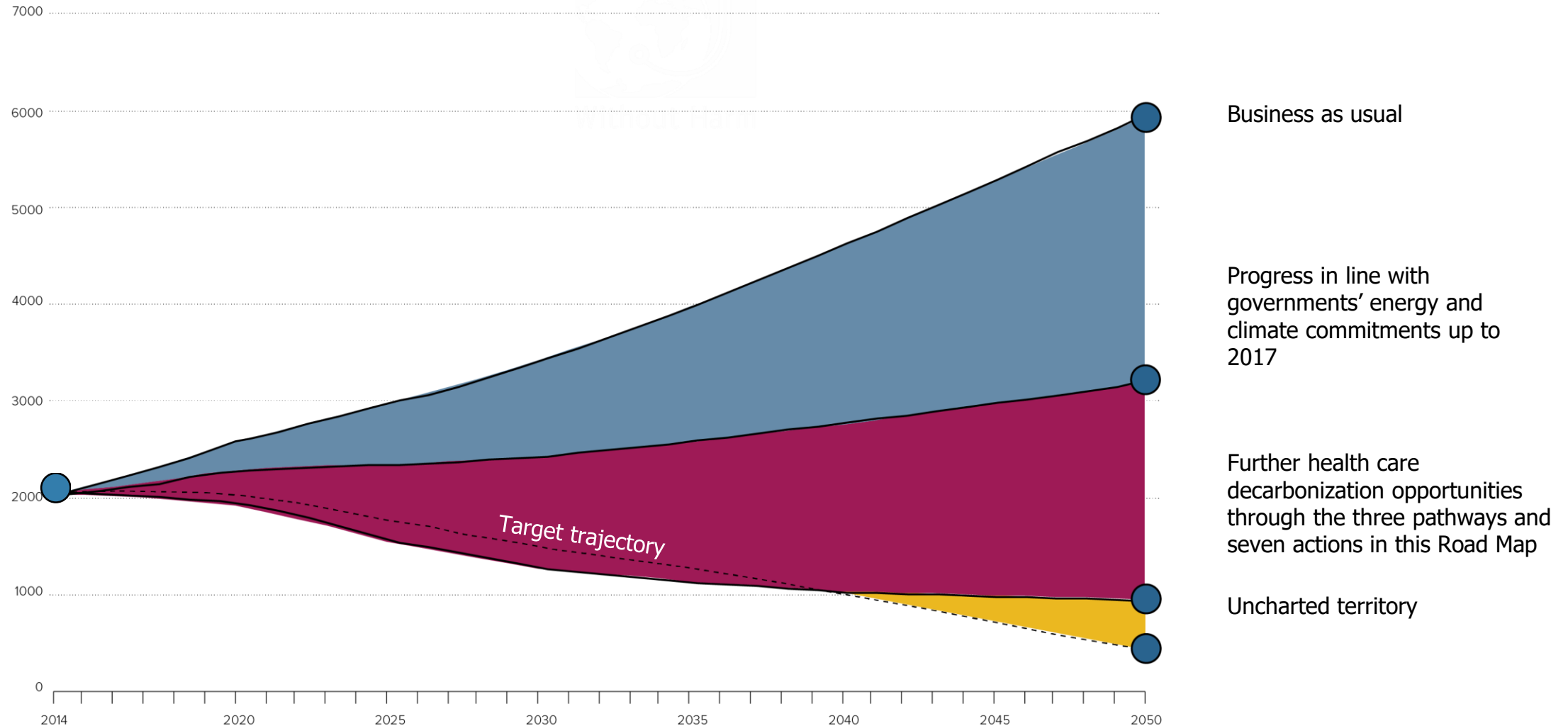# Trajectories | Decarbonization in an unequal world

Figure 15. Four Decarbonization Trajectories — annual per capita emissions.

- All health systems must act now.

- The health sector should link decarbonization and climate justice.

- Different approaches and timeframes for different countries.

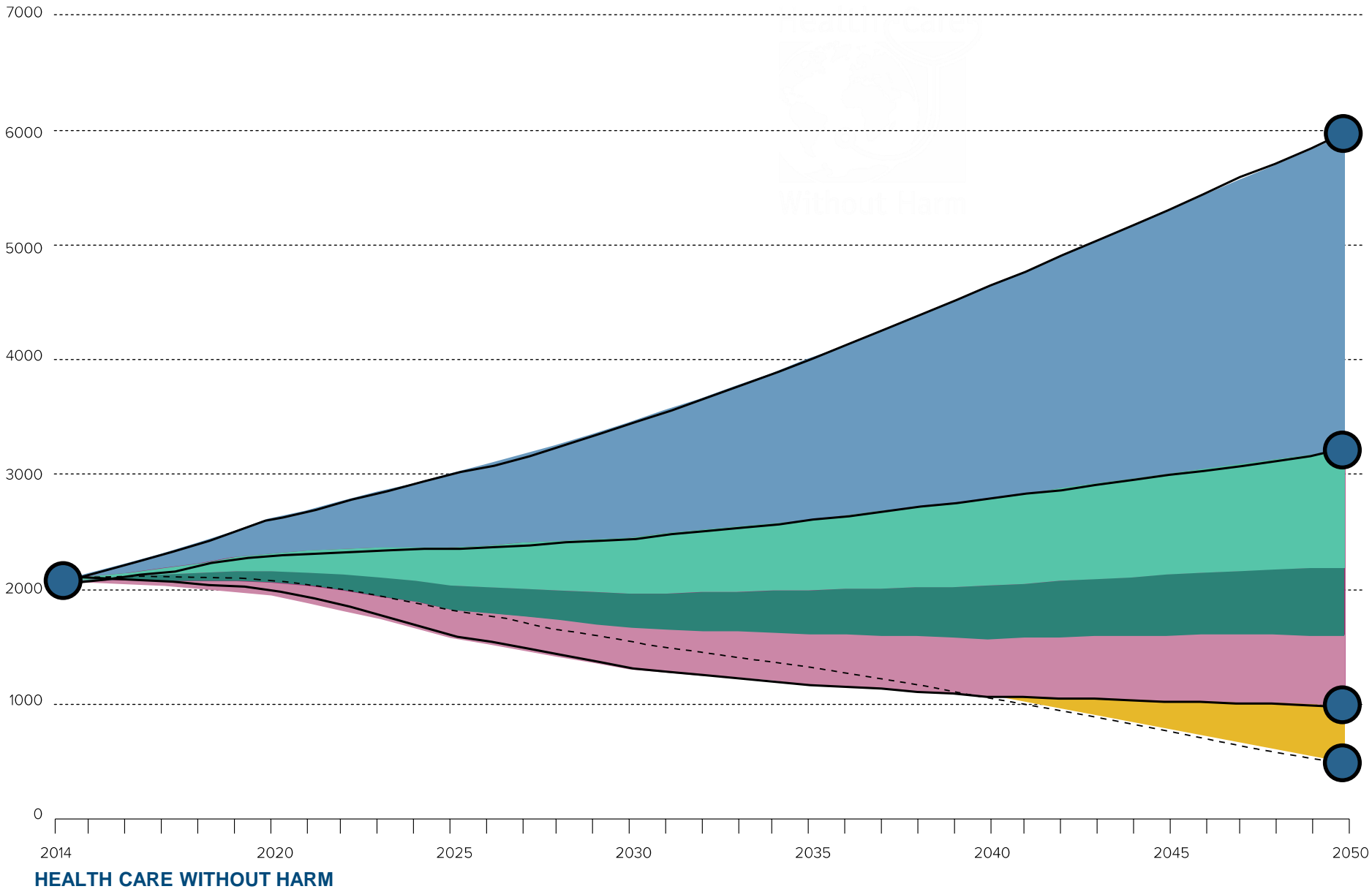- All must be closing in on zero emissions by 2050.

Charting a course to zero

Uncharted territory: bridging the health care emissions gap

Business as usual

Progress in line with governments' energy and climate commitments up to 2017

Further health care decarbonization opportunities through the three pathways and seven actions in this Road Map

Uncharted territory

Target trajectory

Charting a course to zero | Three pathways

Pathway One:
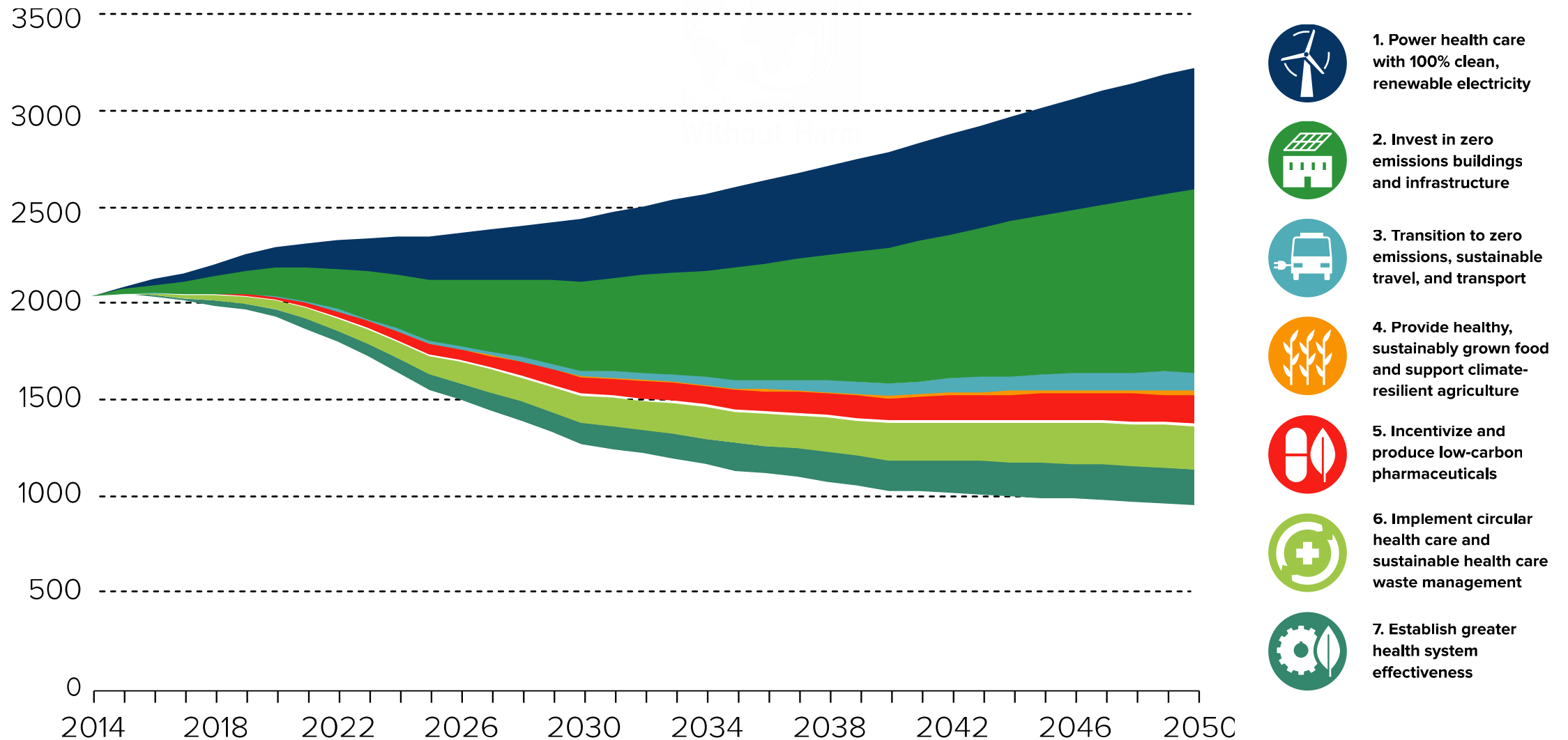Decarbonize health care delivery, facilities, and operations

Pathway Two:
Decarbonize health care's supply chain

Pathway Three:
Accelerate decarbonization in the wider economy and society

Charting a course to zero | Seven high-impact actions = 44.8 gigatons emission reduction over 36 years = the entire world's GHG emissions in 2017

1. Power health care with 100% clean, renewable electricity

2. Invest in zero emissions buildings and infrastructure

3. Transition to zero emissions, sustainable travel, and transport

4. Provide healthy, sustainably grown food and support climate-resilient agriculture

5. Incentivize and produce low-carbon pharmaceuticals

6. Implement circular health care and sustainable health care waste management

7. Establish greater health system effectiveness

Uncharted territory | Transforming health care

- Green Universal Health Coverage.

- Telehealth.

- Emergency response and pandemic preparedness.

- Disease prevention as climate change prevention.

- Green health financing.

- Health sector-based residual management solutions.

Transformational systems change

The health sector can be a societal leader in protecting public and planetary health from climate change.

By charting a course to resilient, equitable and zero emissions...

Health care can:

- lead by example

- Use its ethical, economic, and political clout

- influence and accelerate change in other sectors of society.

www.healthcareclimateaction.org/roadmap