



CLIMATE AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

## Health care sector explores pathways to low carbon operations

13 October 2014

**Media contacts – for comment and to arrange interviews with presenters: Fiona Armstrong, Convenor, Climate and Health Alliance 0438 900 005; or Anne Leitch 0409 661 094.**

Health professionals will meet at a forum this week to discuss moves by the health care sector towards a low carbon future.

The healthcare sector has a vital role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and associated environmental harm, said Fiona Armstrong, Convenor of the Climate and Health Alliance.

“Healthcare can be a leading sector in low carbon transition which is part of a necessary response to climate change and unsustainable use of resources,” said Ms Armstrong. “Cutting waste and reducing energy use in healthcare can save on health spending as well as improve public health while supporting adaptation to a changing climate.”

Taking place in Brisbane, the third annual ‘Greening the Healthcare Sector’ policy think tank is jointly hosted by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and the Climate and Health Alliance, in partnership with the international coalition of health care organisations, the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network.

Australian and international experts will discuss topics and case studies including: greening healthcare buildings and infrastructure; economic and environmental benefits of reducing waste and energy use; and growing a national and global community for healthy and sustainable healthcare.

Nick Thorp of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network will take part in the conference—via the ‘low carbon’ route of video streaming from the United States—to discuss this rapidly expanding network already established in 53 countries and the innovative platform that is enabling health and sustainability professionals to connect with one another around the world.

Think tank participants will also hear about successful case studies of change: including how Mater Health Services in Brisbane—the host of this week’s think tank—is an exemplar of a health institution that is reducing its carbon footprint and encouraging its staff to do the same.

Mater’s Director of Environmental Sustainability, Chris Hill will present on successful initiatives to engage staff to adopt environmentally sustainable behaviours. Some of Mater’s accomplishments include initiatives to reduce water use, cut the carbon footprint, save paper, and reduce clinical and catering waste, as well as encouraging staff to use ‘active transport’ like cycling and adopt ‘keep cups’.

Participants in the think tank will include health and sustainability professionals comprising policymakers, hospital clinicians, administrators and managers, professionals associations, as

well as those engaged in waste reduction initiatives, energy efficiency, environmental health, and health promotion.

**Event Title: 'The Health Sector as a Leader in Low Carbon Transformation'**

**When: Tuesday 14th October 2014**

**Where: Mater Health Services, Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane**

**Download the program here: [Greening the Healthcare Sector Think Tank 2014 Program](#)**