

Roundtable: Promoting Health in Hospitals Through Climate Action: Leveraging Synergies, Transforming Structures

Healthcare systems are increasingly affected by climate change. Hospitals, as central institutions, carry a dual responsibility: safeguarding the health and well-being of patients and staff while contributing to environmental sustainability. Climate action holds significant potential to strengthen health-promoting structures: through improved air quality, stress-reducing green spaces, sustainable nutrition, and resource-efficient processes, which can be meaningfully integrated in hospital settings.

The roundtable starts with a keynote and an expert presentation, outlining the links between climate and health, their implications for healthcare systems and innovative initiatives supporting healthcare institutions in their transition toward sustainability. Building on this foundation, pioneering Austrian healthcare institutions present best-practice demonstrating how sustainability initiatives can be effectively aligned with health promotion. These examples highlight practical strategies for infrastructure and organizational transformation, offering transferable approaches for diverse healthcare settings.

The session concludes with an interactive discussion involving participants. We explore questions such as: What initiatives already exist in your countries? Which experiences have been made so far? Where do opportunities lie, and what barriers or challenges remain? What factors make projects successful? This exchange aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, identify synergies, and inspire actionable ideas for sustainable healthcare transformation.

By linking environmental sustainability with health promotion, hospitals can improve patient care, enhance staff well-being, and reduce their ecological footprint. Participants will leave with practical insights, strengthened networks, and inspiration to align healthcare facilities with both environmental and health-promoting objectives - advancing a more resilient and health-centered future for healthcare systems.

Timetable

Duration	Type	Title	Name
15 min	Keynote	Promoting Health in Hospitals Through Climate Action - Learnings from the HPH network	Ming-Nan Lin
15 min	Introduction	Net-Zero Healthcare Strategy: The Austrian Way	Ruperta Lichtenecker
5 min	Video	Sustainable healthcare facilities in Austria - Climate, health equity, and the built environment	
10 min	Presentation	Active Mobility as a Driver of Health Promotion	Sabrina Vidovic
10 min	Presentation	Serving Change: Implementing the Planetary Health Diet in a Regional Hospital in Austria	Alexander Thomasser
25 min	Discussion	Audience-driven exchange on: Existing initiatives in participants' countries Experiences and lessons learned Opportunities, barriers, and actionable strategies for sustainable healthcare transformation	Moderation by Claudia Lichtblau

Speakers

- Ming-Nan Lin, M.D. MPH, Director, Department of Family Medicine, Buddhist Dalin Tzuchi General Hospital, Taiwan
- Mag. Dr. Ruperta Lichtenecker, Head of Department of Climate Neutrality and Sustainable Transformation, GÖG – Austrian National Public Health Institute
- Sabrina Vidovic, MSc BSc BSc, Mobility Management at Styrian KAGes
- Alexander Thomasser, Head of Department Administration & Service, Green Team member, Federal coordinator Austrian Green Hospitals Association, Delegate in the HCWH Europe Executive Members Committee at the KABEG Regional Hospital Villach
- Moderation: Claudia Lichtblau, Health Expert at the Department of Climate Neutrality and Sustainable Transformation, GÖG – Austrian National Public Health Institute

Claudia Lichtblau, 10.4.2026