

- Thank you. It is such an honor to be here today.
- As one of the largest nonprofit healthcare systems in the U.S., we understand the unbreakable bond between people and our planet. We also know the tremendous impact our industry has on climate as well as the effects of climate change on the patients we treat across our 140 hospitals and 1,000 care sites in 21 states
- At its core, climate change is a health equity issue that disproportionately impacts vulnerable and underserved populations
- I was thrilled to announce earlier this week that CommonSpirit Health has committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 with an interim target to cut operational emissions in half by 2030.
  - Being a part of this panel is very synergistic because our ability to achieve our 2030 interim goal is heavily dependent on our being able to reduce our overall energy consumption and moving rapidly to renewable energy sources.
- As a longstanding member of Health Care Without Harm, we're proud to join the United National Climate Champions "Race to Zero" campaign
- Our net-zero commitment is an extension of CommonSpirit's decades-long work to change our own practices and move the health care industry to examine its influence on the quality of our air and water, and our climate impact based on energy consumption
- When I think about our work on climate change it really falls into two buckets or categories — Influence and Operations. Both supported by collaboration and partnerships internally and externally with great organizations like America is All In, Health Care Without Harm and CERES. And our expansive number of vendors operational partners.

## Influence

- We use our voice to influence legislative and regulatory decisions in the public policy arena, we seek to influence large corporations through our shareholder advocacy engagement and we seek to inspire others in the health sector to join us in addressing the impact of climate on health.
  - In public policy we have worked to support legislation like California's 100% Clean Energy Act setting new renewable portfolio standards. We are working now to support the environment provisions in the Build Back Better Act which would provide \$555 billion federal investment on climate and clean energy — largest ever federal investment
  - We use our investment portfolio to actively influence corporations through shareholder resolutions and dialogues to improve climate impact. For example we were involved in the resolution to get ExxonMobil to issue a report within the next year describing if, and how, its lobbying activities align with the goal of limiting average global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius
  - And since 2015 we have worked with our investment portfolio managers to screen out investment in thermal coal.

## Operations

- Operationally, we are decreasing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency at our hospitals and clinics, and by investing in renewable energy.
  - We've begun a process of retro-commissioning our hospitals, which involves evaluating, documenting, and improving the operation of the building systems. Through low- or no-cost changes to these systems, we can reduce the amount of energy we use across our organization by 5 to 8 percent.
  - By upgrading fluorescent lighting to LED technology at our Dignity Health hospitals, we are saving more than 41,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, which is the equivalent of the electricity used by nearly 7,500 homes per year. And we are saving \$10 million annually on energy costs.
  - We're participating in a solar power initiative in Arizona—and we've acquired 4.2MW of their solar farm, which will remove 6,000 to 8,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually from the air— equivalent to the electricity used by 1600 homes per year or nearly a million gallons of gasoline consumed.
  - We've installed solar panels at our hospitals in Nevada producing 6.4 kWh annually enough to power 836 homes or 500,000 gallons of gas consumed. Additional solar installations are planned in California and Minnesota.
- We have learned through the pandemic that we can also change how we deliver care. Since the pandemic started CommonSpirit has delivered more than 1.5 million virtual care visits reducing green house gas emissions by more than 15,000 metric tons and saving our patients \$3.5 million in fuel costs.

**Close**

- What we have learned across CommonSpirit is that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and taking meaningful steps to reduce our carbon footprint is important -- not just because of the climate change crisis. It's essential for our mission, which is to improve the health of our patients and everyone in the communities we serve.

**Final Question Response:**

Health care is a high energy consumption sector that is highly motivated to reduce emissions because of the inextricable tie to health outcomes. Energy producers should be working with us to find innovative solutions that meet the needs of organizations that need to be available to respond during extreme weather and other catastrophic events. And they should collaborate with us on policies and incentives for funding options that would allow us to implement faster.

**CommonSpirit will continue to lean in and move forward on addressing climate change — we call on others in the health care sector to do the same.**