

Nursing, Environmental Health, and Climate Change



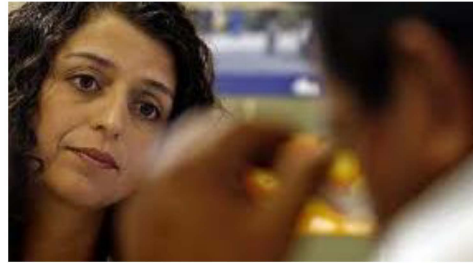
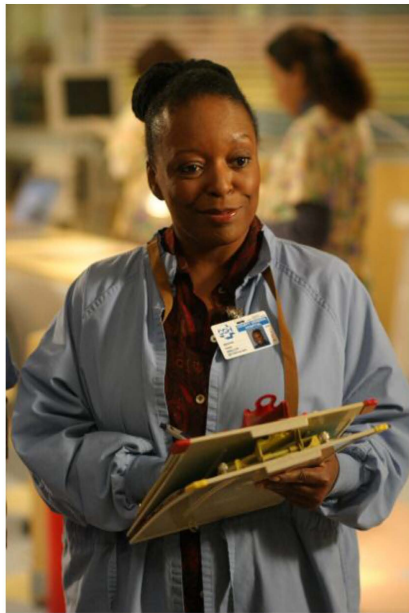
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Nurses

- Who are we?
- How are we educated?
- How are we organized?
- How do we communicate / advocate?
- Where do we work?
- How does climate change fit into all this?



Entry Level Nursing Education

All can sit for the **RN exam**:

- Associates Degrees (2 years)
- Hospital-based, diploma (3 years)
- Bachelors Degrees (4 years)

- Accelerated Programs for people who already have a BS/BA in another subject (1 – 2 years)

Advanced Nursing Education

- Masters → specialty
- Nurse Practitioner → specialty
- Nurse Midwife → specialty

- PhD (original research)
- DNP Doctor in Nursing Practice

From an educational perspective, RN plus:

- AD
- BSN
- MSN
- NP
- DNP
- PhD



Culturally Competent





California Nursing Associations

- California Nurses Association (CNA)
 - Radio Show reaches 200,000 nurses
- ANA-CA
- State-level nursing specialty organizations
 - i.e., public health, school, oncology nurses

(Nursing organizations and registered lobbyists)



Engaged in
Community Health
Education

Working with community-based
organizations



Working in
schools



Caring for people
across the life span

Nurses Engaged



Chuck Idebon, California Nurses Association

Environmental Health
Keystone Pipeline

Social Justice
Occupy San Francisco





Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)

***Bringing Science and Passion to
the Environmental Health
Movement***



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Tools

www.enviRN.org



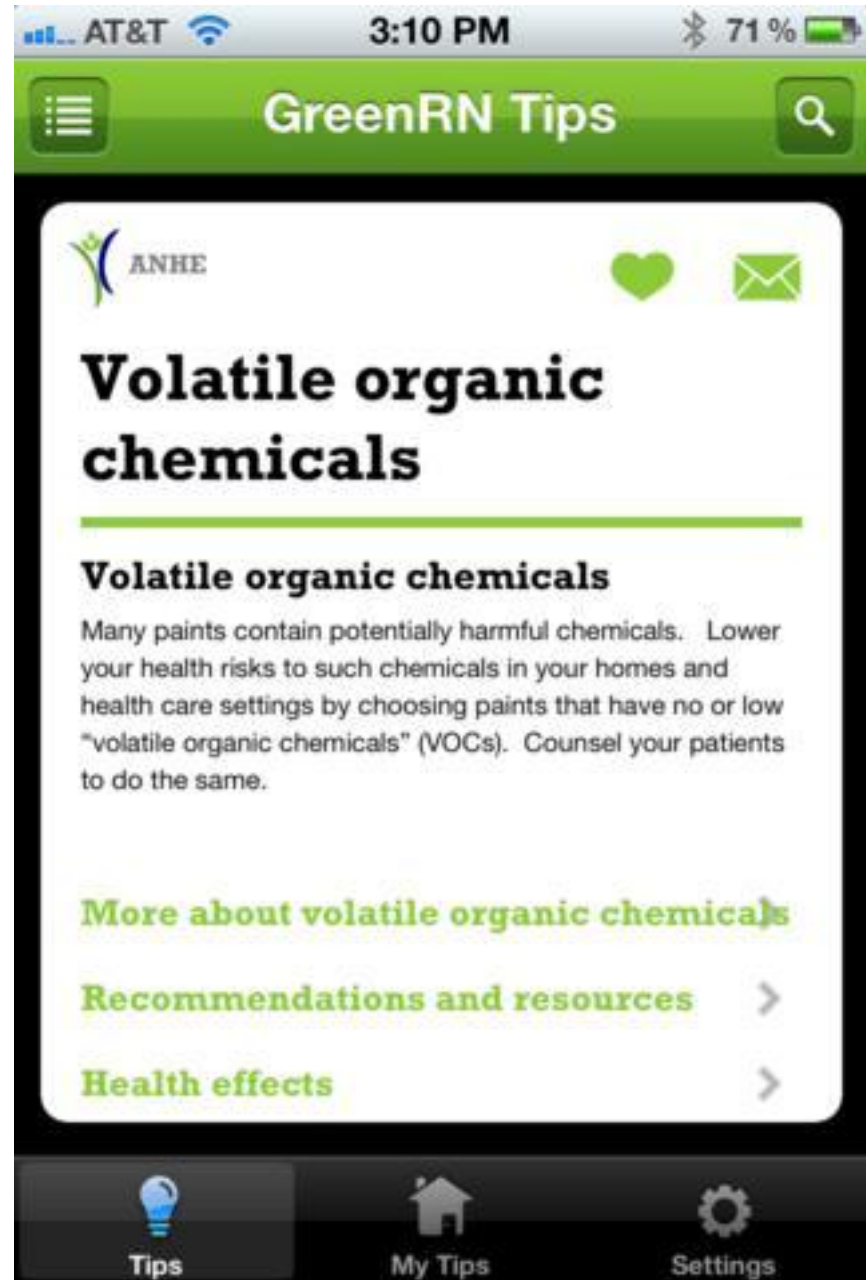
Nurses'
Pledge



Practically Green & ANHE
Assess your green-ness!



GreenRN Ap

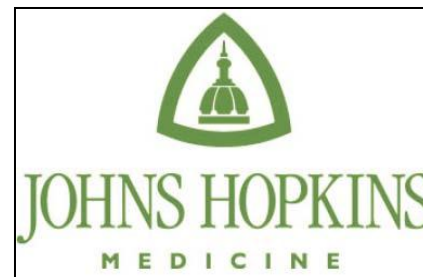


Integration of Environmental Health into:

- Education (basic, specialty, continuing)
 - CE required for relicensure
- Practice
 - Greening Health Care
 - Greening our Professional Practice
- Research
- Advocacy / Policy
 - Institutional
 - Statutory / Regulatory
 - Local, State, Federal



Green Team Logos



Green Teams Activities:

- Waste issues (recycling practically everything)
- Food
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Transportation
- Energy savings
- Green cleaning
- ... [Connecting the dots to human health](#)

Menu of Programs

- Environmentally preferable purchasing
- Energy efficiency
- Glutaraldehyde/EtO elimination
- Green cleaning and microfiber mops
- Green construction, renovation & design
- HIPAA/Confidential paper management
- Integrated pest management
- Mercury elimination
- Pharmaceutical waste management
- PVC/DEHP elimination
- Recycling
- Red bag waste minimization
- Reusable sharps containers
- Single-use device reprocessing
- Solvent recovery
- Sustainable Foods
- Universal waste management
- Water conservation

ANHE

- Educate
- Inspire
- Provide resources
- Share models of success
- Tell our stories
- Provide networking opportunities
- Make connections
- Build relationships
- Be agents of change

Context

- ANA Environmental Health Principles
- Core Competencies
- ANA Scope and Standard of Practice

→ Essential Knowledge

Audiences

- Nursing Faculty
- Nursing Students
- Practicing Nurses – ALL subspecialties

- Who else?

How Nurses Define and work with the Communities

- By Geography
- By Age (neonates, peds, geriatric)
- By Gender
- By disease (asthma, breast cancer, etc.)
- By risk factors (smoking, alcohol use, aging housing stock)



Menu of Options: Steps to Healthier Food in Hospitals

- Antibiotic-free meat/poultry
- rBGH-free milk
- Organic and other certified foods
- Certified coffees
- Locally-sourcing food
- Fast-food free zone
- Farmers' markets
- Hospital gardens
- Compost and reduction of food waste
- Hospital food policy
- Vending machine use



Meatless Mondays in our hospitals



- with associated educational materials → for personal and global health

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention

- **Anesthesia**

- Global warming potential of **halogenated anesthetics** is up to 2,000 times greater than carbon dioxide (CO₂).



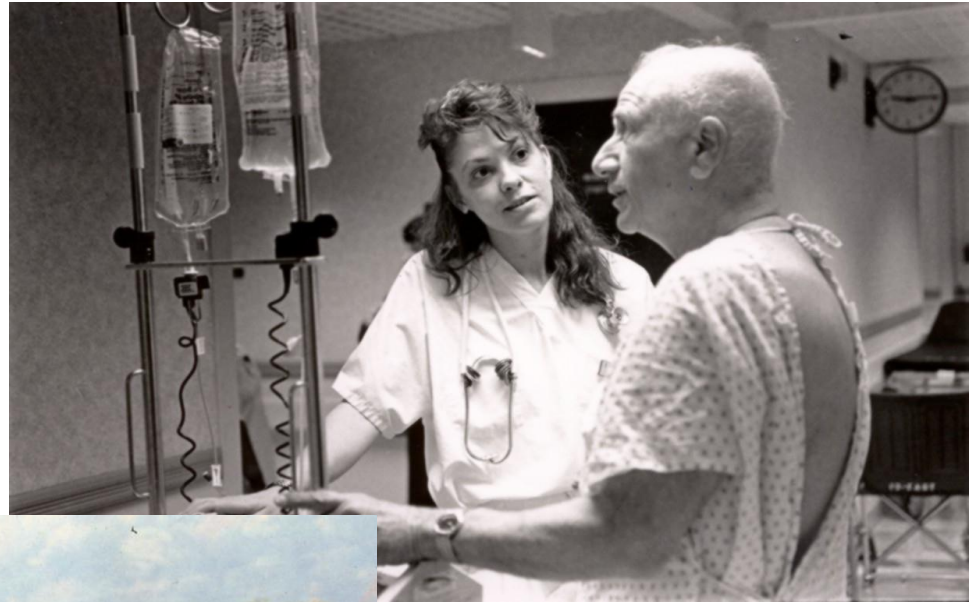
- The anesthetic gas emissions from 1100 hospitals across Canada per year are estimated to be over 1.1 million tons of CO₂ equivalent.

- Many scavenging systems vent into the atmosphere

Purchasing decisions for health and sustainability

- Latex free , Mercury free, DEHP/PVC free
- Greenguard Certified Products
- Energy Star
- Green Seals
- Fair Trade
- Use of global warming metrics for products, energy, transportation, landuse

Environmentally healthy → Creating “Co-benefits”



Union Approaches / Contract Language

- Establish Joint Labor – Management Statement about Sustainability
- Enhance protection from toxic chemicals through contract language (beyond regulatory requirements)
- Engage in environmentally preferable purchasing

Nursing Engagement Strategies

- Newsletter Articles
- Unit Presentations
- Nursing Grand Rounds
- Clinical Practice Summits
- Established Committee Meetings



Understand Waste Issues



Other Practical Suggestions

- Change your light bulbs – if every person in the U.S. replaced 1 bulb it would = taking 1 million cars off the road, or saving \$600 million in energy bills.
- Drive less by consolidating trips, carpooling, using public transportation – not
 - using your car once a week = 1 ton of CO2 less per year.
- Drive slower, don't race the engine, and don't idle for long periods – all of
 - these save gas. Each 5 mph over 60 costs you 20 cents per gallon more.
- New Vehicles: when you buy a new car or truck, insist it get at least 50%
 - better gas mileage than your old one.
- Heating & Cooling your house – add 2 degrees in the summer and subtract 2
 - in the winter – saves 6% in \$\$ and reduces CO2 emissions. Home energy use
 - is two times that of an average car.
- Seal cracks & drafts: check for drafts on windy days; use caulk & foam
 - weather stripping, caulking, plumbers putty and backing rod to seal cracks.
- Refrigerators: set to the lowest cooling setting possible, make sure seals are
 - tight, keep the coils free of dust – refrigerators consume 10-15% of your electricity.
- Water Heaters: set it at the lowest possible setting, 120 degrees max; turn it off
 - when you're gone longer than 6 hours; get a timer to switch it off @ bedtime
 - & on when you rise in the morning.
- Dishwashers: washing a few dishes @ a time, and running only when full will save energy.

**Our home.
Our responsibility.**





