

A black and white photograph of a forest, looking up at tall trees reaching towards the sky, with a semi-transparent dark blue banner across the middle containing the title text.

CLIMATE CARE IS HEALTH CARE

Climate change and environmental contaminants are creating a global health crisis.

Pollution, wildfires, extreme heat, and an array of environmental problems are making Californians sick, while disproportionately impacting low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. As the one sector of the economy with healing as its mission, we in the healthcare industry have a responsibility to decrease our emissions and use our voices to lead the way to a more sustainable, healthier future for all.

At Blue Shield of California, we are standing for what's right for our members, our communities, and our planet. As one of California's largest health plans, we are uniquely positioned to make a positive impact in the communities where we live and work. We're taking action to transform health care to be more affordable, sustainable, equitable, climate-resilient, and worthy of our family and friends—today and for generations to come.

10%

of U.S. emissions stem from the healthcare industry. U.S. hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, medical suppliers, and transportation produce waste and use toxic chemicals that contribute to emissions. Americans comprise less than 5% of the global population, but generate 25% of global healthcare emissions.

\$820B

in annual healthcare costs from pollution/climate change. Inaction will cost \$8 trillion over 10 years according to the National Resources Defense Council.

73%

of Americans say climate change impacts their health. Climate change disproportionately impacts underserved communities, particularly communities of color, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

OUR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

STANDING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT FOR OUR MEMBERS, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR PLANET



Committing to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)

We have committed to set near-term companywide emissions reductions with SBTi, the most rigorous and clearly defined pathway for companies to reduce emissions. Targets will be set by 2025.



Decreasing emissions through our Virtual Blue care model

Switching to virtual/hybrid care can reduce emissions by up to 25%. In 2023, we launched Virtual Blue, a health benefits plan that increases access to high-quality virtual care, with in-person care when needed or preferred.



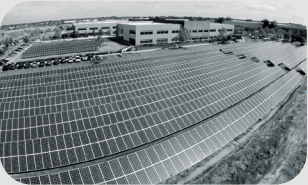
Mitigating impacts through our Supplier Sustainability Program

In 2023, we engaged 41 suppliers who account for 67% of our supply chain emissions. 90% reported to CDP. We are now working with suppliers to help them set their own science-based goals for decarbonization.



Supporting marginalized communities

We support environmental justice nonprofits that address climate impacts on low-income communities of color through activities such as urban greening, climate literacy, clean energy access, and air quality adaptation strategies.



Operating sustainable offices

The majority of our offices are LEED or energy-star certified, with features such as on-site solar, electric vehicle charging stations, heating and AC monitoring, overhead light sensors, and water use-reduction systems.



Working towards zero-waste operations

Our goal is to achieve zero-waste by the end of 2025 by decreasing our operational footprint, reducing waste, maximizing recycling and composting, and engaging employees in sustainability practices.



Engaging our employees

In 2023, our employees volunteered 3,453 hours with environmental causes as part of "Blue Goes Green," our initiative that empowers employees to create positive environmental impacts at work, at home, and in our communities.



Reducing paper to save trees

Our goal is for 80% of our members to use paperless communications by the end of 2025. We are on track with 61%, the equivalent of saving 25,000 trees annually, all while carefully protecting members' data.