

Dear Members of the Board:

We, as clinicians in Northern Virginia, are concerned about the impact of climate change on the health of our patients and communities. We are asking Inova to build on its commitment to sustainability and become a leader in healthcare climate solutions.

As diverse healthcare providers across various specialties, we are seeing the health effects of climate change in our clinics and hospitals today. Worsening extreme weather events are placing our patients at risk of injury, death, disrupted medical services, and mental health effects. Longer and more severe heat waves place our patients at increasing risk of heat-related illness, particularly the elderly, outdoor workers, and student athletes. Longer and more severe allergy seasons are increasing exacerbations of asthma, COPD, and allergic diseases. Air pollution is increasing risk of stroke, heart attack, and hypertension.

That is why clinicians from across Virginia have come together to form Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action. Nationally, leading medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and American College of Physicians, have joined the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health with an urgent call to action. The American Public Health Association declared 2017 the Year of Climate Change and Health.

We are proud of Inova's early commitment to environmental sustainability, which has resulted in significant strides. For example, in 2016, Inova achieved a cumulative 13% reduction in system-wide energy consumption since 2012, diverted 2.4 million total pounds of waste from landfills, and offered 11,125 pounds of local seasonal produce to Inova employees. We applaud Inova's membership in the Healthcare Climate Council.

We ask the Board to consider building on Inova's success to take an even greater leadership role in advancing climate change solutions and we offer the following proposals for your consideration:

- Reduce Inova's carbon footprint by setting achievable targets in greenhouse gas emission reduction and begin to transition to clean, renewable energy sources
- Ensure that all Inova building policies include goals for achieving green building, wellness, and resiliency standards
- Support clean power for the Commonwealth so that individuals and organizations have more choices
- Work with Inova leadership to continually improve upon our sustainability offerings system-wide and reduce the impacts associated with our daily operations
- Look for opportunities to include climate change and its impacts on public health in public documents and policies

Inaction on climate change will lead to major consequences for the health of our patients and communities. Inova is a proven leader on sustainability and we look forward to further collaboration with you and our colleagues. Addressing this public health challenge is critical to protecting the future of health.