



# Summary of Sustainability Report **2025**

Karolinska University Hospital's 2025 sustainability report highlights major progress within social, environmental, and economic sustainability, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The year marked the 20th anniversary of the hospital's ISO 14001 environmental certification, celebrating significant achievements in reducing hazardous chemicals, cutting climate emissions from anesthetic gases and nitrous oxide by up to 90%, and expanding circular resource flows across the hospital.



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## Social Sustainability

Karolinska focuses strongly on equality, non-discrimination, and safe, person-centered care. To prevent discrimination, Karolinska produced educational films and dialogue materials addressing all seven discrimination grounds. Pride events, ethics training, and expanded work in palliative care also strengthened inclusion and patient safety.

Improving access to care remained a top priority. The number of patients waiting more than 90 days for surgery was cut in half, and emergency care wait times at Huddinge decreased. Digital initiatives like Karolinska@Home enabled more patients to receive safe care at home, while the ALMA algorithm helped reduce administrative burden and improve patient flow.



## Environmental Sustainability

A new climate roadmap clarified priorities for achieving climate neutrality, identifying that up to 96% of carbon emissions come from indirect sources such as purchased goods and services, waste, and travel. Major actions in 2025 included:

- Introducing circular aprons, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 66% per apron
- Expanding the reuse marketplace (117 posted items)
- Launching Sweden's first One Planet Plate meals for patients
- Switching from single-use to reusable monitoring accessories, saving 22 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and 9 million SEK annually
- Food served to patients was 48% organic, and food waste decreased through stronger collaboration between staff and suppliers.



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## Economic Sustainability

Sustainability requirements were included in 40 of 55 procurements in 2025. All major investments underwent sustainability assessments covering environmental and social impacts. Karolinska also strengthened measures to prevent corruption, updated its code of conduct ("Vägvisaren"), and expanded training on ethics, safety, and internal control.



Sustainability requirements were included in 40 of 55 procurements in 2025.

## Prizes and Recognition

Karolinska received multiple awards for its sustainability leadership, including regional environmental awards and an international honorary mention from the International Hospital Federation.





## Looking Ahead to 2026

The hospital will prioritize reducing indirect climate emissions, integrating the climate roadmap into strategic decision-making, and expanding circular product use. Mandatory training on discrimination prevention will deepen staff competence.

Karolinska concludes the year with strong achievements and clear plans to strengthen equal care, reduce climate impact, and ensure responsible governance.