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## ART OF MEDICINE

### Greener Health Care Is a Necessity

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#### Abstract

This series of 4 images visually considers ethical questions about the US health sector's emissions.

Figure 1. *Smokestacks*



**Media**

Affinity Designer iterated through the artificial intelligence (AI) art program Midjourney, with custom parameter weighting.

**Caption**

This drawing explores the dissonance between a hospital's healing capacity and its emissions' **environmental harms**. Air pollution threatens patients' health in a variety of ways, including by exacerbating respiratory and cardiovascular illness and increasing spread of infectious diseases.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 2. Landfill**



**Media**

Affinity Designer iterated through the AI art program Midjourney, with custom parameter weighting.

**Caption**

Mountains of plastic represent one environmental harm of the US health sector. Vast amounts of waste, especially single-use plastics, suggest the importance of finding sustainable alternatives.



Figure 3. Drought



**Media**

Affinity Designer iterated through the AI art program Midjourney, with custom parameter weighting.

**Caption**

Dystopian consequences of the Anthropocene are represented here by first responders,<sup>2</sup> on whom we rely when facing emergencies and who have limited capacity as individuals for the collective response needed to mitigate **climate change**, which is annually causing millions of deaths worldwide.<sup>3</sup> In this bleak landscape, those tasked with saving lives are also stranded.

Figure 4. *Reclaimed*



### Media

Affinity Designer iterated through the AI art program Midjourney, with custom parameter weighting.

### Caption

An operating room overrun with lush vegetation represents hope for a more sustainable, “greener” approach to health care. Plants’ reclamation of a once sterile, artificial place prompt a reimagining of spaces designated for health and well-being.

### References

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**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

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