

METHODOLOGY

World's Greenest Hospitals **2026**

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista  **Newsweek**



Methodology – *World's Greenest Hospitals 2026*

Summary of the project

- Healthcare systems worldwide are increasingly embracing sustainability, as hospitals implement green practices to reduce environmental impact and use resources more efficiently, supporting long-term resilience in healthcare delivery.^(1, 2)
- With initiatives differing widely across institutions, greater transparency and comparability are needed to highlight hospitals that demonstrate meaningful leadership in environmental performance.
- The first edition of ***World's Greenest Hospitals*** awards leading hospitals across the globe for excellence in sustainability, recognizing institutions that demonstrate measurable efforts and progress in implementing environmentally responsible and climate-conscious practices.
- The 2026 list features the **Top 250 greenest hospitals worldwide**, assessed based on their performance across key environmental dimensions, including, but not limited to, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, water management, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable infrastructure, environmental governance initiatives, green building certifications, and transparency.
- The list is based on **6 data pillars**:
 - Sustainability performance data
 - International online survey – Expert recommendations
 - Certifications & accreditations
 - Achievements & recognition
 - Commitments & Pledges
 - Reporting transparency

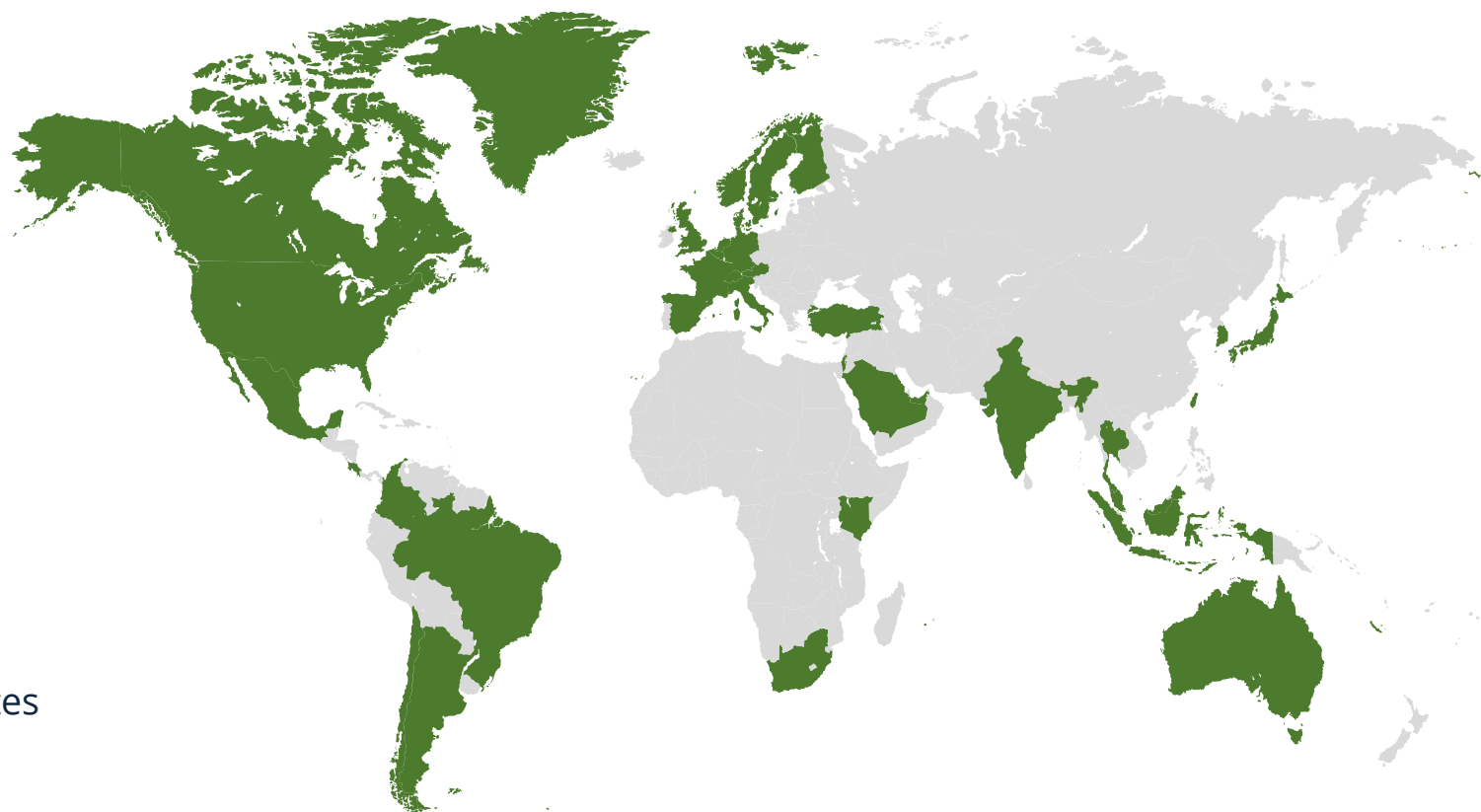


250 hospitals across 36 countries are recognized for excellence in sustainability

Geographical distribution

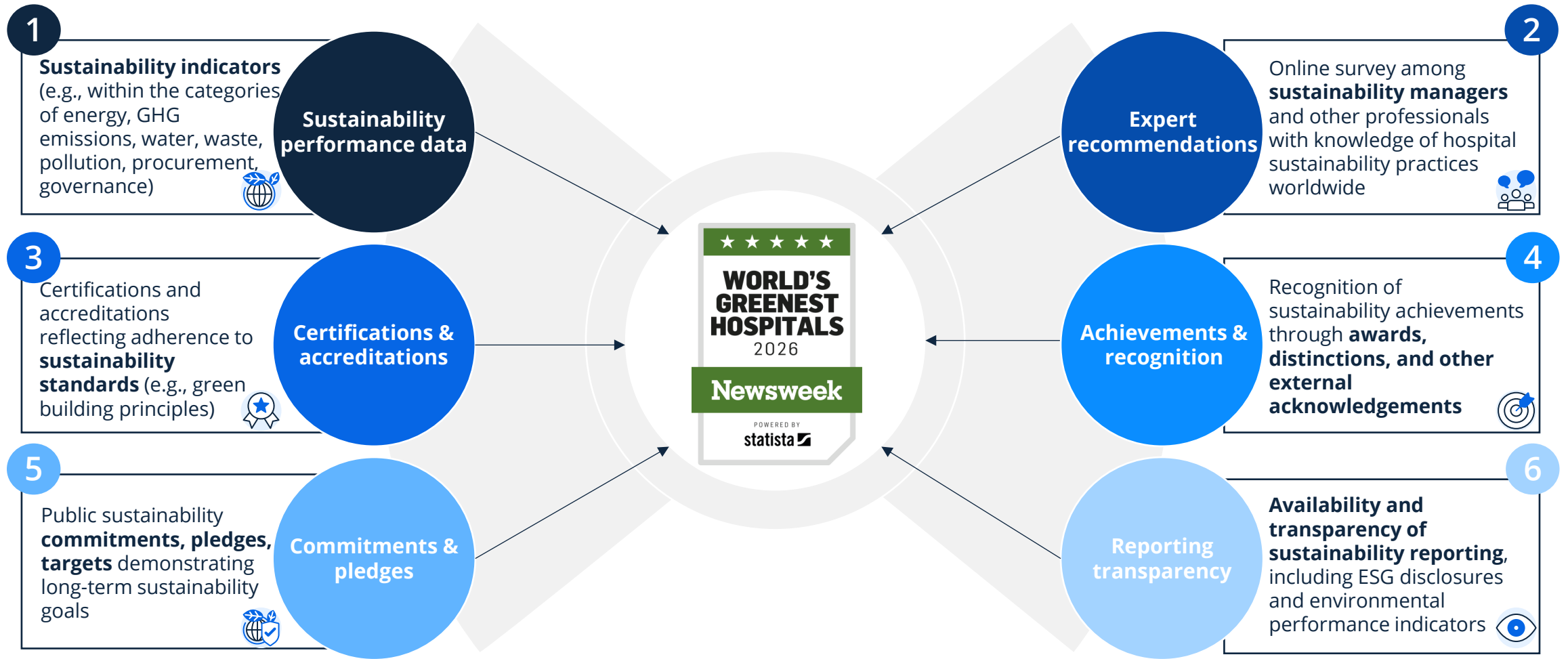
Green hospitals from the following countries are featured in the list:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Türkiye
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States



Six data pillars were used to assess hospital sustainability performance

Data sources



Sustainability performance data was gathered through two complementary data collection approaches

Sustainability performance data – data collection



Sustainability reports

- Sustainability data was sourced from **publicly available sustainability, ESG, annual, and related reports** published by hospitals and health systems.
- **Research** was conducted to identify and extract relevant sustainability information from reports, hospital websites, and other public sources.
- The most up-to-date information available was used, with data from 2022 onward accepted in cases where newer reporting was unavailable.
- Hospital-level reporting was preferred; however, group-level disclosures were incorporated by assigning average values across hospitals within the reporting entity.



Data submission survey

- Data was also gathered through a structured **online survey** conducted between February and April 2026, in which participating hospitals **submitted information on key environmental performance areas** such as energy use, emissions, water, waste, and sustainability governance.
- Both quantitative metrics (e.g., energy consumption, emissions, intensity values) and qualitative indicators (e.g., implementation of sustainability measures and policies) were considered in the evaluation.
- Respondents were required to attest to the accuracy of their submission and validate their participation using a professional email address.

SCORE FOR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE DATA

Hospital sustainability performance was assessed across multiple environmental dimensions

Sustainability performance data – key performance indicators

- Quantitative measures
 - ✓ Qualitative measures



Sustainability performance data indicators

Energy use — 20%

- Energy Use
- Renewable Energy Share
- ✓ On-site Renewable Generation
- Renewable Energy Generated
- ✓ Energy Efficiency Measures Implemented

GHG Emissions — 13%

- Total Emissions
- ✓ Scope 3 Reported
- ✓ GHG Emissions Externally Verified

Water management — 15%

- Total Water Use
- ✓ Water Recycling Reported
- Total Water Recycled
- Total Wastewater Discharged
- ✓ Rainwater Harvesting
- ✓ Pharmaceutical Residue Treatment Before Discharge

Waste management — 20%

- Total Waste Generated
- Recycling Rate
- Total Medical/Hazardous Waste
- ✓ Single-Use Plastic Reduction Policy
- ✓ Safe Segregation and Treatment Systems

Pollution & Chemicals — 8%

- ✓ Pollutant Emissions Reported
- ✓ Hazardous Substance Phase-Out
- ✓ Environmentally Preferable Cleaning/Disinfectants

Procurement & Supply Chain — 8%

- ✓ Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- ✓ Supplier Sustainability Screening
- ✓ Reprocessing Programs for Single-Use Devices

Governance & Strategy — 15%

- ✓ Dedicated Sustainability Staff/Team
- ✓ Public Sustainability Strategy Published

SCORE FOR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE DATA

Sustainability performance was evaluated using standardized environmental indicators and comparative scoring methods

Sustainability performance data – data processing and analysis

1 Sustainability performance data analysis

- Sustainability data were **standardized to account for differences** in reporting units, methodologies, and disclosure practices across hospitals worldwide.
- Quantitative indicators were converted into **intensity-based measures** (e.g., per bed, patient-day, or floor area), enabling more **meaningful comparisons across hospitals** of different sizes and operational scales.
- Hospital-level reporting was prioritized, while average intensity-based values were assigned to member hospitals when only group-level data were available.
- Both quantitative continuous measures and qualitative binary indicators were incorporated. Quantitative metrics received percentile-based scores within comparable reporting groups (e.g., hospitals reporting energy consumption per bed), while binary indicators received points for the presence of the relevant sustainability practice or policy.
- Hospitals were evaluated **relative to peers reporting comparable metrics** and units, allowing diverse reporting approaches to be incorporated into a **common evaluation framework**.
- The final Sustainability Performance Data score was calculated as a **weighted average of individual indicators across all evaluated sustainability domains**.

SCORE FOR SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE DATA

A worldwide survey of sustainability experts and healthcare leaders identified hospitals demonstrating excellence in environmental sustainability

International online survey

2



Expert recommendations

From **February to April 2026**, Statista conducted an international panel survey **among healthcare sustainability experts** to **identify hospitals demonstrating outstanding environmental sustainability** performance and leadership.



Worldwide online survey among **sustainability officers, hospital executives, facilities managers**, and other **professionals with knowledge of hospital sustainability practices**.



Participants **recommended and evaluated hospitals** demonstrating outstanding environmental sustainability performance both **within their own region** ⁽¹⁾ and **globally**.
Self-recommendations were not permitted.



Recommendation scores were based on the **order in which hospitals were recommended**, as well as respondents' **professional experience** and **self-reported sustainability expertise** and **confidence in their assessments**.
Participants were also invited to nominate hospitals for recognition in the standout category of **Sustainability Infrastructure**.

SCORE FOR EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

Certifications & accreditations recognize adherence to established sustainability frameworks and standards

International and regional certifications and accreditations



Certifications & accreditations

- Certifications served as an additional indicator of environmental sustainability, providing **externally validated evidence of performance** across areas such as resource efficiency, environmental management, and sustainable building design. A curated mix of international and regional certifications was included.
- Hospitals received points based on the **attainment and level of qualifying certifications**, with scores normalized for comparability and a minimum base score applied where no qualifying certifications were identified.
- The following certifications and accreditations were incorporated into the 2026 ranking:

International:

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)⁽¹⁾
- BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)⁽²⁾
- WELL Building Standard (International WELL Building Institute (IWBI))⁽³⁾
- Joint Commission – Sustainable Healthcare certification⁽⁴⁾

National and regional:

- EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) – European Union⁽⁵⁾
- ENERGY STAR (U.S. EPA) – United States & Canada⁽⁶⁾
- DGNB (German Sustainable Building Council) certification – Germany⁽⁷⁾
- GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) – India⁽⁸⁾
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) GreenED – UK & Ireland⁽⁹⁾
- Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Green Star – Australia⁽¹⁰⁾

SCORE FOR CERTIFICATIONS & ACCREDITATIONS

9 (1)-(10) (1) [LEED](#), (2) [BREEAM](#), (3) [WELL](#), (4) [Joint Commission](#), (5) [EMAS](#), (6) [ENERGY STAR](#), (7) [DGNB](#), (8) [GRIHA](#), (9) [RCEM GreenED](#), (10) [Green Star](#)

Achievements & recognition provide independent validation of outstanding sustainability practices and leadership

International and regional achievements, awards, and other recognitions

4

Achievements & recognition

- Awards and recognitions received by hospitals served as an additional indicator of **sustainability excellence, capturing notable achievements, innovation, and leadership** beyond what may be reflected in quantitative performance metrics alone.
- Hospitals received points for verified sustainability-related awards and recognitions from a predefined list of international and regional programs, as well as eligible awards submitted through the application survey.
- Scores reflected the number, significance, and recency of qualifying awards, with more recent recognitions receiving greater weight.

International:

- My Green Lab Freezer Challenge winners ⁽¹⁾
- Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) - Health Care Climate Winners ⁽²⁾
- GGHH Health Care Climate Champions ⁽³⁾
- GGHH Health Care Climate Commitment Cohort ⁽⁴⁾

National and regional:

- | | |
|---|---|
| – HFMA Awards - Environmental Sustainability award ⁽⁵⁾ | – Practice Greenhealth - Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award ⁽¹¹⁾ |
| – Vizient Sustainability Excellence ⁽⁶⁾ | – Practice Greenhealth - Circles of Excellence Award ⁽¹²⁾ |
| – Avedis Donabedian Quality Award - Sustainability ⁽⁷⁾ | – Practice Greenhealth - Making Medicine Mercury Free Award ⁽¹³⁾ |
| – Practice Greenhealth Emerald Award ⁽⁸⁾ | – Practice Greenhealth Partner Recognition Award ⁽¹⁴⁾ |
| – Practice Greenhealth Partner for Change Award ⁽⁹⁾ | – Health Care Without Harm European Sustainable Healthcare Awards - Sustainable Project of the Year Award ⁽¹⁵⁾ |
| – Practice Greenhealth System for Change Award ⁽¹⁰⁾ | |

SCORE FOR ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITION

Commitments and pledges reflect long-term sustainability ambitions and dedication to future improvement

Publicly disclosed sustainability commitments, pledges, and targets

5

Commitments & pledges

- Commitments and pledges were included as an indicator of hospitals’ **publicly stated sustainability ambitions and environmental goals**, reflecting forward-looking intent and accountability.
- Hospitals received points for **verified participation in recognized sustainability and climate-related pledges** and initiatives.
- Hospitals also received recognition for **publicly disclosed sustainability targets** and commitments reported through ESG and sustainability reports, hospital websites, and the data submission survey.

External pledges:

- Race to Zero (UN-backed global campaign) ⁽¹⁾
- HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge ⁽²⁾
- IHPN Net Zero Commitment ⁽³⁾

Targets & commitments:

- Energy reduction target
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target
 - Net-zero or carbon neutrality commitment
- Water reduction target
- Waste reduction target

SCORE FOR COMMITMENTS & PLEDGES

11

(1)

[Race to Zero](#)

(2)

[HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge](#)

(3)

[IHPN Net Zero Commitment](#)

Reporting transparency reflects accountability and the accessibility of sustainability information

Public reporting of sustainability performance data and environmental metrics



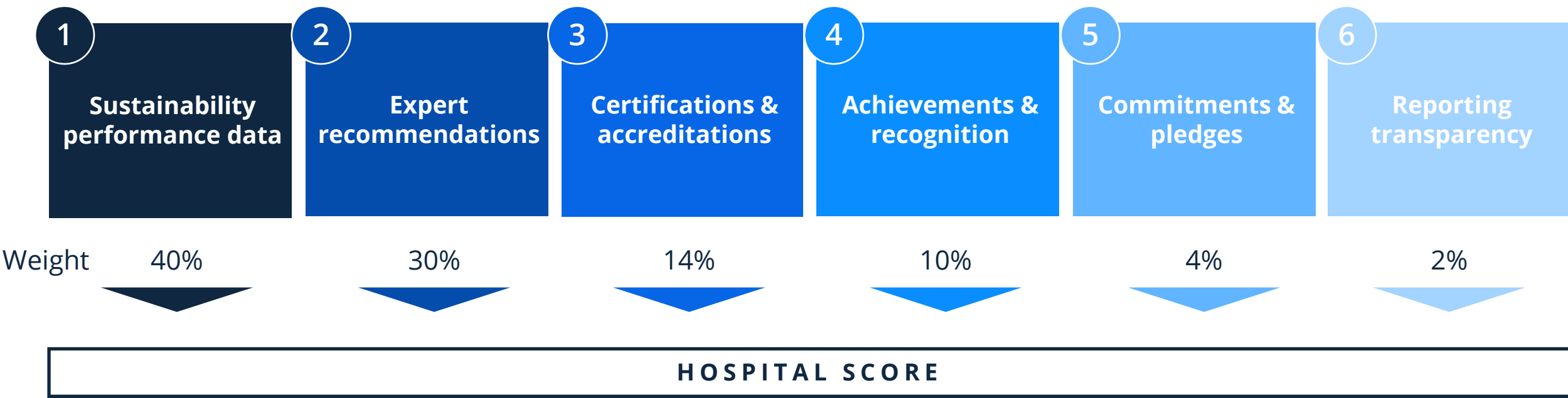
Reporting transparency

- Reporting transparency assessed hospitals' **willingness to disclose sustainability-related information**, supporting accountability, progress tracking, and comparison across healthcare institutions.
- Hospitals were evaluated based on the **availability, specificity, and accessibility of sustainability disclosures, environmental metrics, and other sustainability information**.
- Greater credit was awarded for **quantitative environmental metrics and KPI reporting**, particularly when disclosed at the individual hospital level rather than the health system or group level.
- Both publicly disclosed and survey-submitted information were recognized; however, **publicly available reporting received greater weight to reward transparency** and accessibility.

SCORE FOR REPORTING TRANSPARENCY

A final score was calculated for each hospital based on the six weighted pillars

Scoring model



Each hospital's total score is based on the six pillars and their respective weights listed above

Final scores determined both overall performance indicators and standout recognition for exceptional domain-specific achievement

Performance indicators and standout category recognition

- Hospitals included in the list received a **performance indicator** ranging from **three to five leaves**, with **five leaves representing the strongest relative sustainability performance**.
- Leaf designations were assigned based on hospitals' final scores relative to other hospitals in the Top 250 and should be interpreted as a **comparative measure** within this highly selected group.
- All hospitals included in the ranking demonstrated a meaningful commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.



- In addition to the overall evaluation, hospitals could receive special recognition for **exceptional performance within the specific sustainability domain** of **Sustainable Infrastructure**
- The Sustainable Infrastructure designation was awarded only to hospitals demonstrating exceptional performance **in both expert recommendations and infrastructure-related sustainability metrics**, ensuring recognition reflected both reputation and demonstrated results.

The *World's Greenest Hospitals* showcase leading sustainability efforts in healthcare

Final list of the Top 250 hospitals, sorted by region, performance indicator (3-5 leaves) and alphabetical order of hospital name

Performance Indicator	Hospital Name	City	Country	Region	Standout Category – Sustainable Infrastructure
	Asan Medical Center	Seoul	South Korea	Asia-Pacific	✓
	AZ Maria Middelaes	Ghent	Belgium	Europe	
	Einstein Hospital Israelita	São Paulo	Brazil	Latin America	✓
	Abbott Northwestern Hospital	Minneapolis	United States	North America	
	Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	Middle East & Africa	

[...]

LEADING SUSTAINABLE HOSPITALS ARE AWARDED IN THE LIST

Statista R and Newsweek comprise the strong partner network behind *World's Greenest Hospitals 2026*

Partner Network



About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit rankings.statista.com.

Statista R is a division of **statista** . The leading data and business intelligence portal provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries. Find out more at statista.com.



About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

newsweek.com

Legal disclaimer for the ranking *World's Greenest Hospitals*

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 06/19/2025 – 06/18/2026 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.