

Strategic Plan 2023-2025



AHE Timeless Core Ideology

Core ideology describes an organization's consistent identity that transcends all changes related to its relevant environment. Core ideology consists of three notions: **core purpose, mission and core values**. **Core purpose** describes the organization's reason for being. The mission describes who we are, what we do and how we do it. Our **core values** are the enduring principles that guide the behavior of the organization.

CORE PURPOSE

Commitment to pathogen free, healing environments across all care settings.

MISSION STATEMENT

To advance members' ability to establish and maintain care environments that are free of environmental surface contamination and that support safety, service, and efficient and effective operations.

CORE VALUES:

Visionary Leadership

Evidenced by an earned reputation as a courageous, influential, and trusted authority committed to innovation, excellence, and awareness of the essential role of environmental services (EVS) in improving health care outcomes

Integrity

Evidenced by honesty in words and actions and dedication to effective stewardship characterized by value focused decisions made in an accountable and transparent culture

Innovation

As evidenced by a commitment to sound, knowledge based evolving science and professional practice

Community

Evidenced by an engaged fellowship of peers taking pride in the diversity of experience and the inclusion of multiple perspectives in advancing their profession

AHE Envisioned Future

Envisioned Future conveys a concrete, yet unrealized vision for the organization. It includes a description of how the world could be different for key stakeholders and a clear and compelling catalyst that serves as a focal point for effort. The Envisioned Future vividly depicts the intersection of what a group is passionate about, what they do best, and what they can marshal the resources to accomplish.

VIVID DESCRIPTION OF A DESIRED FUTURE

AHE, the “go to” resource for safe patient care settings

The Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE) is the globally-recognized authority in infection prevention within the care environment. The public demands a safe healthcare environment and now realizes that reality occurs in facilities utilizing AHE-influenced standards, training, and tools. Hospitals and other health care settings invest in AHE training and tools because of those demands and because they are truly effective at minimizing risk. They also actively recruit and support EVS professionals with AHE designations. Patients settle into health care facilities more readily when a facility meets AHE cleaning and training standards. Contamination across care settings is negligible in these places, allowing patients to focus on healing. On the policy front, AHE remains an essential stakeholder in healthcare policy creation across all care settings related to the environment, meeting regularly with governmental organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Health Care Settings

Hospitals CEOs and other health care setting administrators correlate high patient satisfaction scores in cleanliness and quietness and nominal healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) to the use of the resources and network of the AHE. They also look to EVS employees for their subject matter expertise when the facility sets infection prevention standards or faces related issues. The CEOs and administrators make known to all staff the importance of EVS employees and the staff treats EVS employees as valuable members of the healthcare team.

Patients, Public, Community

Patients visiting a facility using AHE-influenced standards, training and tools receive consistent, high-quality care and enjoy a reduced length of stay. The communities where these facilities are located are aware that the patient satisfaction scores for cleanliness and quietness in these buildings are at an all-time high and HAIs are nominal. Communities understand what Environmental Services is and the critical role it plays in patient outcomes. The public also respects EVS technicians for the critical role they play on the care team.

EVS Profession

Everyone wants to be an EVS professional! No one is surprised that environmental services was named “most desirable profession” by new professionals five years in a row. Environmental services leaders set the standards for regulations that affect a safe healthcare environment, whether set by the CDC or the EPA. Pay in Environmental Services

is strong, equitable and aligns with the work expected. Lifelong learning and technological advancements are supported by all care settings for EVS professionals. More schools offer Environmental Services as a course of study and AHE is considered the “go-to” resource for even prospective EVS professionals. Certified Environmental Services professionals are sought-after experts for healthcare environment regulations and administrators swoon for EVS professionals who get and stay AHE credentialed.

AHE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Strategic Imperative 1

Develop and curate the information and insight needed to be viewed as the expert in initiatives related to standards, education, and advocacy for health care environmental services.

Strategic Imperative 2

Enhance and maintain relationships with partner organizations to cooperatively develop solutions to critical issues confronting health care provider organizations.

Strategic Imperative 3

Focus on our body of knowledge as our primary asset and make it available to every health care environment service professional regardless of their place of practice.

Strategic Imperative 4

Deliver unmatched value for membership, greater than investment of time and money. Members experience a personal and professional connection to a fellowship of thought leaders demonstrating AHE values of leadership, integrity, innovation and community; leading to increased member confidence to articulate their value, the value of their teams and of AHE toward achievement of their organizations’ mission and vision.

GOAL A:

AHE will be the indispensable thought leader, standard setter, and influencer in the creation of health policy across all care settings.

GOAL B:

Hospitals and other care settings will benefit from AHE-developed resources to influence healthcare professionals and help decrease infections and improve patient satisfaction.

GOAL C:

Environmental Services will be a well-compensated career choice and its professionals will be recognized as experts that play a critical role in patient outcomes.

GOAL D:

Patients and Communities will have access to a safe environment of care across the continuum and will have an understanding of the role of Environmental Services in that high quality care.