

Leader Profile



Elizabeth Schenk, PhD, RN, FAAN

Executive Director

Environmental Stewardship

Beth Schenk is the executive director of environmental stewardship for Providence, leading a cross-functional commitment to reduce operational pollution while addressing environmental justice and climate resilience in the communities we serve.

Beth has been a Providence caregiver for over 30 years. From serving as an ICU nurse at St. Patrick in Missoula to leading nursing research across the Providence organization, Beth has nurtured her passion for environmental care. Her first successful recycling project was over 25 years ago. Since then she has led Montana's award-winning Green 4 Good program. She co-founded Providence's first regional environmental stewardship council. She has co-led a system-wide monthly meeting on environmental stewardship since 2008.



Beth is assistant research professor at Washington State University [College of Nursing](#). She leads research on the environmental impacts of healthcare, and climate change and health. She has [numerous publications](#) and presentations related to this work.

Her national advocacy includes board service for the [Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments](#), membership on the [Expert Panel for Environmental and Public Health](#) in the American Academy of Nursing, membership in the Healthcare Without Harm Climate Council, with whom she represented Providence on Capitol Hill, advocating for clean energy policy Leadership. Beth is a founding board member of [Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate](#), and [Climate Smart Missoula](#).

In 2017, Beth was honored to receive the Charlotte Brody Award from Healthcare Without Harm. In 2018 she was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. In 2019 she was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Montana.

Beth lives in Missoula, Montana with her husband and pets where she hikes, ice skates, plays music, gardens and explores the beautiful mountains and streams.

About Providence

Providence is a national, not-for-profit Catholic health system comprising a diverse family of organizations and driven by a belief that health is a human right. With 51 hospitals, 1,085 physician clinics, senior services, supportive housing and many other health and educational services, the health system and its partners employ more than 120,000 caregivers serving communities across Alaska, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Washington, with system offices in Renton, Wash., and Irvine, Calif. Learn about our vision of *health for a better world* at [Providence.org](https://www.providence.org).