



# Opportunities to advocate for surgical sustainability locally

1

**EDUCATE YOURSELF**

Climate change is a “hot topic” in many senses of the term! Predicted to be the primary public health issue of the coming generations, understanding its far-reaching impact is the first step to joining the solution. Check out resources below!

2

**USE YOUR STRENGTHS**

Recognize the strengths you bring to the climate change mitigation effort! All clinicians have an influential voice, especially to patients. We also all have unique strengths from social networks to engineering expertise to financial resources.

3

**FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS**

Start by choosing one effort as an individual and one as a clinician to tackle. Choose opportunities that play to your strengths.

4

**SHARE SUCCESSES**

The impact of your individual effort is amplified when others follow suit! Find a way to share your success stories with your social networks, either informally on social media or more formally through written documentation.

OPPORTUNITIES AS AN INDIVIDUAL

## Opportunities at home

1. Recycle and compost at home
2. Source home energy from non-fossil fuel sources (individual vs community solar, wind power, hydropower, nuclear energy)

## Personal Finance opportunities

1. Consider investing in an environmentally sustainable portfolio
2. Request environmentally sustainable 401K fund options through employer
3. Prioritize verified environmentally sustainable brands/products

## Travel opportunities

1. If commuting with a fossil-fuel burning personal vehicle, consider alternatives: walking, biking, public transit, EV
2. Reduce frequency of personal airplane travel

## Nutrition Options

1. Reduce red meat intake and increase reliance on plant-based diet
2. Purchase locally sourced produce, where available
3. Improve meal planning and leftover intake to reduce food waste

## Hospital-level engagement

1. Found or join OR green team (see ACS OR Green Team guide).
2. Petition hospital administration to hire a clinical sustainability leader
3. Encourage hospital leadership to fund a carbon emissions audit

## Local and specialty-wide policy

1. Join state-wide advocacy groups (consider cross-specialty options)
2. Follow local environmental bills, provide clinician testimony
3. Encourage virtual options for professional events

## Surgical and clinical practice

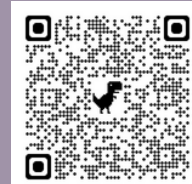
1. Streamline instrument preference card to limit unused items
2. Provide OR sustainability education for trainees
3. Offer virtual clinic appointments, when clinically appropriate

OPPORTUNITIES AS A CLINICIAN

### RESOURCES FOR CLINICIANS



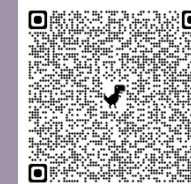
[The Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health](#)



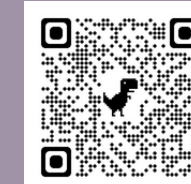
[Columbia Global Consortium on Climate & Health Education](#)



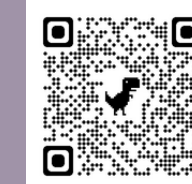
[Yale Center for Climate Change Communication](#)



[Behind the Knife OR Sustainability Podcast](#)



[Lancet Countdown on Climate Change & Health](#)



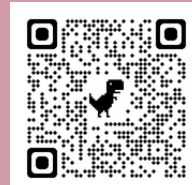
[Practice Greenhealth](#)

**\*\*KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR NEW ACS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES - COMING SOON!**

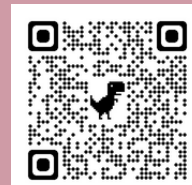
### RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS & MEDICAL STUDENTS



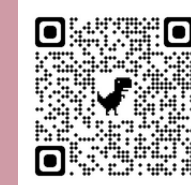
[UN Climate Change Courses](#)



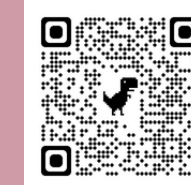
[Interview Without Harm](#)



[Medical Students for a Sustainable Future](#)



[TRASH-CAN: Trainee-led Sustainability Projects](#)



[Univ of Colorado Climate & Health Fellowship](#)



[Healthcare Without Harm Emerging Physician Leaders](#)



[COAST: Trainee & Student-Led Climate & Health Research](#)

### RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS



[Univ of Michigan Center for Sustainable Systems](#)



[Best way to reduce your carbon footprint \(Science\)](#)



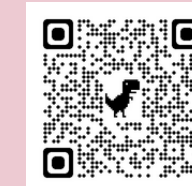
[MIT Climate Change Podcast](#)



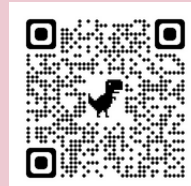
[Probable Futures](#)



[EPA Household Carbon Footprint Calculator](#)



[US EcolLabel Index](#)



[HBS Intro to Sustainable Investing](#)

