Advocating for surgical sustainability at a national







The healthcare sector contributes 5% of global GHG emissions

If it were it a country, it would be the world's fifth largest emitter *

Surgical care carries a particularly high carbon footprint

The OR is **6 times** as energy-intensive as other areas of the hospital & contributes **70%** of all hospital waste § ¶

Although individual or local-level action is important...

National and international policy change is the most **efficient** and **effective** means of addressing healthcare's climate impact

Achieving this change requires coordinated advocacy from healthcare providers and other stakeholders

IDENTIFY TOPICS

GATHER DATA

LEARN HOW

ENGAGE

Identify a topic relevant to surgery and climate change sustainability and consider how national or international policy might impact upon it.

Advocacy work requires personal investment of both time and money. Pick a topic that excites you and that you can speak passionately about!

Gather as much data as possible about the complexities of the topic and understand the potential differing view points and/or conflicting policy approaches.

Learning about previous advocacy successes in this space can help guide and inspire you.

Learn how to advocate by developing skills to make your voice heard by policy makers.

Attending a course or conference such as the <u>ACS</u>
<u>Leadership & Advocacy</u>
<u>Summit can help equip you.</u>

Engage with policymakers both locally and nationally as well as with likeminded advocacy networks.

Your voice will go further when you team up and coordinate your actions.

National surgical planing ¥

Increasingly, Low- and Middle-Income Countries are undertaking national surgical planning as part of broader national healthcare policy making approaches. Ensuring consideration of the impacts of climate change within such plans is essential.

Medication and equipment supply chain

Scope 3 emissions (emissions resulting from supply chains) are the biggest source of emissions in healthcare. A focus on policies designed to green the healthcare supply chain network both in the US and globally has the potential for significant impact

POLICY GAPS

Below outline some policy areas where there is scope for sustainability and climate change advocacy



Prioritisation of sustainable OR initiatives

By advocating for policy change on OR sustainability initiatives such as those covered within the <u>climate change and surgery hot</u> <u>topics</u> you can ensure broader impact as initiatives are adopted nationwide.

Examples of approaches to translating the climate change and surgery hot topics into national policy action include lobbying for removal of FDA licence of Deflurane, or mandating the use of reusable surgical gowns.

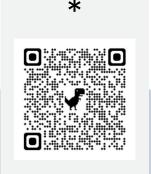
BENEFITS

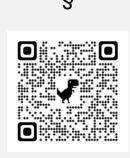
Success in the healthcare policy space has the potential for impact beyond just your own department or hospital

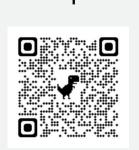


Although engaging in policy and advocacy efforts may incur personal cost in terms of time and money, such efforts can ultimately prove to be a particularly efficient means of achieving positive change













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