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

1. IDENTIFY TOPICS
   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!

2. GATHER DATA
   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.

3. LEARN HOW
   Learn how to advocate by developing skills to make your voice heard by policy makers.
   Attending a course or conference such as the ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit can help equip you.

4. ENGAGE
   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.

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 climate change and surgery hot topics 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

**Cost savings**

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

**National surgical planning**

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

**Other useful resources**

[URL: WWW.PGSSC.ORG/COASTHOTTOPICS]