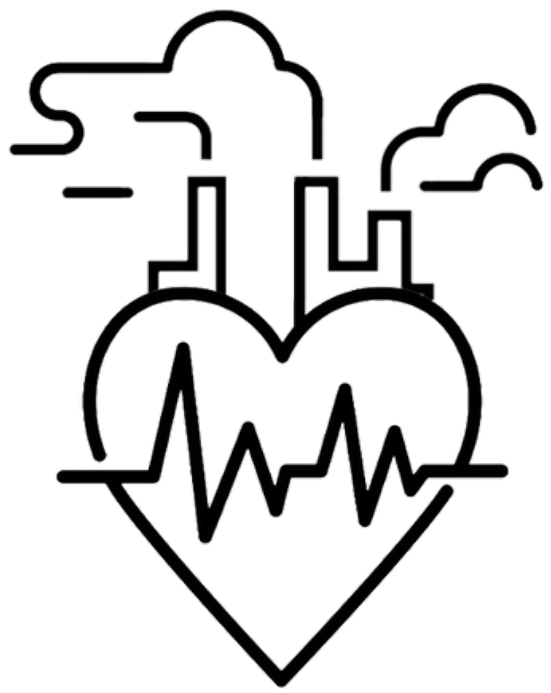




# Advocating for surgical sustainability at a national and international level



The healthcare sector contributes 5% of global GHG emissions  
If it were it a country, it would be the world's fifth largest emitter \*

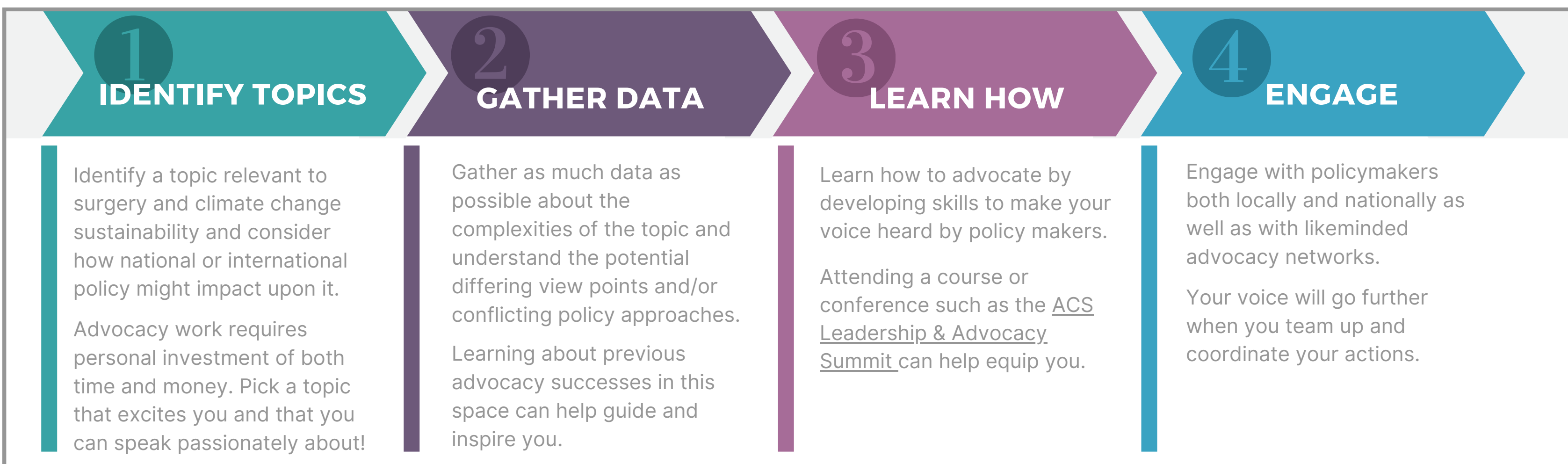
Surgical care carries a particularly high carbon footprint

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



## POLICY GAPS

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



### 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

### 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

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES