

Sustainability Strategy 2020



**College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland
Sustainability Committee
September 2020**

CAI Sustainability Strategy

Excellence in patient safety is at the core of the practice of Anaesthesiology. The College recognizes that individual patient safety is inextricably linked with environmental safety.

Our duty to “first do no harm” extends to the community and to future generations.

For this reason, we are taking measures to limit the impact of the provision of anaesthesia on the environment.

The College also recognizes that as a scientifically literate group, that has human well-being and health as a core goal, we should advocate for broader societal changes towards greater sustainability.

We have therefore set the following two objectives:

Objective 1

Minimize the environmental footprint of the specialty of Anaesthesiology

Objective 2

Advocate for and support societal changes towards greater sustainability

Range of Actions

Taking environmental and patient safety into account, actions should be taken by all members to:

- Reduce the use of inhalational anaesthetic agents – certain volatiles and gases are known to have particularly high intrinsic environmental impact
- Consider the *triple bottom line* of economic, social, and environmental effects where possible
- Minimise the wastage of drugs and equipment through reduction, reuse, and recycling
- Be judicious in the use of diagnostic tests and prescriptions
- Promote environmentally friendly techniques such as regional and total intravenous anaesthesia
- Follow local guidance on waste segregation
- Minimize the quantity and carbon intensity of travel

Actions will be taken by the CAI to

- Measure carbon emissions related to anaesthesia at a national level
- Advocate for the measurement and reduction of the environmental footprint of healthcare
- Divest from unsustainable funds
- Consider the triple bottom line in all contract tenders
- Work with partner organisations to deliver education in sustainability
- Promote research in sustainability and life cycle analysis

For more information see:

- CAI website www.anaesthesia.ie
- Association of Anaesthetists website www.anaesthetists.org
- CAI, AoA, RCOA [Joint Environmental Policy Statement \(2017\)](#)