



Joint Environmental Policy Statement (July 2017)

The Association of Anaesthetists (the Association), The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) and the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland (CAI), recognise that the professional actions of anaesthetists have an environmental impact and that this, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing both now and in the future. For this reason, we are committed to promoting environmental sustainability across our own activities as well as encouraging and supporting action by our members and fellows. This includes, but is not limited to, mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, prudent use of natural resources and minimising waste.

As the three largest UK wide organisations representing the specialty, we will collaborate with stakeholders such as the Sustainable Development Unit, the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change and others to identify and act on opportunities to improve environmental sustainability in health and care generally, and anaesthesia in particular. Our approach to this will run alongside our work continuing to ensure the safety of patients and the welfare of our clinical colleagues.

The Association, RCoA and CAI identify four priority areas for action:

- Priority 1 Position our organisations as leaders in promoting sustainable healthcare, promoting the specific contribution of anaesthesia while working with others.
- Priority 2 Commitment to providing the latest scientific evidence, education and the sharing of good practice to enable our members to minimise the environmental impact of their anaesthesia practice.
- Priority 3 Strive to continually monitor and improve the environmental sustainability of our organisations.
- Priority 4 Promote the reduction of individual and institutional wastage of financial and environmental resources in healthcare delivery.