

ANZSOM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & PROCEDURES

1. Introduction

ANZSOM acknowledges its obligation to ensure the organisation operates sustainably and actively considers the impact of its activities on the environment. It is committed to taking steps to address, minimise and mitigate these impacts, and to engage with partners, such as the Royal Australasian College of Physicians¹ to advocate more broadly for action on climate change and the environment, particularly in relation to the impacts on health and workers.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and its procedures is to guide ANZSOM in:

- responding to the challenges of climate change;
- integrating a philosophy of sustainability in its activities and standards;
- embedding and promoting sound environmental practices in all operations, services and products; and
- fostering responsible, sustainable and climate-conscious decisions and behaviours at an organisational level, including among management, staff, volunteers, members, the people we work with, stakeholders and suppliers.

3. Policy

ANZSOM is committed to minimising its impact on the environment and fostering sustainability by:

- fostering an organisational culture of sustainability, where responsibility to the environment, climate, climate system and ecosystems is understood and put into practice;
- avoiding the use of products and practices that contribute to climate change and environmental degradation, while promoting and favouring the use of products and practices that are at a minimum climate-neutral or, as a preference, have positive impacts on the environment;
- collaborating with other organisations to support actions in relation to climate change, including the impacts on health;
- using its particular knowledge and experience to contribute to environmentally sustainable techniques, technology, knowledge and methods, particularly in relation to healthcare;
- enhancing awareness within ANZSOM and among our members, the people we work with, stakeholders and suppliers about our actions in seeking to operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

¹ Royal Australasian College of Physician – Our work on climate change and health
<https://www.racp.edu.au/advocacy/policy-and-advocacy-priorities/climate-change-and-health>

ANZSOM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROCEDURES

1. Responsibilities

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of **the General Council** to establish and maintain policies and procedures and to bring these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability Policy into effect.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of **the President, other executive officers and the ANZSOM Secretariat** to ensure the implementation and ongoing observation of these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability policy.

2. Processes

- 2.1 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to support policy implementation through:
 - provision of appropriate and relevant training; and
 - provision of appropriate time, funds or resources.
- 2.2 In relation to practical approaches to optimising the environmental sustainability of our activities, ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to:
 - conserve energy, including by improving energy efficiency;
 - ensure that its operations, events, services and products are efficient in their use of energy and protective of the environment;
 - avoid the unnecessary purchase of materials;
 - reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials and use recyclable packaging or other similar materials;
 - prevent air, water or other pollution and dispose of waste safely and responsibly;
 - reduce supply chain emissions;
 - give preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible;
 - consider carbon-offsetting opportunities that may be available
 - ensure its suppliers deliver services in line with the ANZSOM policy and procedures, including through contracts and purchasing policies
- 2.3 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to meet or exceed all applicable government requirements and voluntary requirements generally observed in its field.
- 2.4 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that staff, volunteers and suppliers are informed of and expected to follow (as the context requires) the Environmental Sustainability policy and these procedures and to report any environmental concerns to management. Management will use reasonable endeavours to consider any reported concerns and take appropriate action as it sees fit.
- 2.5 ANZSOM endorses [the Healthy Climate Future Campaign](#) (RACP), which brings together 13 out of 15 medical colleges to advocate for action on climate change and to build healthy and climate-resilient communities and climate-ready and climate-friendly healthcare systems.

- 2.6 ANZSOM supports the development and implementation of the [National Health and Climate Strategy](#) that aims to build healthy and climate-resilient communities and ensure that healthcare systems are prepared for climate impacts

Supporting documentation:

Climate Change and Australia's Healthcare System – a review of the literature, policy and practice (RACP) 2021 https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/climate-change-and-australias-healthcare-systems-a-review-of-literature-policy-and-practice.pdf?sfvrsn=e8c61a_6

Australian National Climate Change Strategies <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/strategies>

Healthy Climate Future Campaign (RACP) [Healthy Climate Future Campaign](#) (contact Katrina Gardner at ClimateChangeHealth@racp.edu.au)

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