

A fluffy calico cat with white, orange, and black fur is being held by a person wearing a blue shirt. The cat is looking to the left. The background is a blurred clinical setting.

# *Sustaining our profession*

## **VMAE 2025**

October 18, 2025

**MARS**  
Veterinary Health

# Environmental sustainability matters to our profession

**Sustainability matters  
to pet owners**

**65%**

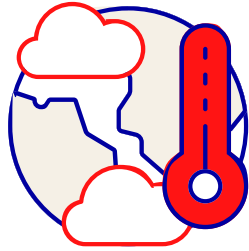
**of pet owners would like to be  
informed of the sustainability  
efforts of their veterinary clinic**

**Veterinary staff care  
about this issue**

**76%**

**of veterinary staff feel it is very important to  
know that their veterinary clinic strives to be  
as environmentally sustainable as possible**

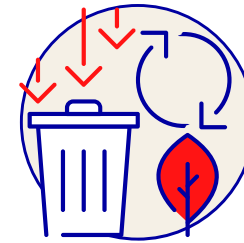
# We have an opportunity – and responsibility – to improve our environmental impacts



## Climate change

**8.5%**

of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are accounted for by the U.S. healthcare system.<sup>1</sup>

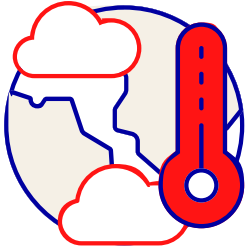


## Waste reduction

**5.9M TONS**

of waste are produced annually by the U.S. healthcare system.<sup>2</sup>

# Supporting environmental sustainability: Focus areas



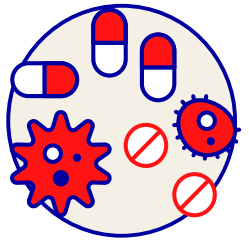
## *Climate change*

Reduce our carbon footprint by measuring and cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, using renewable electricity, and improving energy efficiency.



## *Waste reduction*

Decrease clinic waste by using fewer materials, reusing safe products, and improving recycling through better services, training, and signage.



## *Pharmaceutical stewardship*

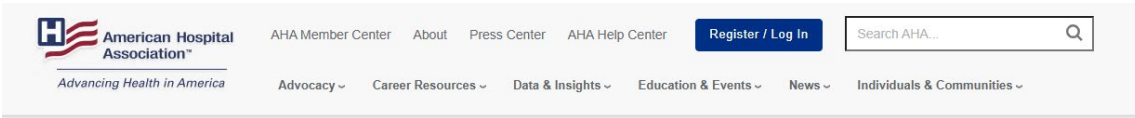
Improve antibiotic prescribing in our clinics to help veterinarians choose the right antibiotic, at the right time, for the right duration, and only when necessary.

# Sustainability supports veterinary recruitment & retention



“ When a DVM candidate had his choice of hospitals, **our environmental stewardship let us stand out.** Our initiatives served as a jumping off point to talk about something with **passion and optimism.** He saw a positive version of the future and joined our efforts. These practices continue to help create a team atmosphere and **culture of purpose.**”

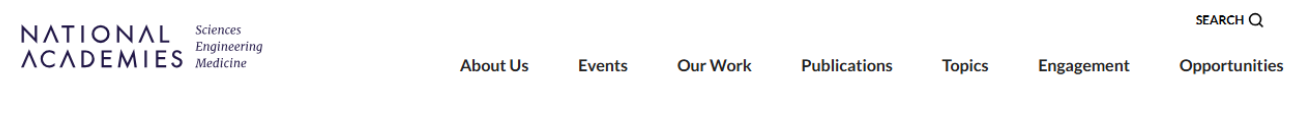
# Human healthcare association examples



[SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP FOR HEALTH CARE](#)

[Sustainability for Health Care Facilities](#) | [Glossary](#) | [HealQuest™](#)

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are transformational for each health care organization — and the sector as a whole. The business concepts “Create Value” and “Reinforce the Mission” help to show the importance of sustainability and decarbonization. Adapting these examples to your own organization and community will make an even more compelling case.



## National Academies Publish New Report Reviewing Evidence for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and U.S. Climate, Health, and Welfare

News Release | September 17, 2025

WASHINGTON — A new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine says the evidence for current and future harm to human health and welfare created by human-caused greenhouse gases is beyond scientific dispute.

The report focuses on evidence gathered by the scientific community since 2009, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that greenhouse gas emissions threaten public health and welfare. The EPA recently gave notice of proposed rulemaking indicating its intention to rescind this finding.

The report says EPA's 2009 finding was accurate, has stood the test of time, and is now reinforced by even stronger evidence. Much of the understanding of climate change that was uncertain or tentative in 2009 has now been resolved by scientific research, the report says.

“This study was undertaken with the ultimate aim of informing the EPA, following its call for public comments, as it considers the status of the endangerment finding,” said Shirley Tilghman, professor of molecular biology and public affairs, emeritus, and former president, Princeton University, and chair of the committee that wrote the report. “We are hopeful that the evidence summarized here shows the strong base of scientific evidence available to inform sound decision-making.”

To prepare its report, the committee considered widely available datasets that provide information about greenhouse gas emissions, the climate system, and human health and public welfare; a broad range of peer-reviewed literature and scientific assessments; and more than 200 comments submitted in response to a request for information.

## OHA Energy & Sustainability Program

### Member Opportunities

[Education & Events Calendar](#)

[Annual Meeting](#)

[OHA Energy & Sustainability Program](#)

OHA's Energy & Sustainability Program leverages our technical expertise and advocacy role to:

- Support hospitals with energy and sustainability decision-making
- Connect Ohio hospital leaders in the energy and sustainability field
- Offer educational events and resources
- Advocate on behalf of hospitals
- Facilitate energy procurement

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2024

# Environmental Sustainability

UPDATE



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