

TAHSN Statement on Sustainable Procurement

Climate change is a critical threat to health and the healthcare sector.

- Human health and well-being are interdependent with the climate, ecosystem health, and biodiversity, all of which are at risk due to unsustainable resource use and pollution(1).
- Healthcare is a significant and growing contributor to climate change and is also facing critical climate shocks and stresses(2). Few other sectors have such an opportunity to both mobilize change and benefit from proactive action.
- Supply chains account for the majority of healthcare's greenhouse gas emissions, and procurement is a significant lever for change(3).

Leadership to address climate change through healthcare is growing.

- More than 60 countries, including Canada, have joined the COP26 Health Programme, committing to build climate-resilient, low carbon, and sustainable health systems, including supply chains(4).
- NHS England was the first health system to commit to net zero emissions and has developed a roadmap for suppliers to reach net zero by 2045(5,6). At COP27, the US Department of Health & Human Services committed to align with NHS England(7).
- Healthcare procurement partners are increasingly integrating sustainability considerations into their organizational strategies and evaluation criteria.

TAHSN is committed to collaborative action and leadership on sustainability.

- Since 2020, the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) has been working together on sustainability leadership, research, education, and practice change, coordinated through the Sustainable Health System Community of Practice.
- In TAHSN's first Strategy Framework, *An Equitable and Sustainable Future* is one of four strategic priorities, including climate mitigation and adaptation(8).

Addressing the environmental impact of what we buy as healthcare organizations is a strategic imperative and a significant opportunity for positive impact.

We intend to work together to demonstrate leadership.

As TAHSN organizations, we commit to:

- Integrate sustainable procurement into our organizational strategies and policies
- Elevate sustainability considerations in procurement
- Engage suppliers and procurement partners in improving the evaluation of sustainability in purchasing decisions

References

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