



Green ICU Collaborative

Joint Statement on Environmental Sustainability in Critical Care

Environmental factors exert substantial influence in determining the quality of human health and wellbeing, underscored by the imminent and pressing effects of global climate change.

The healthcare sector, even while dedicated to protecting and promoting human health, contributes a significant portion to greenhouse gas emissions.

Intensive care units (ICUs) are a key resource-intensive component of the healthcare setting with a significant carbon footprint.

Through the principles of recycling, reducing, and rethinking, the environmental impact of ICUs can be modified (without detriment to patient safety and quality) to mitigate the effect of greenhouse gas emissions to create sustainable (Green) critical care operations.

We, as leaders in intensive care, resolve to uphold: (a) a shared vision for a *Green Intensive Care* focus worldwide; (b) a high standard for sustainable practices in our intensive care units; and (c) efforts to promote the importance of sustainable critical care practices through impactful initiatives, advocacy, education, and training. The views expressed in this joint statement may not reflect the official position or stance of our organization.

Affirmed by:

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **What is the purpose of this joint statement?**

The purpose of this joint statement is to raise awareness and show support for sustainability efforts within hospital systems in the United States. We recognize that the ICU is one of the largest contributors to a hospital's overall carbon footprint. Raising awareness of this issue is crucial in driving meaningful action and is an essential part of our broader commitment to reducing our environmental impact. By understanding the role of the ICU in this, we can take more effective steps to address and do our part to mitigate the industry's environmental challenges. We also refer to this as the Green ICU Initiative.

- **What is the Green ICU Initiative?**

In line with sustainability efforts made by The Joint Commission and pioneered by ANZICS and other international organizations, the Green ICU initiative strives to drive sustainability in healthcare.

- **Why should I sign this document?**

To show your support and commitment for a greener ICU in the future by actively seeking out efforts to improve sustainability in critical care.

- **Is this document legally binding?**

No, this document is not a legally binding document. Signing this document does not reflect on the views or positions of your employing entity. The following sentence is included in the joint statement: *"The views expressed in this joint statement may not reflect the official position or stance of our organization."*

- **Where will this document be shared?**

This statement will be primarily promoted on social media platforms such as Houston Methodist Center for Critical Care's LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. We may also refer to it in future publications and articles relating to our sustainability efforts in healthcare.

- **Who do I contact if I have any questions?**

You can contact Dr. Faisal Masud, FMasud@houstonmethodist.org