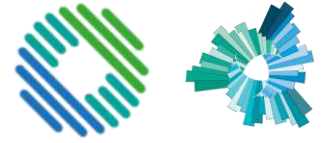


Event Sustainability Report The Winter Meeting

Prepared by GDS-Movement



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About ESCRS

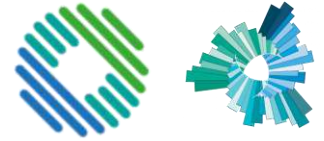


ESCRS was founded in 1991 to promote education and research in the field of implant and refractive surgery and to advance and promote the study and practice of ophthalmology. It promotes and supports research in intraocular lens implantation and refractive surgery and shares the results.

ESCRS has over 7,500 members from 130 countries worldwide.

ESCRS's 27th Winter Meeting was held during the 10th –12th March at the Centro De Congressos Do Algarve, Vilamoura

Our Approach: We are in this together



ESCRS and I are committed to improving the sustainability of all our activities as a society. Improving the footprint of the Winter Meeting is a priority, and we are working with our partners to organise a socially and environmentally responsible event. Our vision is to work towards zero waste to landfill, zero net carbon emissions and become a role model for social responsibility.

This means we have to work collaboratively to support the wellness of our event participants, give back to local and global communities, regenerate ecosystems and inspire sustainability action from our event participants. We invite you to join us in this journey.

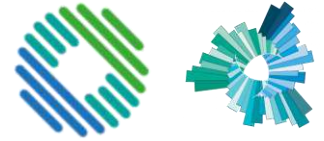


Oliver Findl, ESCRS President

SUSTAINABLE EVENT STRATEGY



Mission Zero – Our Sustainability Strategy



Catalyst

Inspire our members to improve the Environmental and Social sustainability of ophthalmic healthcare care

Exemplar

Lead by example by innovating and improving the sustainability of ESCRS operations and practices

Our Goals

Content

Inspire action about sustainable ophthalmic care

Climate Action

Net Zero Carbon Emissions

Circular Economy

Zero Waste to Landfill

Diversity Equality Inclusion

Socially Responsible

Our Principles

Design out waste, emissions and pollution

Keep materials and products in use

Switch to more sustainable materials

Regenerate natural system

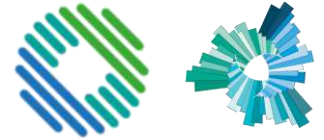
Design for inclusiveness and diversity

Improve participant event experience

Aligned to UN SDG



Objectives and KPIs for the Winter Meeting



Inspire Action

- Partner with ASCRS, APACRS and AAO to promote eyesustain.org initiative
- Integrate a sustainability track into the congress programme
- Recruit at least four new organisations into the Sustainability Partnership programme

Zero Emissions

- 20% of delegates to arrive by climate friendly transport
- +60% of food served is vegetarian
- 80% of food locally sourced (less than 160km)
- Non-avoidable carbon emissions will be offset by investing in a portfolio of projects

Zero Waste

- Eliminate 90% of single use plastic, polystyrene and PVC
- Decrease waste sent to landfill to less than 20%, and increase recycling to +50%
- +70% of all signage and branding to be made from more sustainable materials

Be a role model for Social Responsibility

- Increase balance of female speakers to 35%
- Integrate at least 1 community/charity partnership in the event
- Integrate sports activity as part of the Winter meeting

Our Approach: We are in this together



A sustainable event requires commitment and collective action from participants, exhibitors, sponsors, the organisers and the suppliers. Our approach is to engage, inspire and catalyze action to make a zero-impact event.



Focus Area



We will engage, assess and work collaboratively to improve the sustainability of the following 10 areas of the Congress



INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS





Measuring Impact

Result of ESCRS's Winter Meeting in Vilamoura

We calculated the meetings' s carbon and waste footprint using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food & beverages, venue and online participation are included in the scope of our measurements.

Carbon Footprint

861.56 tCO₂e

Total carbon footprint

800.71 kgCO₂e

Average carbon footprint per attendee

This is the equivalent of:

- CO₂ equivalent from 430.8 cars on the road for one year
- The carbon sequestered by 4307.8 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

Scope 1

0.05 tCO₂e

Scope 2

1.48 tCO₂e

Scope 3

860.03 tCO₂e

Carbon Footprint by Category

Energy	8.5%
Catering	0.8%
Travel	90.7%
Production	0.0%
Waste	0.0%





Circularity

Our approach is to design waste out of the event, keep materials and products in use, switch to more sustainable materials and implement a high-performance recycling system.

In partnership with the venue, waste was separated into 5-streams:

- Paper
- Glass
- General Waste
- Plastic & Cans
- Organic Waste



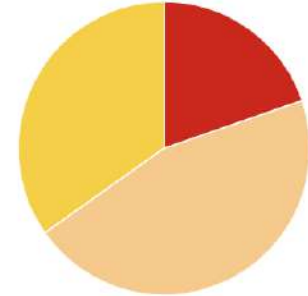
Waste Footprint

Total waste – 770 kg
Waste per attendee – 0.72 kg

Our efforts, increased the waste diversion rate to 70.1%. This means that 540 kg of event waste was not put into a landfill. While this is an above-average performance figure for a comparable event, the diversion and recycling rates were lower than our goals. The majority of waste came from food, beverage and serveware.

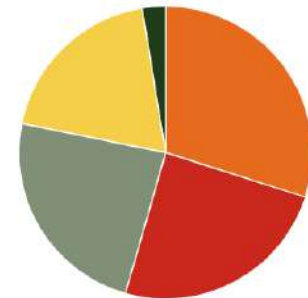
Where did waste come from? (by weight)

● Built items	0.0%
● Graphics	0.0%
● Food waste	19.7%
● Serveware	45.5%
● Everything else	34.8%

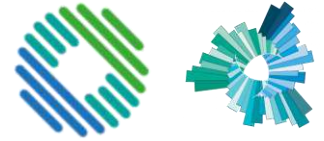


Where did waste go? (by weight)

● Landfill	29.9%
● Incinerated	24.5%
● Recycled	23.8%
● AD/Compost	19.2%
● Re-used	2.6%



Circularity of Events Materials



Our efforts, to improve the recyclability and sustainability of event materials are improving.

Percentage of assets hired or made from reclaimed materials

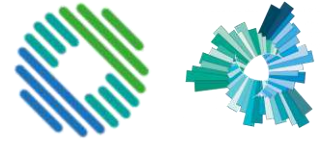
44.0%

Percentage of assets made from recycled materials

32.7%



Food and Beverage



We worked with the Tivoli Marina Vilamoura team to offer healthier and climate-friendlier food and drink options for the event:

- Red meat wasn't on the menu
- 48% of served food was vegetarian or vegan
- 90% of the food was packaged in compostable or reusable packaging
- 80% locally and regionally sourced ingredients

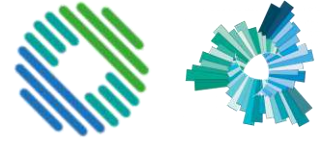


“It was a pleasure and positive challenge to create the Menu for ESCRS 2023 event due to the current world circumstances, giving us the honor of using exclusive local products, to go in line with the event strong sustainability program.”

André Basto,
Executive Chef



The President's Dinner

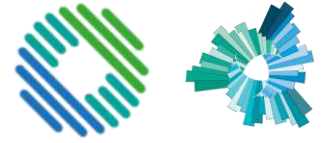


On behalf of Prof. Oliver Findl, President of ESCRS, The President's Dinner at the Winter Meeting was organised at Tivoli Marina Vilamoura Lakeside area with special attention to sustainable sourcing and environmental impact. This included:

- Sourcing local ingredients and beverages
- Eliminating red meat from the menu
- Using more sustainable table decorations: 20 pots of aromatic herbs were donated to the local at Antonio Aleixo Foundation garden after the dinner.



Food Footprint



Total F&B emissions

6.73 tCO₂e

Total Food emissions

6.08 tCO₂e

Contribution to overall emissions

0.8%

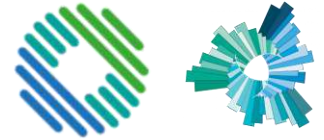
Total Beverages emissions

0.65 tCO₂e

4000+ portions of food was served, creating a carbon footprint of 6.08 tons CO₂e.

Food Type	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Portions	Emissions per 100g (kgCO ₂ e)
Beef/Lamb	0.00	0	2.18
Other Meat, Fish and Seafood	4.21	2581	0.48
Vegetarian	1.87	2378	0.32
Plant based/Vegan	0.00	3	0.11

Delegate Engagement



Event participants were engaged pre, during and post event with a goal to educate, inspire and change behaviour.

What's your role in the ESCRS sustainability efforts?

"It takes a village to raise a child" - African Yoruba proverb

Sustainability only works if we are all involved and working together.

It's on each of us to find ways to take action in our own sphere of control, whilst using our influence, as small as it may be, to encourage, or demand, that those with power do something about it.

We propose key actions below that you can take to create a more sustainable event experience with us. Why not take the ESCRS Mission Zero Pledge and join us on this journey?

1. Exhibit Sustainably

We're encouraging our partners and exhibitors to champion social and environmental responsibility at ESCRS events. From ordering sustainable cater ware to offsetting your event-related emissions, your commitment helps us to create a Winter Meeting that supports both people and the planet.

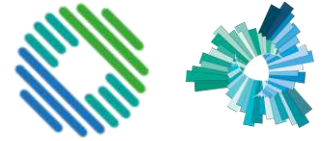
On-site Engagement

The Winter Meeting Sustainability Wall



The Sustainability Wall was designed to share information about the event sustainability strategy, efforts and results, and to engage delegates to share feedback and ideas. It was produced from Falconboard – a fully recyclable material.

On-site Initiatives



1200 reusable water bottles were reused from the summer Congress. We placed 6 large capacity water stations around the venue.



Offsetting Portfolio Approach



Continue partnership with Climate Care Partners. They are one of the global leaders in helping organisations meet their ambitious climate goals.



Continuous ESCRS investment in 'Impact Portfolio' of 3 high quality certified sustainable development projects that reduce carbon emissions and improve people's lives.

Health Impact: Aqua Clara Water Filters, Kenya



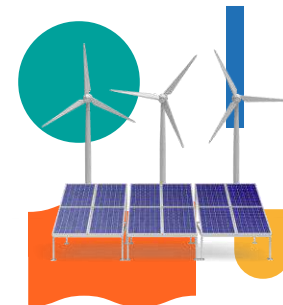
Providing clean cooking and safe water to hard to reach communities

Environmental Impact: Bondhu Chula Stoves, Bangladesh



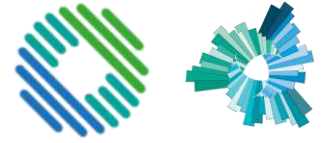
Increasing wellbeing and health by reducing smoke inhalation and air pollution

Economic Impact: Clean Power Portfolio, India



Providing renewable energy solutions that protect the local environment and offer affordable, clean and reliable energy access to communities

Certificate





CLIMATE
IMPACT
PARTNERS

Making real change possible.

ESCRS Trading Ltd

CERTIFICATE OF
PURCHASE
21 JUN 2023

Has offset
862 tonnes CO₂e



Shari Hickok
CEO - CLIMATE IMPACT PARTNERS

Subject:	ESCRS Winter Event	Certificate number:	20230611612
Purchase date:	21 June 2023		
Project info:	Clean Power: Global South Portfolio (862 tCO ₂ e) Bondhu Chula Stoves, Bangladesh, Gold Standard VER (300 tCO ₂ e) Aqua Clara Water Filters, Kenya, Gold Standard VER (200 tCO ₂ e)		

EyeSustain – further developments



EyeSustain is a global coalition of eye societies and ophthalmologists collaborating to make ophthalmic care and surgery more sustainable. It works to:

- Engage, network, and educate the global ophthalmic community about more sustainable practices
- Collaborate with industry to reduce its carbon footprint and surgical waste
- Support research and innovative solutions that reduce ophthalmology's environmental impact
- Collaborate with other medical specialties to reduce the carbon footprint of our healthcare system
- Support advocacy and education about the public health impact of climate change

Key Sustainability Topics in Ophthalmology



Sustainability in the Clinic

Turn your clinic into part of the solution.



Sustainability in the OR

Learn why addressing operating room waste is key to sustainability efforts.



Drug Waste

Reduce drug waste to save money and mitigate pollutants.



Global Green Practices

Explore best practices to shrink your carbon footprint.



PERFORMANCE REVIEW



Performance Against Key Goals



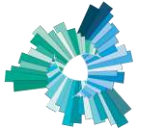
Themes	Goals	Results	
Inspire Action	Partner with ASCRS and APACRS to promote eyesustain.org initiative	3 virtual meetings took place between September 2022 and March 2023 helping and strengthening the eyesustain.org initiative. No specific action were taken during the Winter Meeting	Green
	Integrate a sustainability track into the meeting programme	Sustainability session on Cataract Surgery was delivered by Young Ophthalmologists for Sustainability (YOFS)	Green
	Recruit at least 2 new organisations into the Sustainability Partnership programme	8 new organisations were recruited into the Sustainability Partnership programme during the period of December 2022 – April 2023	Green
Zero Emissions	20% of delegates to arrive by climate friendly transport	27% of in-person attendees arrived by climate friendly transportation (local public transportation, trains or cars vs planes)	Green
	+60% of food served is vegetarian	48% of food served was vegetarian or vegan (including the food served at the Winter Meeting and the President’s Dinner)	Yellow
	80% of food locally sourced (less than 160km)	80% locally and regionally sourced ingredients (covers all food served at the Winter Meeting and the President’s Dinner)	Green
	Non-avoidable carbon emissions will be offset by investing in a portfolio of projects	100% of unavoidable emissions offset with Climate Impact Partners	Green

Performance Against Key Goals



Themes	Goals	Results	
Zero Waste	Eliminate 90% of single use plastic, polystyrene and PVC	PVC and polystyrene was partly eliminated 90% of single use plastic was eliminated from catering functions and outlets	Yellow
	Decrease waste sent to landfill to less than 20%, and increase recycling to +50%	29.9% of waste was sent to landfill 24.5% of waste – incinerated 23.8% of waste recycled or re-used	Red
	+70% of all signage and branding to be made from more sustainable materials	32.7% of assets were made from recycled materials 44% of assets hired or made from reclaimed materials Lack of data to access the percentage of materials recycled post-event	Red
Social Responsibility	Increase balance of female speakers to 35%	34% female / 66% male speakers	Green
	Integrate at least 1 community/charity partnerships in event	20 pots of aromatic herbs were donated to the local at Antonio Aleixo Foundation garden after this dinner	Green
	Integrate wellness activities throughout	Massage and facilitated stretching breaks took place on the show floor	Green

Key Recommendations



Planning

- Make sustainability a priority and agenda item from the project initiation
- Create a Green Team with key stakeholders including venue, agency, production company and designers – dedicated approach to sustainability KPIs

Procurement

- Communicate sustainability requirements with your suppliers well in advance by adding it in the RFP process
- Make sustainability part of the procurement selection process
- Ensure that sustainability and measurement requirements are part of the contract

Measurement

- Ensure each supplier is coached, capable and can provide measurement data 2 weeks after the event
- Include measurement as a contractual commitment with each supplier

Production

- Choose more sustainable signage options and completely eliminate PVC
- Reduce the number of graphics produced by 25% by rethinking design and projecting more
- Remove year and location branding from the main signage allowing it to be repurposed in the future
- Continue engaging exhibitors in sustainability and waste management initiatives

Key Recommendations (cont.)



Food and Beverage

- Fully eliminate single-use plastic and individually wrapped items from food and beverage offerings
- Increase the amount of locally and regionally sourced ingredients
- Offer 100% vegetarian or vegan options at the Winter Meeting from 2023

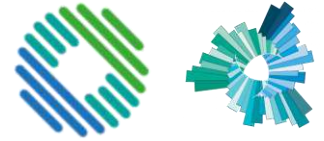
Climate

- Increase the target of delegates arriving by climate friendly transport to 35%
- Partner with local railway providers to promote discounted train rates for the delegates
- Continue with the mandatory carbon offsets
- Improve communications around offsetting
- Offset 90% and remove 10% of non-avoidable carbon emissions

Content and Programme

- Balance female and male speakers with the ratio of 50/50 in the planning stage of the programme
- Incorporate sustainability track as part of the programme

Thank you!



This report was prepared by the GDS-Movement with valuable data and editorial support provided by the ESCRS team.

Event carbon and waste footprint data was measured using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food & beverages, venue and online participation are measured. Where data was not available, impact data was estimated using the GDS-Movements database of sustainable events.



About the GDS-Movement

GDS-Movement unites and enables tourism and event professionals to create flourishing and resilient places to visit, meet and live in.

Our mission is to co-create sustainable and circular strategies, mindsets and skill sets that will enable destinations of the future to thrive, and society and nature to regenerate.

www.gds.earth

