

# SUSTAINABLE EVENTS POLICY

## 1. Purpose

ACRRM has a long and proud history of delivering well-regarded and relevant events for members. However, it is acknowledged that College events such as the annual Rural Medicine Australia conference have a significant carbon impact.

ACRRM recognises that climate change is a threat to global health and that the medical profession has a role in taking practical steps towards addressing climate change. As the peak body for rural and remote medicine in Australia, the College is well placed to be a strong advocate for sound environmental practices and to reflect these in its own policies, particularly with respect to the organisation and management of events.

## 2. Application and Scope

The policy outlines strategies to minimise the carbon impact of College events, as consistent with international moves towards green policy.

## 3. Policy

ACRRM recognises that climate change significantly impacts on human health. As an organisation which trains, supports, and advocates for rural medical practitioners and rural communities, the College has a responsibility to minimise its contribution to the global health impacts of climate change.

The key areas for the reduction of carbon emissions and waste from ACRRM events are in transport, water usage and food consumption.

### 3.1 Venue/Site Selection

- Review venue / site sustainability policies and contract provisions.
- If indoors, select venues with natural lighting and ventilation if possible.

### 3.2 Waste

- Set measurable targets for waste collection or reduction.
- Re-use / recycle elements identified.
- Review venue waste reduction and management protocols.
- Provide sufficient recycling and general waste bins.
- Encourage BYO refillable bottles.
- Consider food donation for any excess catering.
- Develop a plan for collecting and sorting left items including promotional merchandise and lost property that may be donated to a local charity.

### 3.3 Transport

Whenever possible, ACRRM should select event locations and venues which promote environmentally sound means of transportation both to and from the event location and within the venue.

- Encourage delegates and staff to use transport options which minimise carbon emissions. This includes active transport options such as walking and cycling.
- Public transport and shared and private transport (such as hired coaches) should be utilised when active

transport is not possible, safe, or prudent.

- Delegates should be provided with public transport maps and guides.
- Public transport leaders and/or group travel during major events should be utilised to enable easy and sociable usage of public transport where possible.

### 3.4 Energy

ACRRM should seek to select venues that have energy efficient measures in place including optimal lighting, ventilation, and light / sound systems.

- Review any carbon audits undertaken by the venue.
- Enquire about and/or utilise alternative energy sources such as solar panels.

### 3.5 Water

ACRRM should promote responsible water use during events.

- Review venue and accommodation water reduction / minimisation practices including water efficient bathroom facilities.
- Ensure nil pollution of local waterways through site runoff, litter or chemicals is included in venue practices.
- Ensure appropriate options for drinking water are available for delegates.

### 3.6 Catering

Food wastage represents a missed opportunity to improve global food security and to mitigate environmental impacts related to climate change and resource use from food chains.

- Avoid individually packaged food where possible.
- Cater to exact numbers where possible.
- Source local or environmentally sustainable food options.

### 3.7 Promotion

- Look to build carbon offsets into ticket price as option contribution.
- Utilise electronic communication where possible.
- Reduce printed items to minimum required including merchandise.
- Reduce single use items.
- Advertise event as being sustainable in pre- and post- communications, being specific where possible.
- Partner with a carbon offset organisation for remaining carbon emissions.

# POLICY

## 4. Document Control Information

### 4.1 Policy Information

<b>Policy Author:</b>	Michelle Cooper	<b>Approving Body:</b>	Board
<b>Status:</b>	Final	<b>Review period:</b>	Every three years
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<b>Effective Date:</b>	April 2023	<b>Document Location:</b>	ACRRM Admin/Policies/College Policies
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	GM Member Services	<b>Policy System Manager:</b>	Mary Jane Streeton

### 4.2 Document History

Version	Date Approved	Author	Description of revision	Internal Distribution	
				Date	Recipient/s
1.0	April 2023	Michelle Cooper	New Policy	April 2023	CEO and ELT

ACRRM acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waters where our members and staff work and live across Australia. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and Dreaming. We recognise these lands and waters have always been a place of teaching, learning, and healing.