

## **APPENDIX 1. GOAL-RELATED INITIATIVES AND TIMELINE THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE GI SOCIETIES**

For each of the strategic goals highlighted in this document, we provide a list of specific initiatives that may be considered by GI societies. In general terms, we envision years 1 and 2 as periods of self-assessment and planning of initiatives and years 3 to 5 as implementation and assessment years that may extend beyond 5 years to also include planning of new initiatives as new knowledge of best practices becomes known.

### **Clinical setting**

Devise and foster sustainable clinical practices to reduce waste and carbon emissions.

#### **Year 1**

- Facilitate an approach to measuring carbon footprint and waste in all clinical practice settings.
- Recommend actionable low-waste, low-carbon endoscopy practice alternatives, including conserving energy and waste segregation at volunteer pilot sites.
- Establish a working group on sustainable digestive health care with a focus on including sustainable value as a quality domain (includes patient and population outcomes when considering environmental, social, and financial impacts).

#### **Years 2 and 3**

- Support measuring the carbon footprint and waste generation of all aspects of clinical care, including all testing and treatment options.
- Identify low-waste, low-carbon practice alternatives in all aspects of clinical care (immediate, short, and long term).
- Facilitate the introduction and implementation of low-waste, low-carbon practice in all aspects of clinical care.
- Introduce sustainable value care principles into clinical practice as a quality domain.

#### **Years 3 to 5**

- Facilitate measurement of sustainable value care as a quality domain.

### **Education**

Raise awareness and share sustainability practices with society members and patients regarding the interaction between climate change, digestive health, and healthcare services.

#### **Year 1**

- Establish an approach to incorporate climate change and sustainable care into societies' strategic learning objectives and educational programs (eg, supporting local and hybrid virtual conferences to minimize air travel).
- Pool currently available educational resources and collate them online.

- Devise a blueprint for endoscopy units on how to measure carbon footprint and waste.
- Develop an educational tool on appropriate waste segregation for endoscopy units with focus on medical waste and recycling.

### **Years 2 to 5**

- Devise a blueprint for all other practice settings (outpatient, inpatient) on how to measure carbon footprints and waste.
- Develop educational tools and programs related to climate change and sustainable care and implement these in societies' educational programs.
- Develop and disseminate practical information and tools to help GI society members make a difference in their own clinical practice or institutions.
- Create educational material to inform patients about the changing face of digestive health care while prioritizing sustainability.

### **Research**

Raise and allocate resources to support research at the intersection of the environment, climate change, and digestive health.

#### **Year 1**

- Develop an approach for supporting research in areas related to environment and digestive health.

#### **Years 2 to 5**

- Work within society means and with external funding sources to support impactful research in the areas related to environment and digestive health.

### **Society efforts**

Achieve environmentally and organizationally sustainable activities across all society mission areas.

#### **Year 1**

- Begin an initiative to measure the societies' internal and external carbon footprints, and examine the societies' current approach to recyclable and nonrecyclable waste management including that generated through society publications.
- Introduce immediately feasible measures to reduce societies' carbon footprint and waste.

#### **Years 2 and 3**

- Complete measurements of the societies' internal and external carbon footprint and waste management.
- Identify additional measures to lower waste and minimize societies' carbon footprint.

- Initiate annual tracking of financial and environmental cost and savings.

### **Years 3 to 5**

- Implement environmentally sustainable organizational practices in all societies' activities.

### **Intersociety efforts**

Collaborate with national and international GI societies to advocate for and support implementation of sustainability practices.

### **Year 1**

- Establish a GI multisociety strategic plan to address the environmental impact of GI practice.
- Establish initiative and working groups to accomplish the defined strategic goals.
- Understand the interests of non-GI societies to collaborate on mutual sustainability efforts.

### **Years 2 to 5**

- Collaborate with societies to assess the environmental impact of our common practice and identify measures to lower it (eg, services related to imaging, pathology, or provision of anesthesia).
- Share blueprints for assessing environmental impact of our practice.
- Collaboratively devise and share educational tools.
- Establish collaborative approach to industry engagement and advocacy.

### **Industry**

Engage with GI- and hepatology-focused industry and pharmaceutical partners to develop environmentally friendly products rooted in sustainable economy principles.

### **Year 1**

- Establish a multisociety initiative to engage with industry representatives and to specify an approach to engage industry stakeholders (eg, dedicated meetings, mandatory disclosures of sustainability implications when presenting products during conferences).
- Engage representatives in dialogue around achieving societies' objectives and understanding the sustainability goals of industry partners.

### **Years 2 to 5**

- Assess yearly progress and continued engagement.

### **Advocacy**

Advocate for policies that promote environmentally sustainable GI practices.

### **Year 1**

- Review, discuss, and revise current advocacy goals and leadership programs.
- Identify medical and nonmedical climate advocacy organizations that are aligned with the societies' missions to explore potential for collaboration and mutual support.

### **Years 2 to 5**

- Enact revised advocacy leadership programs.
- Initiate discussions with agencies like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations about nonevidence-based guidelines that may have a considerable environmental impact.
- Engage with representative organizations at local, state, and national levels to promote efforts that mitigate the health-related aspects of the climate crisis.