Event Sustainability Report
The Winter Meeting

Prepared by GDS-Movement
Content

1. The Winter Meeting
   - About ESCRS
   - Congress Overview

2. Sustainable Event Strategy
   - Approach
   - Vision
   - Strategy

3. Initiatives and Impacts. How did we do?
   - Measuring Impact
   - Circularity
   - Waste, Food and Beverage
   - Delegate Engagement
   - On-site initiatives
   - Carbon Offset Approach and Results
   - Content and Programme

4. Performance Review
   - Performance against goals
   - Key recommendations
   - Vision for 2023
   - Credits

Prepared in collaboration with the GDS-Movement
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 Congressons Do Algavre, Vilamoura
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

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

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

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

Prepared in collaboration with the GDS-Movement
Objectives and KPIs for the Winter Meeting

**Inspire Action**
- Partner with ASCRS, APACRS and AAO to promote [eyesustain.org](http://eyesustain.org) initiative
- Integrate a sustainability track into the congress programme
- Recruit at least four new organisations into the Sustainability Partnership programme

**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

**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

**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.

Plan
- Co-create strategy
- Define vision, objectives and targets
- Develop action plan

Assess
- Assess suppliers
- Calculate estimated carbon footprint of congress

Engage
- Engage suppliers, exhibitors, sponsors
- Educate suppliers, the team & improve operational process
- Engage delegates and communicate our initiatives and progress

Measure
- Collect data and calculate carbon and waste footprint
- Compensate for event emissions through a portfolio of certified carbon offset projects

Improve
- Evaluate and improve approach and processes

Prepared in collaboration with the GDS-Movement
Focus Area

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

- **DESTINATION**: Design out waste, emissions and pollution
- **VENUE**: Keep materials and products in use
- **HOUSING AND REGISTRATION**: Switch to more sustainable materials
- **ENERGY AND OFFSETS**: Regenerate natural systems
- **BRANDING AND COMMUNICATIONS**: Design for inclusiveness and diversity
- **PROGRAMME CONTENT**: Improve participant event experience
- **TRANSPORTATION**: Community Outreach
- **EXHIBITION**: Destination
- **FOOD AND BEVERAGE**: Pavilion
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**: Global Sustainable Development Movement

Prepared in collaboration with the GDS-Movement
INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS
Measuring Impact
Result of ESCRS’s Winter Meeting in Vilamoura

We calculated the meetings’ 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
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.
Circularity of Events Materials

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of assets hired or made from reclaimed materials</th>
<th>44.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of assets made from recycled materials</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food and Beverage

We worked with the Tivoli Marina Vilamoura team to offer heathier 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 Menus 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 ESCR, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Type</th>
<th>Emissions (tCO2e)</th>
<th>Portions</th>
<th>Emissions per 100g (kgCO2e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef/Lamb</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Meat, Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>2581</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetarian</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>2378</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant based/Vegan</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

“We take 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 cutlery 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.

**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

Continuous ESCRIS investment in ‘Impact Portfolio’ of 3 high quality certified sustainable development projects that reduce carbon emissions and improve people’s lives.
Certificate

ESCORS Trading Ltd

Has offset:
862 tonnes CO₂e

Subject: ESCORS Winter Event
Purchased date: 21 June 2023

Projects used:
- Clean Water, Global South Portfolio (662 tCO₂e)
- Reddy Chlorine, Chennai, India (92 tCO₂e)
- Aqua Care, Water Filters, Mexico, Gold Standard VER (626 tCO₂e)

Certificate number: 2023061612

Prepared in collaboration with the GDS-Movement
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

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

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


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 ESCR S 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