
American Pharmacists Association
House of Delegates – March 24-27, 2023

NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: LCDR Briana Rider

(Name)

January 23, 2023
(Date)

United States Public Health Service
(Organization)

Subject: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Motion: To adopt the following proposed policy under:

Section Environment Concerns

APhA urges stakeholders within the pharmaceutical supply chain to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Background:

Climate change is harming human health (e.g., extreme weather and climate events, infectious diseases, food and water safety and insecurity) and is listed by the World Health Organization as an urgent health challenge.¹ Notable greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. The health care sector contributes 8.5% of total U.S. emissions.² In 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity. In 2022, HHS launched an initiative for members of the healthcare sector to voluntarily pledge to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Around 80% of the sector's emissions come from the supply chain.² Thus, a holistic approach that captures the entire pharmaceutical supply chain (e.g., manufacturing, packaging, transportation, disposal of pharmaceuticals), is needed. All stakeholders within the pharmaceutical supply chain (e.g., manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, health systems) can take actions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.^{3,4}

References:

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>
2. <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2022/04/29/climate-change>
3. Roy, C. (2021). The pharmacist's role in climate change: A call to action. *Canadian pharmacists journal: CPJ = Revue des pharmaciens du Canada: RPC*, 154(2), 74–75. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1715163521990408>
4. <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/features/cutting-carbon-footprint-pharma-supply-chain/>

Current APhA Policy & Bylaws: suggesting new title under Environmental Concerns

2017 Drug Disposal Program Involvement

1. APhA urges pharmacists to expand patient access to secure, convenient, and ecologically responsible drug disposal options, in accordance with the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, by implementing disposal programs they deem appropriate for their individual practice sites, patient care settings, and business models in an effort to reduce the amount of dispensed but unused prescription drug product available for diversion and misuse.

(JPhA. 57(4):441; July/August 2017)

2007, 1992 Recycling of Pharmaceutical Packaging

1. APhA supports aggressive research and development by pharmacists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, waste product managers, and other appropriate parties of mechanisms to increase recycling of non-hazardous, pharmaceutical, packaging materials, to reduce unnecessary waste in pharmaceutical product packaging, and to minimize the opportunity for counterfeiters to use discarded packaging.

(Am Pharm. NS32(6):516; June 1992) (Reviewed 2004) (JPhA. NS45(5):580; September/October 2007) (Reviewed 2012) (Reviewed 2017)

2001 Syringe Disposal

1. APhA supports collaboration with other interested health care organizations, public and environmental health groups, waste management groups, syringe manufacturers, health insurers, and patient advocacy groups to develop and promote safer systems and procedures for the disposal of used needles and syringes by patients outside of health care facilities.

(JPhA. NS41(5)(suppl 1):S9; September/October 2001) (Reviewed 2007) (Reviewed 2012) (Reviewed 2017) (Reviewed 2020)

****Phone numbers will only be used by the New Business Review Committee in case there are questions for the delegate who submitted the New Business Item Content.**

New Business Items are due to the Speaker of the House by **January 23, 2023** (60 days prior to the start of the first House session). Consideration of urgent items can be presented with a suspension of the House Rules at the session where New Business will be acted upon. Please submit New Business Items to the Speaker of the House via email at hod@aphanet.org.