

Climate grand rounds guide

A brief guide to convening talks on climate and health in healthcare facilities

August 2025



60 Leicester Street,
Carlton Vic. 3053
0422 974 857
admin@dea.org.au
www.dea.org.a

Introduction

This guide outlines advice for facilitating an educational climate and health grand round presentation to engage a health facility community about climate impacts on health, environmentally sustainable health care and opportunities for action. This is especially relevant when a healthcare organisation is planning a new capital project that could have an all-electric design, opportunities for sustainability goals to be incorporated into an upcoming strategic plan, or other sustainability goals such as incorporating climate and health education into the postgraduate medical education curriculum.

Preparation

Approximately 3 months pre-presentation.

- Briefly scope the local sustainability context:
 - Identify **current sustainability policies**, e.g. organisation's strategic plan and local climate and sustainability data, your local health district or hospital network sustainability plan or strategy, local sustainability officer or net zero leads. Are any sustainability projects currently active or planning underway? Gathering local sustainability data can be helpful to provide context to the grand round.
 - Who is actively engaged in sustainability at the facility – e.g. clinician group or sustainability committee? Does your organisation have a sustainability officer or manager you can connect with?
- Identify the **aim** and potential **call to action** for the climate and health grand round:
 - aim may be as simple as raising awareness about health impacts of climate change, healthcare sustainability or can be more targeted
 - call to action should be a specific activity or recommendation, such as a call for an all-electric new build, establishment of a sustainability committee, increasing the emphasis on sustainability in your organisation's strategic priorities, incorporating climate and health education into the post graduate medical education curriculum.
→ *Channelling enthusiasm towards a goal maximises the impact.*
- Connect with **DEA** for support – see [Resources](#).
- Contact the local staff member who coordinates grand rounds to **arrange a time**.
- Convene organising **committee**:
 - grand round facilitator/lead and/or educational representatives
 - hospital sustainability officers/team
 - multidisciplinary staff, including students, doctors in training, nursing, allied health, junior and senior medical society leaders (may be an opportunity for an all-staff expression of interest)
 - consider a call out to existing DEA and/or Healthy Futures members (see [Resources](#)) within the organisation (contact for assistance connecting to local members e.g. DEA state committees)
 - regular meetings are likely necessary to plan the event, with increased frequency closer to the event
 - consider mode of presentation (in-person and/or online, panel or lecture), the more engaging the delivery, the greater the impact

- consider whether the event will be recorded.
- Select **speakers**:
 - contact [DEA](#) for speaker recommendations
 - **variety** of speakers can add diversity of perspectives and interest, e.g. internal and external, different specialty backgrounds, roles (JMO vs consultant vs exec vs sustainability officer)
 - strongly consider including at least one **local speaker** given ties to hospital community
 - invite key stakeholders (including executive) to attend and inform of planned call to action at least 2-3 weeks prior to grand round – consider offering position on panel if appropriate.
- Consider **topics** in context of local health facility priorities and available speakers. Examples of potential sustainable healthcare topics may include:
 - nitrous oxide infrastructure leakage and decommissioning
 - sustainable asthma management
 - diagnostic and pathology stewardship
 - anaesthetic gases
 - sustainable clinical models of care
 - reusable versus single use devices and products
 - waste management
 - new health facility build plans – [all-electric builds](#).
- Plan how the event will be **promoted** as early and broadly as possible to maximise attendees, e.g. email, posters, notifying department heads/known sustainability champions, allied health and university.

Process – 1 month pre-presentation

Aim to inspire, create momentum, and promote DEA.

- Clarify/finalise the ‘call to action’ or overarching goal of the grand round.
- Plan logistics of how attendees will act on the call to action on the day and after the event:
 - e.g. draft open letter (https://www.dea.org.au/hospital_climate_letter_template) to your hospital executive/board supporting the call to action for grand round attendees to sign including via a link or QR code to join a hospital sustainability group.
- Plan on the day logistics e.g.:
 - coordinating arrival of speakers, if external
 - audiovisual e.g. microphones (lectern, roving microphone for audience Q&A), PowerPoint presentations, online access
 - catering – consider sustainable choices, see [DEA Conference guide](#)
 - timing/runsheet for the day, allowing sufficient time for questions
 - gifts for speakers.
- Continue to advertise and broadcast the grand round; focus efforts on personal invitations, contacting department leads/sustainability champions to share within their networks.

Suggested grand round outline

Example 1

- 2 presenters (15 mins each):

- internal speaker, e.g. outlining facility journey
- DEA/external speaker – ensure ‘[Join DEA](#)’ slide is presented.
- Panel discussion (20 mins):
 - speakers
 - hospital executive and sustainability representative
 - local politicians and/or health department representatives
 - other interested clinicians, junior medical staff or students.
- Call to action presentation (10 mins): promotion of open letter and call to action.

Example 2

- Introduction to climate change and health / healthcare sustainability (5 min).
- Rapid fire presentations (~30 min total):
 - ~3 speakers, mix of internal & external, different specialties/roles.
 - followed by commentary from hospital executive (5 min).
- Panel discussion and Q&A (20 min).
- Conclusion & call to action (5 min).

Follow up

- Follow up meeting with organising committee and new contacts/partners to gather feedback, explore next steps and actions:
 - e.g. establishment of sustainability committee in hospital, new project/collaboration?
 - how will interested parties continue to be engaged and connected? e.g. Microsoft Teams group, email chain, face to face meetings.
- Share recording if possible (ensure permissions from all speakers) – consider sharing on hospital intranet.
- If performed, collate signatures from open letter.
- Arrange meeting with hospital executive to discuss call to action:
 - e.g. present open letter and call to action (example [presentation](#))
- Consider future annual grand round event and if this can be formalised in the education calendar.
- Follow up with DEA to close the loop, provide feedback, and lessons learned.

Resources

Doctors for the Environment Australia (medical practitioners and students): <https://www.dea.org.au/admin@dea.org.au>

- [Health professional educational resources - DEA](#)
- [Sustainable healthcare resources - DEA](#)

Healthy Futures (health workers and students): <https://www.healthyfutures.net.au/admin@healthyfutures.net.au>

About Doctors for the Environment Australia

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) is an independent, non-government organisation of medical doctors in all Australian states and territories.

DEA's work is based on the premise that humans need a future with clean air and water, healthy soils capable of producing nutritious food, a stable climate, and a complex, diverse and interconnected humanity whose needs are met in a sustainable way. We are therefore interested in environmental protection and restoration to promote human health and social stability.

Acknowledgement of Country

Doctors for the Environment Australia's members live and work around Australia. We would like to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of these lands, in the spirit of reconciliation.

We recognise that First Nations peoples have cared for Country and lived sustainably for millennia, and that sovereignty of this land was never ceded. We pay our respects to First Nations Elders past and present, and to emerging leaders.

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