

FIP Call To Action

Pharmacists for environmental sustainability

The Hague, 7 November 2025

This Call to Action builds on the Green Pharmacy Practice report¹, findings from a FIP insight board on environmental sustainability (April 2025)² and the FIP Statement of Policy on [Environmental sustainability within pharmacy](#). This statement highlights both the impact of medicines on climate change and pollution, and the opportunities for sustainable pharmacy services across different areas of practice and reflects FIP's ongoing commitment to advancing planetary health through pharmacy practice, science, and education. Urgent action is now needed to strengthen mitigation and adaptation policies at local, regional and national levels to secure a sustainable future for pharmacy.

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Pharmacists' role

Pharmacists stand at the intersection of medicines development, production and distribution, healthcare delivery, community leadership, and public trust. They therefore have an urgent responsibility to embed environmental sustainability as a core element of their practice, since medicines impact the environment throughout their lifecycle—from resource-intensive manufacturing and carbon-heavy distribution to improper disposal that contaminates ecosystems and contributes to antimicrobial resistance, amongst other impacts. By empowering patients, improving adherence, and deprescribing when appropriate, pharmacists can also reduce waste, lower healthcare's carbon footprint, and protect both human and planetary health.

Industrial pharmacists

Industrial pharmacists should promote compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices and other sustainability standards across the pharmaceutical supply chain, including principles of Green Chemistry³. They can champion high-impact actions such as incentivising low-carbon pharmaceuticals, promoting circular healthcare systems, and integrating sustainability within quality-improvement frameworks under an One Health⁴ approach. All pharmacists, including those in industry, should commit to reducing energy and water consumption, adopting



eco-friendly packaging, implementing medicine take-back schemes, and applying sustainable procurement standards.

Community and hospital pharmacists

Community pharmacists play a frontline role in sustainability. They must prepare for climate-related disruptions, manage supply chains responsibly, and protect vulnerable populations during environmental crises. By engaging patients as active partners in care, they can reduce medicine waste and improve adherence and promote responsible use and disposal. Collaborative deprescribing reduces inappropriate treatments, adverse effects, and the environmental burden of medicine waste. Take-back programmes—already common in several countries—are effective in preventing pollution and improving medicine stock.

Pharmacists also support rational antibiotic use by raising awareness, promoting adherence, identifying inappropriate prescribing, and educating patients on correct dosage, treatment duration and appropriate disposal. Pharmacists are encouraged to explore renewable energy options, such as solar power, within their practice settings to reduce operating costs and support environmental sustainability. Reporting such initiatives at national level can strengthen the professional social responsibility profile and contribute to broader climate goals.

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Organisations & policy advocacy

Both national and international pharmacy organisations should prioritise environmental sustainability within professional standards, regulatory frameworks, and health policies. This is especially relevant for low- and middle-income countries, where robust pharmaceutical waste strategies can yield significant benefits, as higher levels of river pollution have been documented in these regions.⁵ Pharmacists working within professional associations have a pivotal role in policy advocacy, ensuring environmental considerations are embedded in healthcare planning and pharmaceutical regulation.

Education & training

Education and training are critical enablers of sustainable pharmacy practice. Pharmacy schools and professional development programmes must integrate sustainability as a core competency, equipping pharmacists in any setting to reduce environmental impacts across all stages of the medicine lifecycle. Pharmacy students should demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to support environmental efforts, including good storage and distribution practices and proper medicine disposal. Building resilience in pharmacy education is equally urgent to prepare future professionals for climate-related challenges.



Our collective Call to Action

The pharmacy profession stands at a defining moment. This Call to Action invites all pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy educators worldwide to integrate environmental sustainability into every aspect of practice, science, and education. Acting collectively, pharmacists can reduce the environmental footprint of medicines, strengthen resilience to climate risks, and promote sustainable behaviours that safeguard the health of future generations.

FIP and pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy educators worldwide commit to:

- Promote the safe, rational, and environmentally responsible use and disposal of medicines and medical devices.
- Integrate sustainability principles into all relevant frameworks, statements, and daily pharmacy practice.
- Equip pharmacists in every setting with the knowledge, skills, and tools to reduce environmental impacts across the medicine lifecycle.
- Advance greener pharmacy operations by reducing energy and water use, choosing sustainable transport, and adopting eco-friendly packaging.
- Engage pharmacists in antimicrobial resistance strategies through surveillance, prevention, research, training, and communication.
- Educate patients and communities to reduce medicine waste and make environmentally responsible health choices.
- Collaborate with other healthcare professionals and policymakers to embed sustainability as a core dimension of healthcare quality.
- Amplify pharmacists' roles in achieving national and global sustainability targets aligned with the SDGs and the One Health principles.
- Facilitate collaboration and innovation through FIP constituencies for environmental sustainability to expand pharmacists' leadership in this area.

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