

## AMERSA Climate Task Force (CTF) 2024 Annual Report

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- Formed the CTF after 2023 Annual Meeting
- Developed mission statement and logo
- Agreed that goal for 2023-24 would focus on improving the environmental impact of AMERSA Annual meetings
- Changes implemented for 2024 Annual Meeting in Chicago:
  - Implemented Sustainability tabs for conference website and AMERSA website
  - Changed conference menu to eliminate red meat and increase vegetarian options
  - Created information sheet that explains why reducing red meat is the most environmentally-beneficial dietary change
  - Switched from paper to electronic programs (eliminated printing >14,000 pages), while still offering option to purchase paper program for those who strongly prefer it
  - Eliminated use of plastic water bottles and disposable plastic cups
  - Encouraged environmentally friendly transportation options to reach Chicago and for travel within the City by creating a transportation worksheet and a public transportation guide to travel between O'Hare airport and the conference hotels
  - Reduced food waste by creating an option for attendees to take left-over boxed lunches to their rooms for later consumption, rather than dumping leftovers in the trash
  - Created tip-sheet for conference attendees to improve their personal environmental impact (e.g., by turning off heating/cooling/lights in guest rooms)
  - Included questions about these changes in post-conference evaluation survey in order to understand experience of attendees
- Started process of shifting AMERSA's investments to more environmentally responsible funds
- Committed to performing a review of published literature that examines the relationship between climate change and substance use disorder in 2025-26

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