Sustainability Recommendations

Hosted by Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Transportation

Avoid single person rides.

- Carpool with your friends to and from the airport! Shuttles are available to and from Ithaca Airport.
- Use shuttles provided for Opening and Closing ceremonies to and from your hotel.

Avoid flights with multiple connections. It’s the takeoff and landings that create most of the airplane’s emissions.

Fly economy class. In business and first class, there is more space per passenger, meaning an inefficient use of space.

When choosing an airline to fly with, prioritize companies that use modern and fuel-efficient aircrafts and that have established environmentally friendly services. Please visit our website for more information.

Track and offset your carbon footprint using one of the recommended websites below:

- ICAO Environment
- MyClimate
- National Capital Partners
“What are Carbon Offsets?”

**Carbon offsetting** is compensating for your personal carbon emissions (which cannot be avoided), through the purchase of carbon credits. By purchasing carbon credits to offset emissions, you are supporting low carbon sustainable development projects throughout the world. A carbon credit represents one ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) that has been reduced, avoided, or sequestered by a project.

Each project calculates the number of credits they can sell based on the CO₂e emissions saved following the implementation of the project. For instance, a wind power project will calculate the emissions saved by establishing a renewable energy supply, displacing energy which was previously sourced from fossil fuel power stations.

Projects range from improved cookstoves, to solar energy, to forest protection (and more). Each project must follow robust third party standards to demonstrate how many carbon emissions it is reducing or avoiding. Every ton of carbon emission avoided or reduced by the project produces a carbon credit, which can be purchased to offset emissions. (Source: *Natural Capital Partners*)
Transportation

**Pack light when flying.** If everyone aimed to pack 2 lbs. less than normal, it would be equivalent to removing 10,000 cars from the road annually!

**Use a mobile boarding pass** and check-in online.

**Lower the window shades** to keep the plane cooler. This lowers the amount of energy required to power the air conditioning system to cool the plane. If every window shutter was closed on a plane, the temperature inside could be reduced by 10 °C!

**Bring an empty reusable water bottle** to fill once you get past airport security to avoid purchasing plastic water bottles – many airports have free water dispensers.

**Bring your own** snack container, cloth napkins, and reusable cutlery to reduce the amount of items you get from the airport or rest stops in plastic packaging.

**If you decide to drive,** consider renting a hybrid or electric vehicle.

**Traveling via bus or train** generally has a lower environmental impact than by plane. Organize a bus for you and your school’s attendees to have the lowest impact!
Hotel

**Check to see if the hotel you are staying at is LEED Certified.** Certification is based on sustainable site development, water saving, energy efficiency, material selection, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design. **Disclaimer: although several Marriott hotels are now LEED certified, the hotel located in Ithaca has not yet completed this program. We recommend considering this sustainability tip during future travels.**

**Turn off the water** while you are brushing your teeth.

**Bring your own shower items** instead of using the items provided by the hotel. If you do use the provided items, take any leftover soap, shampoo, or toothpaste with you. Unused portions are often discarded, and you can reuse the plastic bottles in the future.

**Turn off** the lights, heat/AC, and television when you leave the hotel room.

**Hang up your towels** after each use as a sign that you want to use them again. This can reduce the use of water and detergents involved in the cleaning process.

**Leave the “Do Not Disturb” sign** on the door of your room for the duration of your stay. This cuts down on chemical cleaning agents, electricity used in vacuuming, and the washing of bed linens.
**Hotel**

**Take shorter showers** to save water.

**Ask if the hotel has a recycling program.** If not, encourage them to start one when you leave suggestions on comments cards at check-out.

**Use our shuttles** to get around whenever possible – carpooling to events this way cuts down on gas usage and saves you money! Shuttles will be provided for:

- Ithaca Airport to and from your hotel.
- The Opening and Closing ceremonies to and from Hotel Ithaca, Marriott, and Hilton Garden Inn.
You will be receiving a reusable thermos in your welcome bag – use it for your drinks throughout the day!

- Take advantage of our school’s water refill stations.
- Use for tea & coffee.
- Pack an additional reusable water bottle or travel mug if necessary.

We are providing reusable containers for field trips that require packed lunches!

Bring a tablet or laptop to take notes on. Most of the lectures will be available in PDF format through the SAVMA Symposium app.

Opt out of any freebies you don’t think you will use.

Reduce food waste by taking these simple steps:

- Only take food that you plan to eat.
- Compost & recycle. Signs will instruct you on what can and cannot be composted/recycled.
- Ask a sustainability volunteer if you have any questions!

Return your lanyard at the end of Symposium – reusing lanyards at future symposia help us reduce unnecessary production of more lanyards.
Have questions about how to be more sustainable during your stay?

Contact Sierra Bouchard at savma2020sustainability@gmail.com