

42<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  ESCRS

**BARCELONA**

**6-10 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Fira de Barcelona, Spain

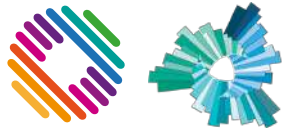
# ESCRS CONGRESS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

In partnership with GDS-Movement



GLOBAL  
**DESTINATION  
SUSTAINABILITY  
MOVEMENT**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# ESCRS SUSTAINABILITY VISION AND COMMITMENT



At ESCRS, we're committed to ensuring sustainability is at the forefront of our efforts in the field of ophthalmology. Enhancing the sustainability of our annual Congress isn't just about meeting obligations; it is about exemplifying ethical practice and responsible innovation.

Building on the success of the last two years, we're growing our focus on sustainability, placing a renewed emphasis on social responsibility and inclusivity throughout all our initiatives.

Collaborating closely with partners like Fira Barcelona and select suppliers, we're working towards ambitious goals: zero waste to landfill, Net Zero carbon emissions, and setting a standard for social responsibility. Our dedication extends beyond the event itself to prioritise supporting crucial causes and championing ecosystem restoration, all while nurturing sustainability leadership within our field.

While our aspirations are bold, we recognise the importance of collective action. By collaborating with organisations, institutions, and experts, and by seeking input from our fellow ophthalmologists and the entire industry, we are driving meaningful change together.



**FILOMENA RIBEIRO**  
President, ESCRS

# ESCRS SUSTAINABLE EVENT STRATEGY



## CATALYST

Inspire our members to improve the Environmental and Social Sustainability of ophthalmic healthcare

## EXEMPLAR

Lead by example by innovating and improving the sustainability of ESCRS operations and practices

## OUR GOALS

### CONTENT

Inspire action about sustainable ophthalmic care

### CLIMATE ACTION

Net Zero  
Carbon Emissions

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Zero Waste  
to Landfill

### DIVERSITY EQUALITY

### INCLUSION

Social Responsibility

## OUR PRINCIPLES

Design out waste, emissions and pollution

Keep materials and products in use

Switch to more sustainable materials

Regenerate natural systems

Design for inclusiveness and diversity

Improve participant event experience

## ALIGNED TO UN SDGs



# OUR APPROACH. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!



To make a sustainable Congress requires commitment and collective action from participants, exhibitors, sponsors, organisers and suppliers. Our approach is to engage, inspire and catalyse action to make a carbon neutral event.

## PLAN

- Co-create strategy
- Define vision, objectives and targets
- Develop action plan

## ASSESS

- Assess suppliers
- Calculate the estimated carbon footprint of the Congress

## ENGAGE

- Engage suppliers, exhibitors, sponsors
- Educate suppliers, the team and improve the operational process
- Engage delegates and communicate our initiatives and progress

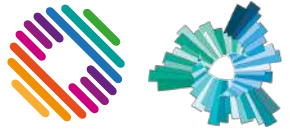
## MEASURE

- Collect data and calculate carbon and waste footprint
- Compensate for event emissions through a portfolio of certified carbon offset projects

## IMPROVE

- Evaluate and improve approach and processes

# ESCRS CONGRESS 2024 KEY IMPACTS



Total Carbon Footprint:  
**28,850 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Average Carbon Footprint  
per attendee:  
**1,875.63 kg tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

**100%** of the Congress's  
tCO<sub>2</sub>e offset

Total Waste Footprint:  
**91.2 tonnes**

**54%** of waste recycled  
or re-used

**64.7%** of all signage and  
branding materials made  
from sustainable materials

**66%** of food served:  
vegetarian/vegan.  
**80%** locally sourced

**71,000 single use** water  
bottles eliminated.

**34%** of speakers were  
female

# ESCRS CONGRESS 2024 KEY IMPACTS



THEMES	GOALS	RESULTS
INSPIRE ACTION	Strengthen the promotion of eyesustain.org initiative through partnerships with ASCRS and APACRS	Achieved by organising 2-member society meetings: One at the ASCRS Congress and another at the ESCRS Congress 2024. Published a position paper on Electronic IFU.
	Recruit at least 2 new organisations into the Sustainability Partnership Programme	Achieved by recruiting various organisations into Sustainability Partnership Programme.
	Provide inclusive training opportunities for all members at the Congress	Achieved through the <a href="#">ESCRS Cataract Surgery Training Lab</a> , supporting training of 700 individuals on surgical simulators, further supporting education and skills development.
	Ensuring balanced representation of different continents in the overall programme	While all continents are represented, Europe holds the majority (59%), followed by Asia (21%). North America has moderate representation (9%), while Africa (3%), South America (4%), and Oceania (1%)
	Increase awareness of health inequity among underserved communities through targeted educational campaigns	Achieved through the <a href="#">BOSS programme</a> , which played a key role in raising awareness of health inequity among underserved communities.
ZERO WASTE	Eliminate 90% of single use plastic, polystyrene and PVC	80% reduction in single-use plastic, polystyrene, and PVC compared to a 100% plastic scenario.
	Decrease waste sent to landfill to less than 10%	32% was sent to landfill while 14% of it was incinerated.
	Increase recycling to +60%	54% of waste was recycled or re-used.
	+80% of all signage and branding to be made from more sustainable materials	64.7% of all signage and branding materials are made from sustainable materials (paper-based boards and materials with recycled contents), and printed PVC-free canvas.

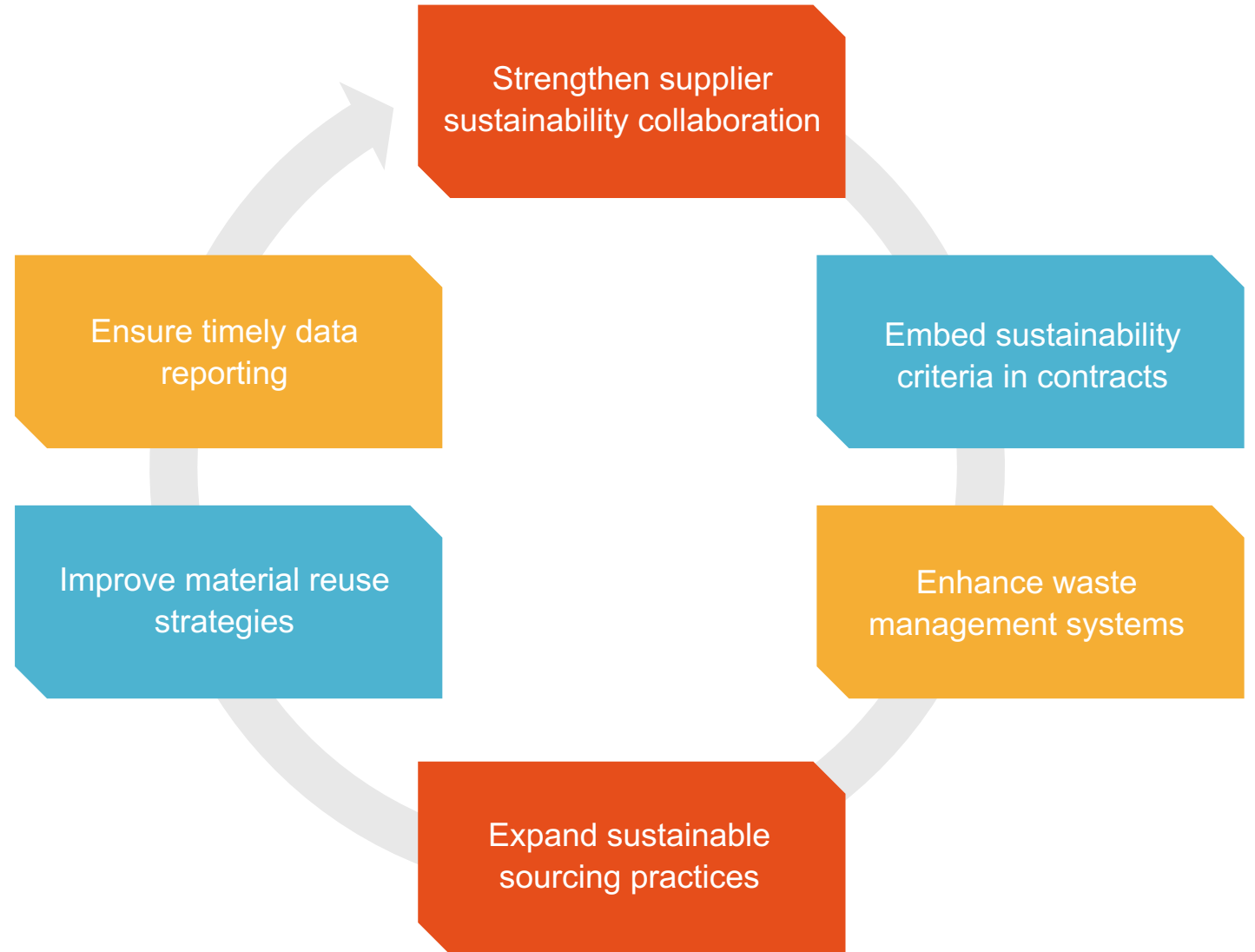


# ESCRS CONGRESS 2024 KEY IMPACTS



THEMES	GOALS	RESULTS
INSPIRE ACTION	+20% of delegates to arrive by climate-friendly transport	8% of in-person attendees arrived by climate-friendly transportation (local public transportation, trains, cars vs planes).
	+50% of food served is vegetarian or vegan	66% of food was served vegetarian or vegan. *This covers Fira Barcelona and the President's dinner.
	70% of food locally sourced (less than 160km)	80% of food was regionally and locally sourced (within a 160 km radius).
	100% of unavoidable carbon emissions to be offset	Achieved.
ZERO WASTE	Increase balance of female speakers to 40%	34% female and 66% male speakers.
	Integrate at least 1 community/charity partnerships	Achieved. ESCRS successfully integrated a charity partnership through the Oftalmorock concert, raising €4,000, which was donated to support Ukraine relief efforts.
	Implement family-friendly provisions and activities for attendees with young children	Achieved by offering a free, onsite childcare service through Nipperbout's Spy Academy-themed crèche, providing professional care and engaging activities for attendees' children.

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025





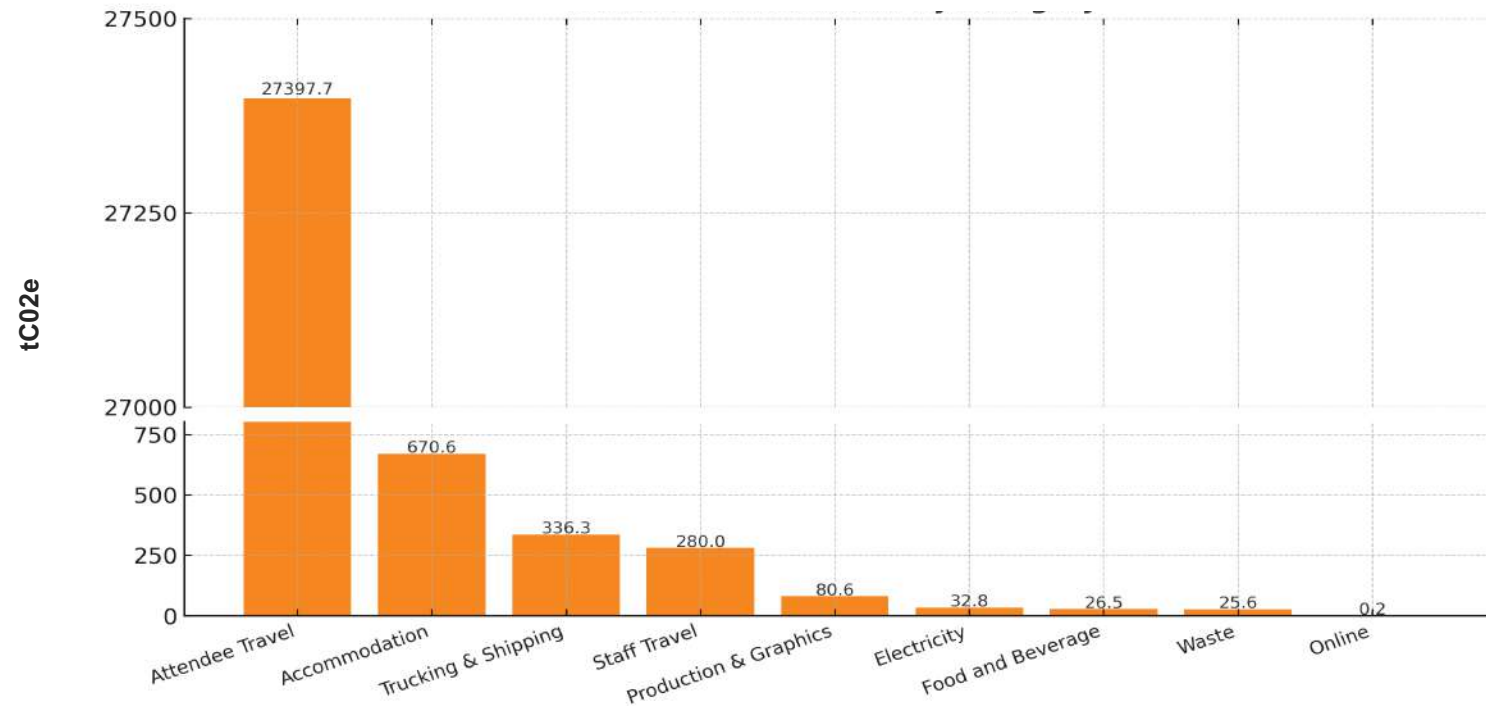
# INITIATIVE AND IMPACTS

# CARBON EMISSIONS OVERVIEW



We calculated the Congress's carbon and waste footprint using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food and beverage, venue, and online participation are included in the scope of our measurements.

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY



 Carbon Footprint

**28850.44** tCO2e  
Total carbon footprint

**1877.06** kgCO2e  
Average carbon footprint per attendee

Carbon Footprint by Category

Energy	2.4%
Catering	0.1%
Travel	97.1%
Production	0.3%
Waste	0.1%

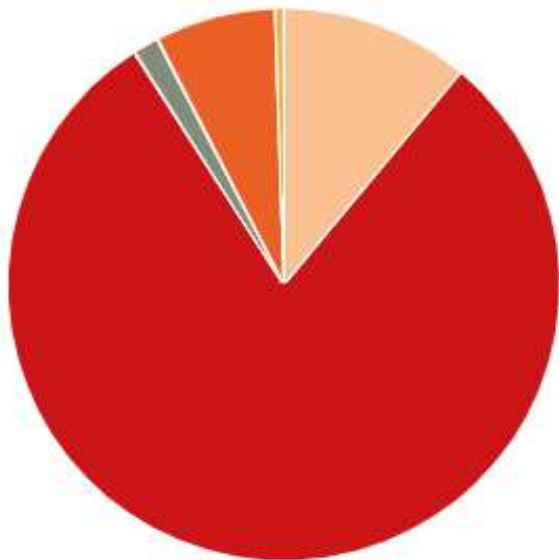


# ONLINE STREAMING



CO<sub>2</sub> calculations of online streaming are based on 349 individual attendees joining the Congress virtually from across the globe.

## BREAKDOWN OF STREAMING (HYBRID / VIRTUAL) ELEMENTS



- Computers (participants) 11.08%
- Network data transfer (participants) 79.81%
- Server emissions 0.02%
- Rehearsal and testing 1.53%
- Search engine query 0%
- Monitor usage 7.06%
- Desk lamp usage 0.5%

Emissions for energy for streaming / online

**0.25** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

Streaming/online Energy emissions per attendee

**0.72** kgCO<sub>2</sub>e



# CIRCULAR APPROACH



We continued our approach of designing waste out of the event, focusing on keeping materials and products in use, transitioning to more sustainable alternatives, and implementing a high-performance recycling system. This system builds on and advances the venue's existing capabilities, while also leveraging the successes achieved during previous Congresses.



Onsite, attendee waste was separated into five distinct streams, each supported by clear, detailed signage and a dedicated bin:

- Plastic and Cans
- Organic
- Paper
- General Waste
- Glass

# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



The following three compelling data elements highlight a commitment to environmental responsibility in the production of the Congress.

Percentage of assets hired or made from reclaimed materials

**41.9%**

Hiring assets contributes to ESCRS Mission Zero, with 41.9% of assets sourced from reclaimed materials, reducing the demand for new production and supporting a circular economy, although significantly lower than in 2023.

Percentage of materials reused, donated, repurposed

**47.3%**

Hiring assets contributes to ESCRS Mission Zero, with 41.9% sourced from reclaimed materials. This reduces the demand for new production and supports a circular economy, though the proportion is significantly lower than in 2023.

Percentage of materials recycled post event

**51.7%**

Recycling production materials post-event saw a notable increase to 51.7%, reducing landfill waste and reinforcing a more circular and responsible approach to material recovery.



# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



Carpet use was minimised and limited to essential areas only. The carpet was made from 100% polypropylene (PP), a durable and fully recyclable material. It met Bfl-s1 fire resistance standards and was specifically designed for event use, ensuring safety and sustainability.

**Closed-Loop Carpet Recycling:** After the Congress, the carpet was carefully removed, folded, and transported efficiently to minimise carbon footprint. It was then shredded, processed into plastic pellets, and repurposed for manufacturing new products such as paint trays, plant pots, and building materials, ensuring a circular life cycle with minimal waste.

**All directional signage** was produced using 100% Falcon Board, a paper-based material that was fully recycled in the paper stream after the event.

This “circular” shift in producing signage eliminated the use of non-recyclable materials, as a result of key recommendations from 2023.



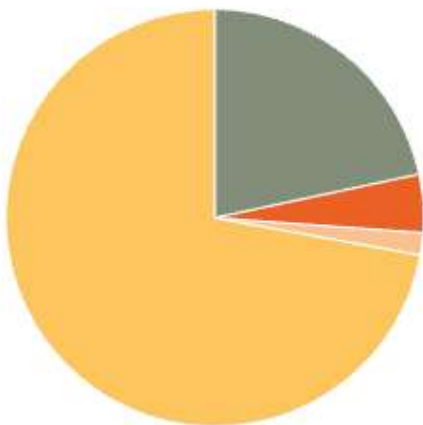


# WASTE FOOTPRINT



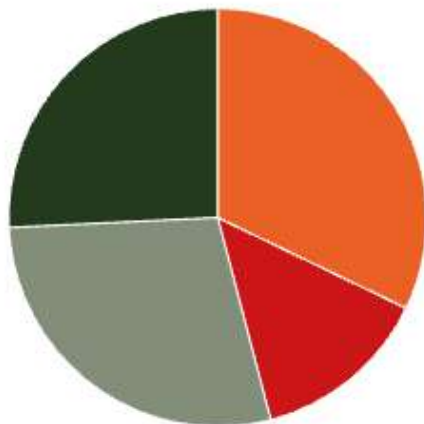
## WHERE DID WASTE COME FROM? (BY WEIGHT)

Built items	21.6%
Graphics	4.5%
Food waste	0.0%
Serveware and drinks	1.7%
Everything else	72.1%



## WHERE DID WASTE GO? (BY WEIGHT)

Landfill	32.1%
Incinerated	13.8%
Recycled	28.3%
AD/Compost	0.0%
Re-used	25.8%



## Waste Footprint

**91.20** tonnes

Total Waste Footprint

**5.93** kg

Average waste per attendee

\*due to contamination, the compost waste was largely processed as general waste and incinerated after the event.

# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



Through collaboration with the ESCRS Congress 2024 team and Gastrofira, we have successfully minimized the environmental impact of food and beverage operations by prioritizing local sourcing, bulk purchasing, material recycling, and the use of compostable products.

- Reduced single-use plastic in catering outlets, including food and beverage packaging.
- Continued the elimination of red meat from the Congress menu, offering a small portion of poultry and fish for balance, with bespoke menus created.
- 66% of served food was vegetarian or vegan.
- 80% of ingredients were locally and regionally sourced (within a 160 km radius).



# THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER



On behalf of Filomena Ribeiro, the President of ESCRS, the President's Dinner was organised in the heart of Barcelona, at La Llotja de Mar with special attention and core principles of 'Mission Zero' taken into consideration:

- Focussed on locally-sourced food
- Eliminated red meat, serving poultry and fish for balance
- Paper origami as an interactive game and for decorations
- Local entertainment for the dinner guests was showcased





# WATER STATIONS



In response to Barcelona's ongoing water crisis and the need for sustainable water management, the 2024 ESCRS Congress took proactive steps to reduce water waste and single-use plastic.

Over 30 water stations, sponsored by Alcon, provided by partner Alcon, were installed throughout Fira Barcelona, featuring live calculations of water saved in real time. Attendees were encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to minimise plastic waste and reduce environmental impact.

An impressive 213,000 litres of water were consumed through these stations, resulting in a **saving of 71,000 single-use bottles**.



Water Stations at ESCRS  
Congress 2024 brought by Alcon





# COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



Building on past congresses, the ESCRS Congress 2024 has further strengthened its communication practices by fully integrating attendee engagement across digital platforms.

This enhanced approach not only reduces paper use, but informs attendees about the event's sustainability initiatives. It actively involves them through interactive content and activations, fostering a deeper commitment to environmental and social responsibility.

The screenshot displays the ESCRS Congress 2024 website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Information, Abstracts, Registrations, Programme, BOSS Track, Sustainability, Sponsorship, and Contact. A secondary bar highlights 'READ THE PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU MESSAGE' and 'Programme Highlights' with buttons for 'Focused Friday' and 'Global@ Active Monday'. The main content area is titled 'Sustainability' and features the 'ESCRS Sustainability Commitment & Vision' section. This section includes text about the congress's commitment to sustainability, a quote from the President, and a circular portrait of Filomena Ribeiro. To the right, there is a 'Countdown to Congress' widget showing 00 Days, 00 Hours, 00 Mins, and 00 Secs. Below this is a warning banner about unauthorized agencies and a note about MCI as the official mandated organising bureau.

**ESCRS Sustainability Commitment & Vision**

At ESCRS, we're committed to ensuring sustainability is at the forefront of our efforts in the field of ophthalmology. Enhancing the sustainability of our annual Congress isn't just about meeting obligations; it is about exemplifying ethical practice and responsible innovation.

Building on the success of the last two years, we're growing our focus on sustainability, placing a renewed emphasis on social responsibility and inclusivity throughout all our initiatives.

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While our aspirations are bold, we recognise the importance of collective action. By collaborating with organisations, institutions, and experts, and seeking input from our fellow ophthalmologists and the entire industry, we are driving meaningful change together.

**Filomena Ribeiro**  
President, ESCRS

**Countdown to Congress**

00 Days 00 Hours 00 Mins 00 Secs

**BE AWARE OF UNAUTHORISED AGENCIES**

MCI is the official mandated organising bureau for this event.

# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



In 2024, the communication strategy was further expanded by strengthening the integration of sustainability messaging across social media channels.

This broader reach has fostered a growing community engaged in ESCRS Mission Zero, driving awareness and collective action toward positive change.





# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



The ESCRS Mission Zero Sustainability Wall was prominently installed in a high-traffic area at the venue, building on past successes to further educate and engage attendees.

Enhanced with engaging content from Young Ophthalmologists for Sustainability (YOFS), the wall featured simple, actionable sustainability tips, highlighted the Congress' environmental initiatives, showcased the #StartNextMonday campaign for greener operating rooms, and presented an executive summary of SIDICS, a tool for assessing the sustainability of customised cataract packs.





# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



## YOUR ROLE CAMPAIGN



As part of ESCRS's Mission Zero campaign, we continued with the "Your Role" attendee communication campaign to encourage sustainable practices during the Congress. This initiative focused on four key areas

- Food, Water, Transportation, and Waste Management
- aligning with the broader commitments.

By integrating these targeted actions into the Congress experience, we empowered attendees to actively participate in these activities, demonstrating the collective effort required to drive meaningful change.



# CORPORATE PARTNER ENGAGEMENT



## ESCRS Congress 2024 Water Partner

“Alcon cares for our planet and helps create a more sustainable world so everyone can See Brilliantly and Live Brilliantly. Because we manufacture about 90% of our products internally, we are able to manage our environmental footprint through efficiency and optimisation to reduce emissions, water, waste and chemicals of concern. We applaud ESCRS for taking a bold stand for sustainability and encouraging exhibitors and attendees to do the same, particularly in the areas of carbon neutrality, landfill waste and caring for the local community first in Milan, then Vienna, and now, Barcelona.”

As the global leader in eye care, Alcon is dedicated to being a steward of sustainability. Their partnership with Plastic Bank allows us to offset the plastic waste used in select products from our Surgical and Vision Care portfolio by collecting an equivalent amount of ocean-bound plastic. This helps make an even greater impact on our communities.

**Alcon**



# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



At the ESCRS booth, sustainability came to life with the 'Bike Initiative', where attendees pedalled to generate energy - gaining firsthand insight into the power required to produce essential medical supplies.

Over three days, hundreds of participants enthusiastically joined the challenge, yet their combined effort only generated **2.94 kWh** - enough to produce just two complete cataract packs. This striking comparison underscored the high-energy demands of medical manufacturing, reinforcing the need for more energy-efficient solutions in ophthalmology.

This engaging initiative not only sparked conversations but also served as a powerful call to action - highlighting the importance of sustainability and innovation in reducing the environmental impact of healthcare.

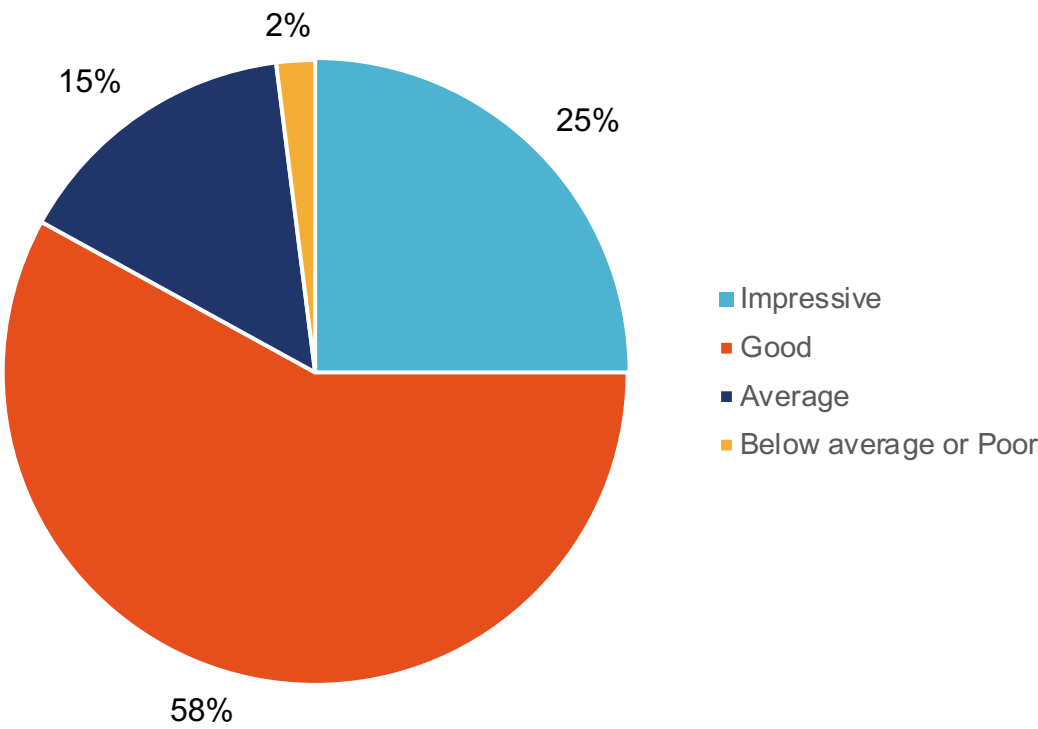


# ATTENDEE FEEDBACK



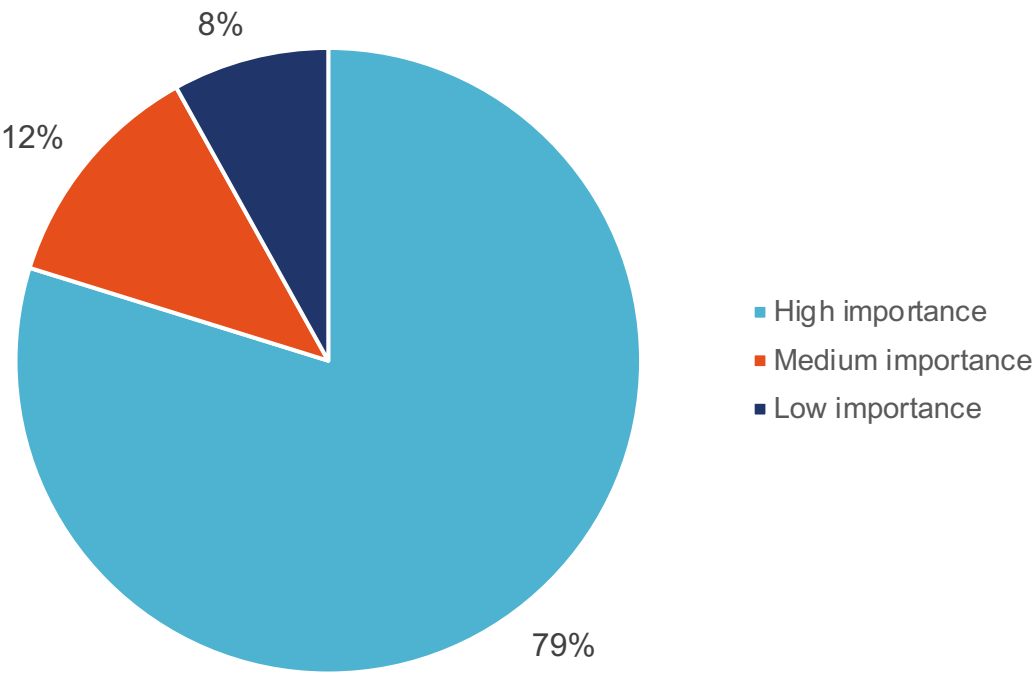
How would you rate ESCRS sustainability efforts?

The majority of attendees rated ESCRS’s sustainability efforts positively, with the overall 83% considering them as Very Impressive or Good.



How important is it to you that ESCRS has a commitment to sustainability?

79% of respondents consider ESCRS’s commitment to sustainability as highly important, while 12% see it as moderately important.





# EDUCATION PROGRAMME



# ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION



The Sustainability Track at the ESCRS Congress 2024 was built upon our ongoing educational initiatives, providing a dedicated platform for in-depth discussions, research, and practical solutions in ophthalmology.

## Key outcomes of this Track included:

- **CONCRETE RESEARCH & INNOVATION:** Presentations highlighted tangible advancements, such as reducing surgical waste, cutting carbon emissions, and implementing reusable solutions in cataract surgery.
- **INDUSTRY & PRACTITIONER ENGAGEMENT:** A diverse group of experts, suppliers, and institutions contributed, fostering collaborative action towards more sustainable ophthalmic practices.
- **DATA-DRIVEN IMPACT:** Sessions moved beyond theory, showcasing real-world case studies, lifecycle analyses, and operational efficiencies that directly contribute to ESCRS's Mission Zero goals.
- **KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & COMMITMENT:** Educational courses and interactive discussions equipped attendees with actionable strategies to drive sustainability within their clinical and research environments.

The Sustainability Track reaffirmed ESCRS's commitment to measurable progress, avoiding overpromises and focussing on practical, evidence-based changes that make a real difference in ophthalmology and beyond.





# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH

# CARBON MANAGEMENT APPROACH



## MEASURE

- Total emissions of the Congress > **28,850 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**
- Approx. 90% of our footprint comes from flights.

## REDUCE

- Reduce waste
- Improve recycling and composting
- Reduce food miles
- Reduce/eliminate red meat
- Promote more sustainable travel options

## OFFSET

**Stage 1:** Pre-event 80% of estimated unavoidable emissions were offset through Ecodes by:

- Wind Power at the sea close to Vietnam
- Solar power energy in India
- Hydropower project in Colombia

**Stage 2:** Post-event the remaining carbon emissions were calculated and offset with:

- Krong No Hydropower Project in Vietnam
- With the 100% offset of unavoidable CO<sub>2</sub>e, this event is considered to be carbon-neutral.

Certified carbon offset projects were sourced through Ecodes and South Pole.



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **PAVAGADA – SOLAR POWER PLANT, INDIA** Gold Standard-certified

The project aims to generate clean electricity with a 250 MWp solar power plant in Tumkur, Karnataka. It will integrate renewable energy into the national grid, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 426,731 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually, and displace 455,520 MWh/year of fossil fuel-based electricity.



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **BARROSO – 20MW HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, COLOMBIA** Gold Standard-certified

The Barroso Hydroelectric Project, located along the Barroso River, showcases an 18.69 MW capacity and is projected to supply 131.24 GWh annually to Colombia's National Interconnected System, enhancing renewable energy contributions in the region.





# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **THANH HAI – WIND POWER PROJECT AT SEA, VIETNAM** Gold Standard-certified

The No.5 Wind Power Plant Thanh Hai 1-4 project is an offshore wind farm in Thanh Hai commune, Vietnam, with a 110 MW capacity and annual output of 356.95 GWh. It aims to produce renewable energy, integrate it into the national grid, reduce fossil fuel reliance, and promote sustainable energy in Vietnam.



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **NAM PHA GNAI HYDRO, LAO PDR –** Gold Standard-certified

This run-of-river hydropower station in central Laos generates clean, renewable energy from flowing water, displacing electricity that would otherwise be produced by burning fossil fuels.

The project contributes to reducing carbon emissions and supports energy self-sufficiency in Lao PDR. It also plays a role in the broader shift toward low-carbon, sustainable development across Southeast Asia.





# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **BAMAKO CLEAN COOKSTOVES, MALI –** Gold Standard-certified

This project supports the distribution of modern, fuel-efficient cookstoves to households in Mali, helping to reduce dependence on increasingly scarce firewood.

By improving access to clean cooking solutions, the initiative helps fight deforestation, improves public health by reducing smoke-related illnesses, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions—benefiting both local communities and the global climate.



# CERTIFICATES



We are delighted to confirm the retirement of  
**6480 Verified Emission Reductions (VERs)**  
by  
**South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd.**  
on 22/08/2024

These credits were retired on behalf of ESCRS Trading Ltd..

Retired on behalf of ESCRS Congress 2024

Project: 250 MW Solar Power Plant in Pavagada Solar Park in Karnataka

*These credits have been retired, saving **6480** tonnes of CO2 emissions  
from being released into the atmosphere.  
Thank you for investing in a safer climate and more sustainable world.*

[View retirement](#)

Gold Standard

Retirement certificates are hosted on the Gold Standard Impact Registry. [view your certificate](#).

Gold Standard | Chemin de Balexert 7-9 1219 Châtellaine, International Environment House 2, Switzerland | [goldstandard.org](http://goldstandard.org), +41 22 788 70 80, [help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org)



We are delighted to confirm the retirement of  
**6480 Verified Emission Reductions (VERs)**  
by  
**Environmental Business and Technologies Ltda'**  
on 30/08/2024

These credits were retired on behalf of ESCRS Congress.

These credits were retired on behalf of ESCRS Congress 2024

Project: Barroso 20MW hydroelectric project

*These credits have been retired, saving **6480** tonnes of CO2 emissions  
from being released into the atmosphere.  
Thank you for investing in a safer climate and more sustainable world.*

[View retirement](#)

Gold Standard

Retirement certificates are hosted on the Gold Standard Impact Registry. [view your certificate](#).

Gold Standard | Chemin de Balexert 7-9 1219 Châtellaine, International Environment House 2, Switzerland | [goldstandard.org](http://goldstandard.org), +41 22 788 70 80, [help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org)



This certificate is issued by South Pole. For more information about our services and more than 700 of our protected projects, please visit: [southpole.com/projects](http://southpole.com/projects). The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to the certificate are compensated through investments in the above mentioned carbon offset projects based on international standards.



This certificate is issued by South Pole. For more information about our services and more than 700 of male protection projects, please visit: [southpole.com/projects](http://southpole.com/projects). The CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction on the certificate are compensated through investments in the global environment and other projects based on international standards.



# KEY LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025



<b>Planning and Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen early collaboration with suppliers to enhance sustainability integration.</li><li>• Implement mandatory sustainability criteria in supplier contracts.</li><li>• Expand pre-congress educational initiatives to drive awareness of sustainable practices.</li></ul>
<b>Procurement &amp; Resource Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further reduce single-use plastics by identifying and replacing remaining non-sustainable materials.</li><li>• Prioritise regional and seasonal sourcing to exceed the 80% locally sourced food target.</li><li>• Enhance waste tracking systems to ensure at least 60% of waste is recycled or repurposed.</li></ul>
<b>Circularity &amp; Waste Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement minimal standards for stand production and breakdown.</li><li>• Implement a comprehensive material reuse strategy to increase the second-life use of assets beyond 50%.</li><li>• Improve waste sorting efficiency by enhancing attendee engagement and signage clarity.</li><li>• Expand closed-loop recycling partnerships for Congress signage and event materials.</li></ul>
<b>Social Responsibility &amp; Inclusivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase gender balance among speakers, aiming for at least 40% female representation.</li><li>• Strengthen community and charity partnerships to ensure a direct positive local impact.</li></ul>
<b>Measurement &amp; Reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Embed sustainability measurement requirements into supplier contracts to ensure accountability and structured data collection.</li><li>• Ensure timely and consistent data reporting both internally for progress tracking and externally for transparency and stakeholder engagement.</li></ul>





# **ABOUT ESCRS OVERVIEW AND SCOPE CREDITS**

# ABOUT ESCRS



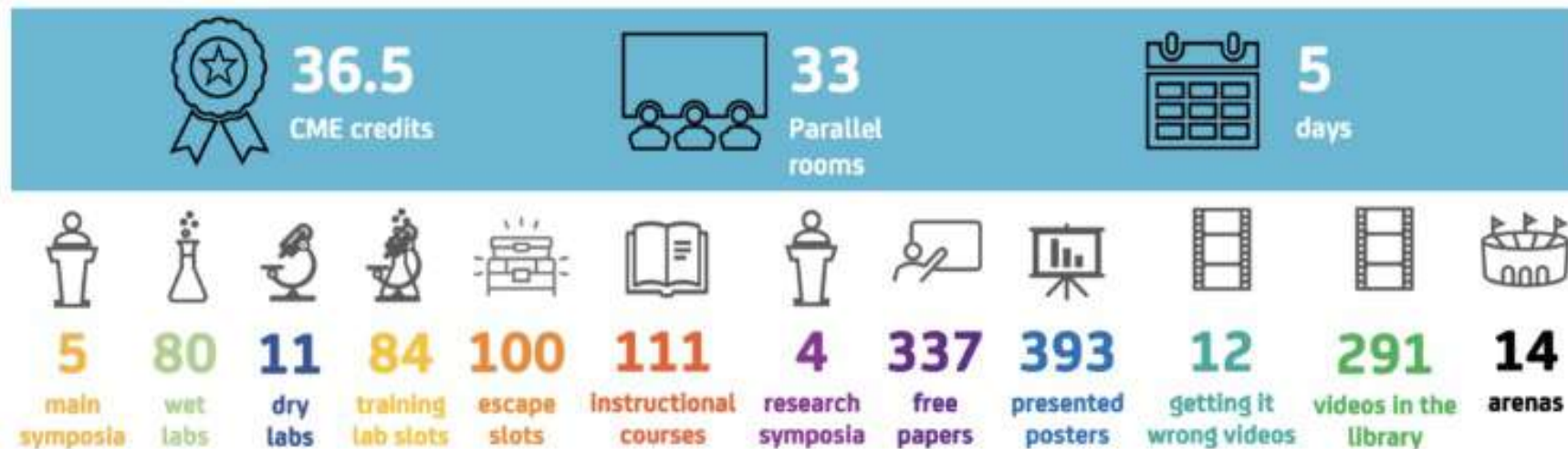
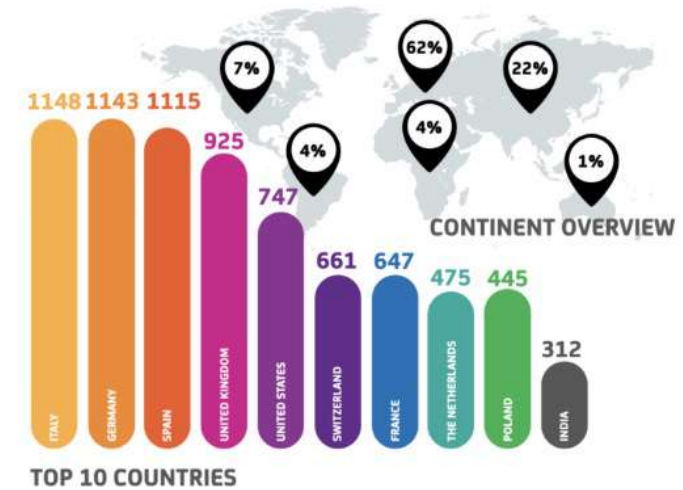
ESCRS was founded in 1991 to promote education and research in the field of implant and refractive surgery and to advance and promote the study and practice of ophthalmology. ESCRS seeks to promote and support research in the field of intraocular lens implantation and refractive surgery and the dissemination of the useful results thereof.

ESCRS has over 7,500 members from 130 countries worldwide.

ESCRS's 42nd Congress was held from 6 to 10 September at Fira Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.



# CONGRESS OVERVIEW



# THANK YOU TO ALL ESCRS CONGRESS SUPPLIERS



This report was prepared by the GDS-Movement with valuable data and editorial support provided by the ESCRS team.

Event carbon and waste footprint data was measured using industry best practice methodologies as well as an advanced measurement tool called TRACE. The emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, Food & Beverages, venue and online participation were measured. Where data was not available, impact data was estimated using the GDS-Movement's database of sustainable events.



GDS-Movement unites and enables tourism and event professionals to create flourishing and resilient places to visit, meet and live in.

Our mission is to co-create sustainable and circular strategies, mindsets and skill sets that enable destinations of the future to thrive, and society and nature to regenerate.

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