

September 4, 2025

Fiona Adshead
Sustainable Healthcare Coalition
Sustainable Markets Initiatives Health Systems Task Force

Dear Ms. Adshead,

In July 2025, the Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO) held their inaugural meeting for the Sustainability Committee, containing members from clinical research organizations (CRO[s]) and clinical technology companies. Our first agenda point was to acknowledge and discuss the Open Letter on Clinical Trials Reporting that was sent on 19th February 2025. We commend the Sustainable Markets Initiative for your leadership toward the design and delivery of lower-emissions trials.

We understand that a responsible focus on environmental sustainability has the potential not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also to deliver improved performance in every aspect of the clinical trial process. We hear the call to action from the biopharmaceutical community as well as the broader group of stakeholders, and we recognize our unique position to influence positive environmental change in healthcare research.

The clinical research community has demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship through various initiatives, including adoption of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to establish GHG emission reduction targets including accompanying action plans and publishing comprehensive sustainability reports.

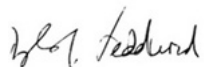
We believe that through true collaboration across the industry—with our sponsors, regulators, sites, clinical suppliers, and patients—we can both reduce waste and emissions within our operations and increase productivity through sustainable trial design and delivery. This collaborative approach extends to sharing best practices, developing industry-wide standards, and creating innovative solutions for more environmentally-conscious clinical research.

It's the right thing to do, and it's also responsible business. The clinical research community believes that applying a sustainability lens to clinical trials results in numerous benefits to stakeholders, including improving the patient experience, reducing site burden, and increasing operational efficiency.

The clinical research community remains committed to delivering life-changing research in a sustainable manner, continuously striving to improve performance and set new standards for environmental responsibility in clinical research. Through our collective efforts, we aim to create a more sustainable future for clinical trials while maintaining the highest standards of quality and patient care.

We look forward to continuing this important work together.

Sincerely,



Douglas Peddicord, Ph.D
Executive Director