

Report Title: Resolution 402-2025 Report

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that the following statements be added to ASDA's Current Statements of Position or Policy under section "Other Issues" as a new section N-3:

Resolved, that ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that educate students on the impacts of climate change on oral health and the dental workforce.

Resolved, that ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that develop and implement sustainability-focused education and research including, but not limited to:

- Education on the procurement of environmentally responsible and ethically sourced dental supplies.
- Minimally invasive dentistry practices that reduce material usage and environmental impact.
- Development of frameworks for sustainable water management in dental practices, including water-efficient equipment and processes.
- Education on the environmental impact of dental materials, with strategies to minimize their footprint, reduce pollution, and implement best practices for waste reduction and environmentally responsible disposal.
- Integration of environmentally-responsible technologies to support sustainable practices.

Resolved, that ASDA supports policies and practices that reduce the carbon footprint of dental care delivery.

Resolved, that ASDA commits to advocating for sustainable practices in dentistry at the institutional, local, and national levels alongside relevant stakeholders.

Resolved, that ASDA encourages dental practitioners and students to actively engage with and support surrounding communities disproportionately affected by environmental threats to promote climate resilience and health equity.

Resolved, that the Council on Advocacy be tasked with further studying this resolution report back to the 2026 House of Delegates on topics pertaining to education of dental students of climate change on oral health and the dental workforce, including but not limited to:

- Heat stress and its effects on patient care, workforce productivity, antibiotics and medication longevity.
- Extreme weather events and their implications for access to care and infrastructure.
- Air pollution and its connection to oral and systemic diseases.
- Water-borne illnesses affecting community oral health.
- Food and water insecurity contributing to malnutrition and oral health disparities.

- Migration and displacement caused by climate change and their effects on patient demographics and oral healthcare delivery.

REPORT BACKGROUND

At its Spring Council meeting, the 2025-26 Council on Advocacy assessed the need for additional and amended policies relating to the referred topics in Resolution 402-2025. The council determined that heat stress, displacement and consequences of natural and manmade disasters, air pollution, and water-borne illnesses are relevant to the future of dentistry and are therefore important to include in dental school curriculum.

The council discussed new policies and amendments to existing policies that would address:

- Short- and long-term disaster relief efforts;
- Each referred topic's relevance to dentistry as demonstrated through scientific research; and
- Differences in how climate change affects dental schools in different geographic areas.

At its August meeting, the council approved three recommendations to modify the current N-3 policy.

REPORT FINDINGS

The council determined that the current N-3 policy and assigned topics to investigate could best be organized into three separate policies in ASDA's Current Statements on Position or Policy that:

- advocates for the integration of sustainability in dental education curriculum
- addresses oral health in disaster relief efforts; and
- broadly encourages sustainability and the reduction of carbon footprints in dental practice.

The council recommended to the Governance Committee that the first two paragraphs of the current N-3 policy be moved under Section B Dental Education Curriculum in the Current Statements on Position or Policy. This editorial change was approved by the Governance Committee and Speaker of the House and does not require a resolution to the House of Delegates.

Based on the assigned topics to review from Res. 402-2025, the council recommends an amendment to the current N-3 policy and a new policy on dentistry in disaster relief efforts. These resolutions have been submitted to the 2026 House of Delegates and are included in Appendices A and B.

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Appendix A

Resolution Number: XXX-2026

Title: Amendment to Current Statements of Position or Policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula

Reference Committee Assignment:

Sponsor(s): 2025-26 2025-26 Council on Advocacy

Financial Impact: None

Board of Trustees Comments:

Reference Committee Comments:

Background: The Council on Advocacy acknowledges the growing threats of climate change and determined that ASDA's policies should encourage dental schools to teach students how climate change will affect the profession. The council's research indicated that climate change may affect dentistry in these ways and more:

- Heat stress can lead to dry mouth and increased risk of tooth sensitivity;
- Air pollution has a significant correlation with periodontitis; and
- Water-borne pathogens can cause dental caries and other oral health diseases.

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that ASDA adopt policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula as follows:

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that educate students on the impacts of climate change on oral health and the dental workforce **as appropriate, including but not limited to:**

- The effects of heat stress on patient care, workforce productivity, antibiotics and medication longevity.
- The connection between air pollution and oral and systemic diseases.
- The effects of water-borne illnesses on community oral health.

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that develop and implement sustainability-focused education and research including, but not limited to:

- Education on the procurement of environmentally responsible and ethically sourced dental supplies.
- Minimally invasive dentistry practices that reduce material usage and environmental impact.
- Development of frameworks for sustainable water management in dental practices, including water-efficient equipment and processes.

135 • Education on the environmental impact of dental materials, with strategies to minimize
136 their footprint, reduce pollution, and implement best practices for waste reduction and
137 environmentally responsible disposal.
138 • Integration of environmentally-responsible technologies to support sustainable
139 practices.

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183 **Appendix B**

184 **Resolution Number:** XXX-2026

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186 **Title:** Disaster Relief

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188 **Reference Committee Assignment:**

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190 **Sponsor(s):** 2025-26 Council on Advocacy

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192 **Financial Impact:** None

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194 **Board of Trustees Comments:**

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196 **Reference Committee Comments:**

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198 **Background:** The Council on Advocacy was tasked by the 2025 House of Delegates with
199 investigating policies related to extreme weather events and displacement caused by climate
200 change and as they affect access to oral health care.

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202 The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters reported that 93.1 million people
203 were affected by natural disasters in 2023. Practicing proper dental hygiene can be challenging
204 in the wake of natural and man-made emergencies. Dentists' ability to operate, the destruction
205 of transportation infrastructure, and water contamination all pose threats to public oral health;
206 therefore, be it

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208 **RESOLUTION**

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210 **Resolved,** that ASDA adopt a policy on Disaster Relief as follows:

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212 ASDA encourages governmental and private sector support for oral health resources and
213 services in natural and human disaster planning and relief efforts.

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215 ASDA urges these entities to dedicate resources towards alleviating the short- and long-term
216 burdens of displacement that disrupt public oral health systems and routines.