

Position Statement

Medical Laboratory Responsibility to the Environment

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) believes that committing to environmentally responsible practices must be a priority.

CSMLS acknowledges that an expanding global population has negatively impacted ecosystems around the world. Uncontrolled industry, technology and consumption have depleted natural resources, creating an environment that is becoming unsustainable. In addition to entrusting environmental protection to governments, each individual shares responsibility for the planet's welfare.

Medical laboratory professionals must:

- Promote safe and environmentally friendly, ecologically acceptable products to reduce toxic wastes.
- Meet or exceed national, regional, and municipal regulations when developing institutional practices for safely disposing biological substances, infectious wastes, polyvinyl plastics, and other toxic substances.¹
- Implement waste **R**eduction, resource **R**euse and **R**ecycling wherever possible.
- Encourage other members and non-members to practice environmental responsibility, recognize environmental waste and address environmental concerns in their workplace through education and sharing best practices.

Medical laboratory professionals, who work in medical laboratories that generate biological and hazardous wastes, must work diligently to protect the environment for future generations.

Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care <http://greenhealthcare.ca/> Web March 2017

CLSI. *Clinical Laboratory Waste Management; Approved Guideline—Third Edition*. CLSI document GP05-A3. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2011.