



2026 Rural and Critical Access Hospital Sustainability Task Force Charter and Member Group Details

2026 Rural and CAH Sustainability Task Force Charter

Purpose

The Rural and CAH Sustainability Task Force is an expert group of ASHE Professional Active Members and Associate Members with strong interest and expertise in health care sustainability and decarbonization. The task force will conduct an environmental scan of the challenges that slow the advancement of rural and critical access hospitals' ability to pursue sustainability and efficiency initiatives. The task force will achieve this by conducting outreach to rural and CAH's and matching the challenges to supplemental resources that allow members to overcome them.

Organization

- The task force is made up of no more than eight members, plus a task force chair and vice chair for a total of ten members.
- A member of the Sustainability and Decarbonization Committee will serve on the task force as a liaison.
- The task force reports to the Sustainability and Decarbonization Committee.

Task force Member Terms and Appointment

- Task force members are expected to serve for a term of one (1) year, ending Dec. 31, 2026.
- ASHE staff appoints new members to the task force to replace the member(s) whose term(s) is/are expiring with a review from the Sustainability and Decarbonization Committee chair.
- Any task force member is eligible to serve as chair or vice chair.

2026 Rural and CAH Sustainability Task Force

Member Group Details

Member Eligibility and Requirements

- All task force members must be ASHE members if eligible.
- All task force members must complete all required legal forms (conflict of interest, non-disclosure agreement, etc.).

Desired Member Attributes

- Ability to collaborate well in groups
- Ability to work well and complete all assignments on time
- Good communication skills independently, especially when meeting and working with others

Responsibilities and Deliverables

- Participate in working discussions as needed.
- Participate in virtual calls as needed to complete the work of the task force.
- Participate in in-person meetings when scheduled.
- Specific deliverables for 2026:
 1. Conduct outreach to uncover specific hurdles ASHE rural and CAH members encounter specific to sustainability initiatives.
 - Prioritize these findings from the most impactful to least impactful for rural and CAH facilities.
 2. Match the prioritized hurdles with existing ASHE and open-source resources aimed at addressing the challenges.
 3. Disseminate the findings from the Sustainability Financing Task Force on the Rural Health Transformation Program through ASHE newsletter, LinkedIn, email, professional contacts, myASHE Community, etc.
 4. Produce an article for HFM Magazine

Additional Responsibilities for chair and/or vice chair (if chair is unable)

- Participate in Sustainability and Decarbonization Committee meetings (virtually or in person) as needed to keep leaders updated on task force activities.
- With guidance from ASHE staff, develop all virtual meeting agendas.
- Schedule all virtual meetings of the task force, keep track of all workflow and document meeting notes and decisions.
- Include designated ASHE staff liaison in all meetings and documentation.

Time Commitment

- Members are expected to serve on the Task force for one year.
- Members are expected to participate in virtual calls as needed (at least once/month) for up to 90 minutes each.
- Members are expected to complete all 'off line' work as assigned by members, staff and/or chair (approximately 5 hours/month)
- Chair or Vice chair are expected to participate in ASHE Advisory Board Meetings (virtually or in person) as needed (up to three times/year)

Start and End Date

January 2026 – December 2026