



GreenCare™
2019
Environmental Performance
Accountability Report

**Environmental
sustainability is
everyone's story.**

Vancouver 
CoastalHealth

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Our Focus Areas



Smart Energy & Water



Zero Waste & Toxicity



Active & Clean Transportation



Workplace Leadership

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This is an interactive (clickable) report. You can easily navigate and link between sections and to areas that most interest you.

To view a report that is specific to one of the Lower Mainland health organizations, click on the name of the organization above. Each report details our GreenCare Focus Areas and programs, and the progress and achievements of the respective health authority.

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1.1 Executive message

Welcome to the eighth annual Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR). This report represents an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, leadership, and willingness of everyone at Vancouver Coastal Health to support environmental sustainability.

This commitment is more important than ever. In 2019, 11 Lower Mainland municipalities declared a climate emergency,^A but, despite health professionals from around the world voicing their opinions about the importance of addressing climate change and environmental sustainability, environmental and climate policy has been late to factor in human health.

As health-care providers, we must continue to take action. From individual, personal choices such as refusing single-use items when possible, to supporting our youth and others by participating in community events that are also part of a global movement for action, to becoming **Green+Leaders** who push for environmental sustainability innovations and change, we can write a story of health and well-being.

At an organizational level, we can make leadership decisions that align our organizations with the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *2018 CleanBC plan*, and determine a path toward greenhouse gas reductions through building better, more resilient buildings; supporting cleaner transportation; reducing consumption of single-use items; and recycling whenever and wherever possible.

There is no single solution, nor easy ones. But, for the good of our communities, we must make the decisions that make a difference.

As you read this report, I encourage you to reflect on the successes achieved this year and the challenges we still face. Together we can produce a system-wide shift that is vital to both our present and our future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mauricio A. Acosta'.

Mauricio A. Acosta
Executive Director,
Business Performance & Corporate Support

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1.2 Executive summary

This report represents the collective work of many individuals, all of whom continue to collaborate to transform their workplaces and health-care systems into thriving environments of health and wellness for staff, patients, and their families.

Serving the four Lower Mainland health organizations — [Fraser Health](#), [Providence Health Care](#), [Provincial Health Services Authority](#), and [Vancouver Coastal Health](#) — throughout 2019, the GreenCare Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team worked to promote and support environmental sustainability in our health-care systems via the GreenCare initiative. This initiative promotes a wide range of energy and environmental sustainability strategies, programs, and projects to reduce the environmental impact of health-care operations and improve the resiliency of health-care facilities and human and environmental health.

In this report, you'll find Vancouver Coastal Health's environmental sustainability story, including its successes, challenges, and next steps.

You'll also meet Vancouver Coastal Health's senior executive team and the EES team, who, together, have been finding solutions to the problems presented by our climate reality.

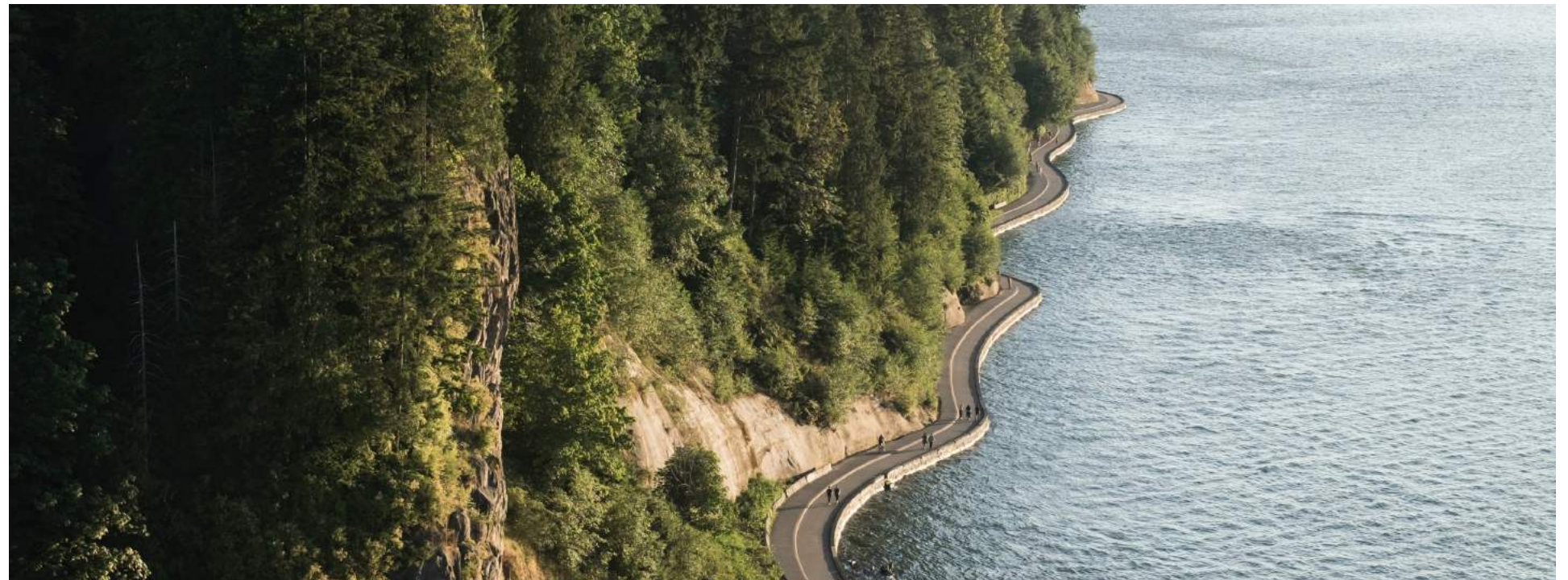
These solutions lie within our four GreenCare Focus Areas, for each of which the report presents Vancouver Coastal Health's sustainability goals, targets, and performance metrics, along with important partnerships and stories of staff who are making positive changes at our health-care sites. Collectively, the EES team, leadership, partners, and staff have helped to put Vancouver Coastal Health on track to meet its 2020 environmental sustainability targets.

The four strategic Focus Areas — Smart Energy & Water, Zero Waste & Toxicity, Active & Clean Transportation, and

Workplace Leadership — are complemented by the important work of our Climate Resilience & Adaptation program. Together, they provide the decision-making tools that support tangible changes to meaningfully address environmental and health impacts of our climate reality.

Ultimately, you will find yourself, your colleagues, and the people you serve in the 2019 Environmental Performance Accountability Report, along with a better understanding of the work ahead of us, including many achievements to celebrate.

Because environmental sustainability is everyone's story.



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2.0 Our Story



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2.1 Vancouver Coastal Health

Our vision

Healthy lives in healthy communities

Our values

- ▶ We care for everyone
- ▶ We are always learning
- ▶ We strive for better results

Our purpose

Come together as one collective team to deliver an exceptional care experience for all

Our strategic priorities

- ▶ Exceptional care
 - High-quality care for the best health outcome, in the best setting: hospital, home or community
- ▶ Innovation for impact
 - Evolving how we deliver services to stay at the forefront of health care
- ▶ A great place to work
 - Coming together to build a better workplace

Our region

Established in 2001, Vancouver Coastal Health is a regional health authority that serves more than 1.25 million people, including the residents of Vancouver, Richmond, the North Shore, Sea-to-Sky, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, and the Central Coast. These areas encompass 12 municipalities, four regional districts, and 14 Indigenous communities.

Our services

Vancouver Coastal Health provides extensive services, including primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary care; home and community care; population and preventive health care; mental health services; and substance use services. It administers:^B



9 hospitals



4 diagnostic and treatment centres



21 community health centres



Vancouver General Hospital, Canada's second largest hospital, which features:

- ▶ Specialized health-care services locally and provincially
- ▶ A teaching hospital affiliated with the University of British Columbia
- ▶ One of the largest research institutes in Canada

Our frontline health-care professionals

The 15,481^C full-time equivalent employees, physicians, and nurses of Vancouver Coastal Health are committed to the values of respect, caring, and trust in pursuit of providing the best health care possible to every individual across the region.

Many of these individuals understand and are taking action to reduce environmental risks and increase climate resilience, particularly through their support of and participation in Energy and Environment Sustainability strategies and programs in the workplace. They have made environmental sustainability their story, as demonstrated by their participation in the Green+Leaders program and the success stories throughout this report. Given the tools and opportunity, they will continue to play a key role in transforming health care.



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As a health authority we too have a part to play to protect the environment while also providing safe quality care. Our collective actions contribute to a system-wide change. I'm proud of the work our staff and physicians do every day to embrace environmental sustainability.

- Vivian Eliopoulos
 Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health's environmental sustainability policy

Achieving energy and environmental sustainability is a priority for Vancouver Coastal Health. To achieve this, in its [environmental sustainability policy](#), Vancouver Coastal Health is mindful of the importance of developing a triple-bottom-line approach to sustainability: one that balances ecological, societal, and economic imperatives, and recognizes the link between a healthy environment and a healthy population. As such, we recognize our duty to minimize our environmental impact through leadership and strategic partnerships, facility construction, and operations.

Our 2019 sustainability successes

Practice Greenhealth awards

Two Vancouver Coastal Health hospitals, Lions Gate Hospital and Squamish General Hospital, received The Partner for Change Award,^D which recognizes health-care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon programs to reduce and recycle waste, source products sustainably, reduce energy and carbon emissions, and more. This acknowledges their commitment to environmental stewardship and achievements in environmental sustainability.

HealthADAPT project funding

As project partners, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Health Emergency Management BC, and Facilities Management (GreenCare) were awarded \$300K funding for the HealthADAPT project by Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Capacity Building Contribution Funding Program.

[Pre-2019 sustainability awards/successes](#)



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**Building for energy and
 environmental sustainability**

In key aspects of construction of new facilities (i.e. project planning, design, and construction teams) Vancouver Coastal Health is supporting the goal to achieve the highest level of human and environmental health and well-being by:

- ▶ Assessing and reducing the impacts of climate change on a facility and the surrounding community
- ▶ Determining how the design, construction, and operation of a facility will impact the environment (energy, water, carbon, and waste impacts) and human health
- ▶ Developing low-carbon, resilient, and environmental sustainability strategies
- ▶ Achieving LEED accreditation (a globally recognized green-building rating system administered by the [Canadian Green Building Council](#))
- ▶ Meeting and/or exceeding environmental and climate change regulations
- ▶ Drawing on credible evidence that links health outcomes to planning and design of the built-environment (re: [The Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit](#))

The benefits of building for environmental sustainability include:

- ▶ Prioritizing design strategies that enhance human health and well-being
- ▶ Adding value to building projects via synergistic and holistic solutions
- ▶ Finding opportunities to minimize risks, cost, and unintended consequences on the environment and human health
- ▶ Promoting health and environmental sustainability values that directly impact staff and patients, and are not captured in energy- and climate-related programs and legislation
- ▶ Focusing on better health outcomes by constructing buildings that don't make people sick

Our buildings

721,669 m²

Usable facility space
 (Source: Vancouver Coastal Health Real Estate Department)

165

Distinct buildings
 (Source: Vancouver Coastal Health Real Estate Department)



Our LEED projects

Registration Date	Certification Date	Project Name	Certification Level	Project City	Project Size m ²
2009-08-11	2015-01-13	Sechelt (St. Mary's) Hospital	Gold	Sechelt	5,300
2012-01-31	2016-04-15	Lions Gate Hospital – HOpe Centre	Gold	North Vancouver	8,805
2013-05-07	2018-04-20	Joseph & Rosalie Segal & Family Health Centre	Gold	Vancouver	12,251
2016-10-20	TBD	Creekstone Residential Care Facilities (leased site)	TBD	North Vancouver	13,354
2016-10-20	May 15, 2020	Hamilton Village Residential Care Facility (leased site)	TBD	Richmond	8,200
2016-10-20	TBD	Silverstone Residential Care & Hospice Facility (leased site)	TBD	Sechelt	8,600

2.2 Senior executive team*

“

In keeping with our values of ‘we care for everyone’, ‘we are always learning’, and ‘we strive for better results’, we can and must reduce our energy, water and waste streams. Advancing energy and environmental sustainability will contribute to better health for everyone.

– Vivian Eliopoulos, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer



Vivian Eliopoulos
Interim President
and Chief Executive Officer



Fernando Pica
Chief Financial Officer and VP,
Strategic Business Services



Dr. Marshall Dahl
HAMAC Chair and Executive Lead,
Physician Engagement



Dr. Patricia Daly
Vice President, Public Health,
Chief Medical Health Officer



Laura Case
Vice President,
Vancouver Community



Yasmin Jetha
Vice President,
Community Services



Michelle de Moor
Interim Vice President,
Vancouver Acute Services



Charlene Chiang
Vice President of Communications
and Strategic Partnerships



Lorraine Blackburn
Vice President, Professional Practice, and
Chief Clinical Information Officer



Gail Malenstyn
Interim Vice President,
Richmond Acute Services



Darcia Pope
Vice President
and Chief Transformation Officer



Ron Quirk
Chief Information Officer



Karin Olson
Vice President, Coastal



Dr. Dean Chittock
Vice President, Medicine,
and Quality and Safety



Brett Sparks
Vice President,
Employee Engagement

* As of July 2020

2.3 Our climate reality

“
Managing the risks resulting from a changing climate is essential to secure the longevity of asset investments, protect our health and well-being, and reduce costs associated with climate-related disasters.

– CleanBC plan

The Government of British Columbia is taking action to promote environmental sustainability. The *Climate Change Accountability Act* is currently being amended to introduce a new climate change accountability framework under the CleanBC plan, which includes enhanced reporting requirements on plans, actions, and progress to manage climate change risks, and the identification of organizational costs and road maps for public sector organization performance beyond the government-legislated emission reduction sectorial targets. **This equates to a reduction of carbon emissions by public sector organizations of an additional 10% over and above the Act's target of 40% by 2030.**^E

Climate change and its associated environmental and human health problems are our current global reality — a reality which we must all take action to address if we are to protect our environment and maintain strong, effective health systems that support the health of all individuals and populations.

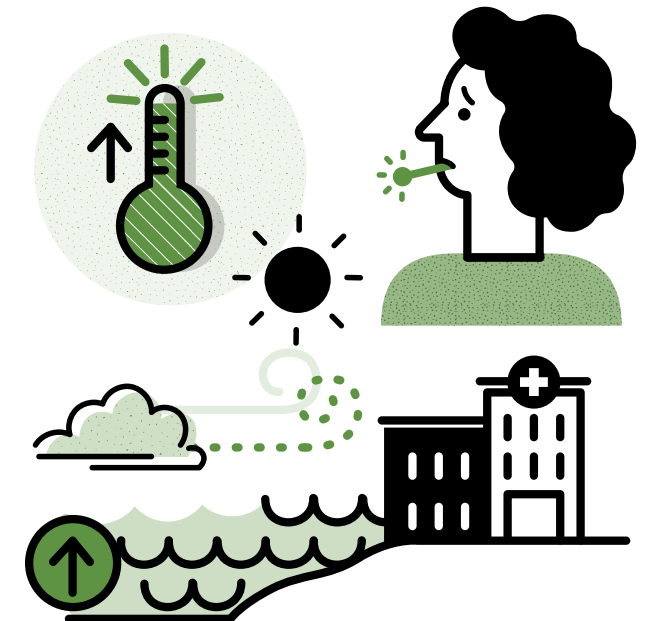
B.C. is experiencing the effects of global climate change right now: average temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising and causing coastal flooding, and variable and extreme weather is becoming more frequent.^F With the rise in average precipitation, we face an increased risk of seasonal flooding, even as seasonal water droughts contribute to more powerful wildfires. Despite efforts to reduce carbon pollution, these changes will affect the physical and mental health of British Columbians directly — especially the most vulnerable — as well as the capacity of the health-care system to deliver the health services that we rely on.^G

Paradoxically, the health-care activities that address these health challenges can also contribute to global climate change and environmental pollutants. For instance, from 2009 to 2015, largely due to emissions from hospitals, pharmaceuticals, and physician services, the Canadian health-care system generated “33 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and over 200,000 tonnes of other pollutant emissions, resulting in 23,000 disability-adjusted life years lost annually.”^H

All of this means we have a clear responsibility to act: consistently, decidedly, and with urgency. As we continue to work toward a healthier future, we need to understand and meaningfully address the impacts of health-care construction and operations on the environment.

“
As health professionals, we have an obligation to first, do no harm to both the health of our communities and the planet. The health and care sector has the political and economic leverage, as well as the moral obligation to lead from the front when it comes to climate change.

– David Pencheon, Director, Sustainable Development Unit for NHS England and Public Health England



2.4 Health care's impact

Energy and water

Health-care sites and operations often run 24/7 and require large amounts of energy and water to maintain the highest level of care to a growing population across the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. Diagnostic and life saving equipment and processes, as well as all of the support services in our facilities, require uninterrupted energy sources. Likewise, keeping facilities clean and disinfected for the safety of staff, patients, and visitors necessarily require water use. Vancouver Coastal Health has an environmental and fiscal responsibility to reduce energy and water use and its resulting carbon footprint.

“**The health sector is one of the most trusted and respected sections of society, and it is also one of the largest employers and consumers of energy. This presents both a duty and a window of opportunity to achieve climate-neutrality, efficiency and cost reduction all at the same time.**”

– World Health Organization's Health Security and Environmental Cluster

Material waste

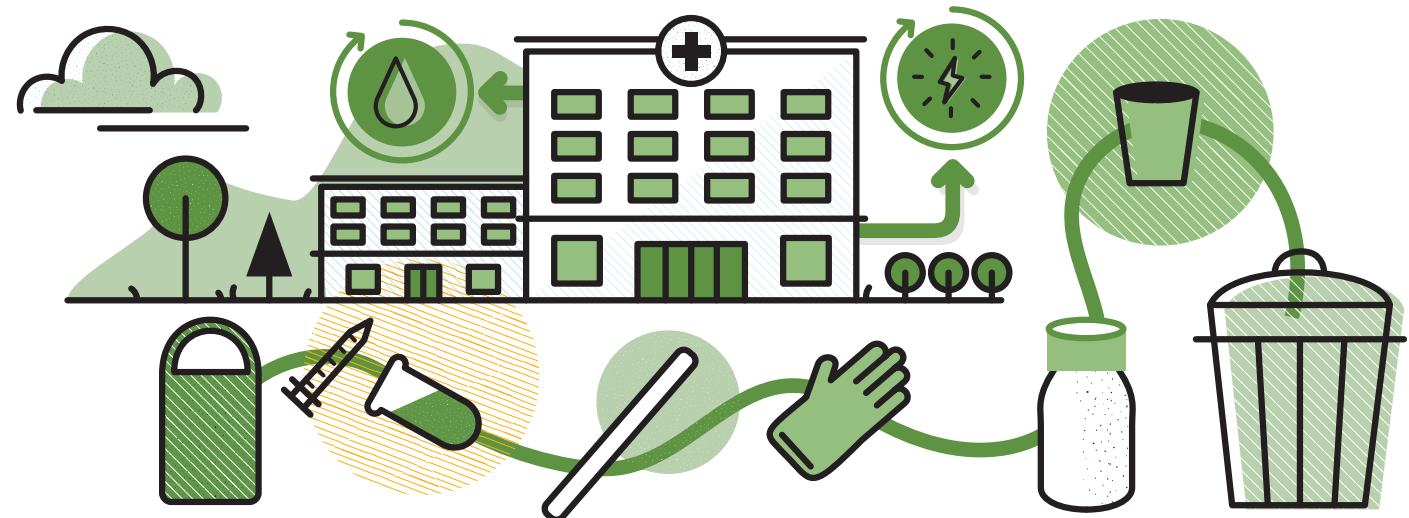
Quality patient care requires a vast amount of supplies, including single-use items designed to deliver care and reduce infections, which results in large amounts of material waste. These health-care needs, the decline in global recycling markets, the differences in regionally accepted materials, and the real and perceived contamination risks in the recycling streams accepted by local vendors has limited our ability to reduce the material waste sent to landfills or incineration.

Nevertheless, health-care organizations have an environmental responsibility to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills or incineration by focusing on reducing the amount of materials procured and brought into the system.

Vancouver Coastal Health generates on average over seven kilograms of waste per bed, per day. Addressing this waste is critical to reducing our environmental impact.

“**Measures to ensure the safe and environmentally sound management of health-care wastes can prevent adverse health and environmental impacts ... thus protecting the health of patients, health workers, and the general public.**”

– World Health Organization, Health-Care Waste



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Chemicals

Chemicals are a part of health care, as they are part of providing safe, quality patient care. They are used in construction and maintenance, in building materials and furnishings, for cleaning and disinfection, and in the treatment of our patients, and they end up in our waste. That's why it's important that we work towards reducing and eliminating staff, patient, and visitor exposure to harmful chemicals by improving chemical purchases, and management, use, and disposal practices.

Health-care organizations have an environmental responsibility to work within the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* to increase management of and exposure to chemicals in products and operations.

“**Health-care professionals, particularly nurses, are at increased risk for chemical and pharmaceutical exposure, and so are health-care patients. Reducing exposures is an important step as the health-care sector fulfils its oath to ‘first do no harm’.**

- Bobbi Chase Wilding, Kathy Curtis, Kristen Welker, Hazardous Chemicals in Health Care - A Snapshot of Chemicals in Doctors and Nurses

Transportation

Every day, health-care staff provide lifesaving care to British Columbians, but many staff drive to work in single occupancy (fuel-based) vehicles, which impacts the environment and health.

Accordingly, health-care organizations have an environmental responsibility to reduce the resulting air pollution and an opportunity to improve the active health of their staff.

“**The Government of Canada estimates that 14,600 premature deaths per year in Canada can be linked to air pollution from fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone, as outlined in the technical report Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Canada. ... The total economic valuation of the health impacts attributable to air pollution in Canada is \$114B per year (based on 2015 currency).**

- Estimates of Morbidity Outcomes and Premature Mortalities, 2019 Report



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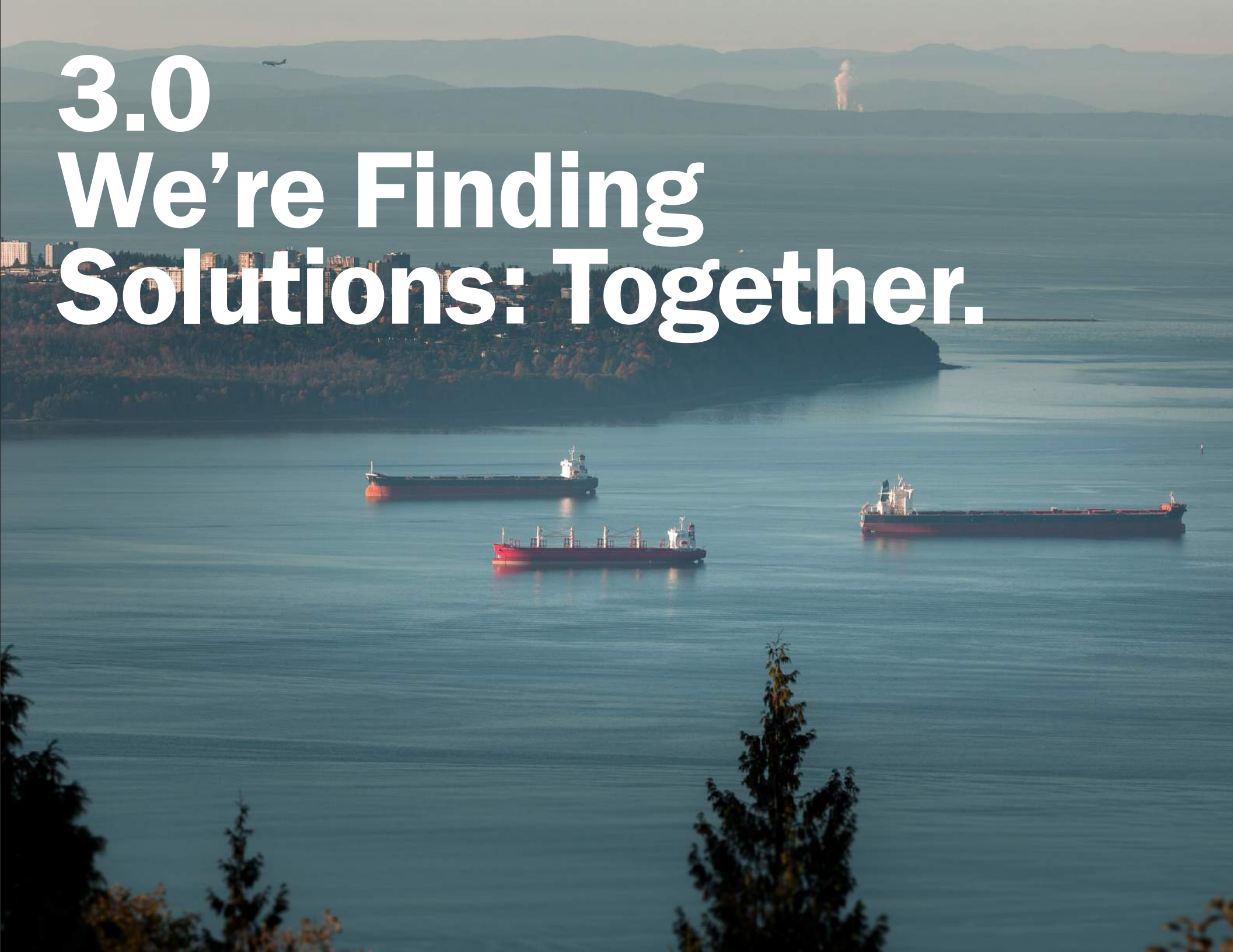


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3.1 GreenCare's Energy and Environmental Sustainability team

Our Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team was created in 2010 to ensure that a collaborative energy and environmental sustainability approach is taken across the Lower Mainland health organizations. Since then, we've partnered with many other stakeholders to integrate and enhance sustainability infrastructure and practices in a variety of programs, and made health and wellness central to our work. Like you, we know that healthy communities, healthy workplaces, and a healthy environment are linked, and environmental sustainability is essential to the health of staff, patient care, the health-care system, and an overall healthy population.

We also know that Energy and Environmental Sustainability work is not without challenges, including understanding and reconciling competing priorities in health care. For example, quality patient care and efforts to reduce infections can have an impact on the environment. To this end, we are focused on the following priorities:

- ▶ Identifying and supporting the implementation of environmental co-benefits of health-care facility design and operations, without compromising patient care
- ▶ Climate resilience through building emissions reductions and adaptation strategies
- ▶ A partnership approach that embraces greater integration with other support services, departments, and teams
- ▶ Coaching engaged staff, peer learning, and change management

Embedding environmental health and wellness

Our team's work is guided by GreenCare, an initiative that supports the four Lower Mainland health organizations

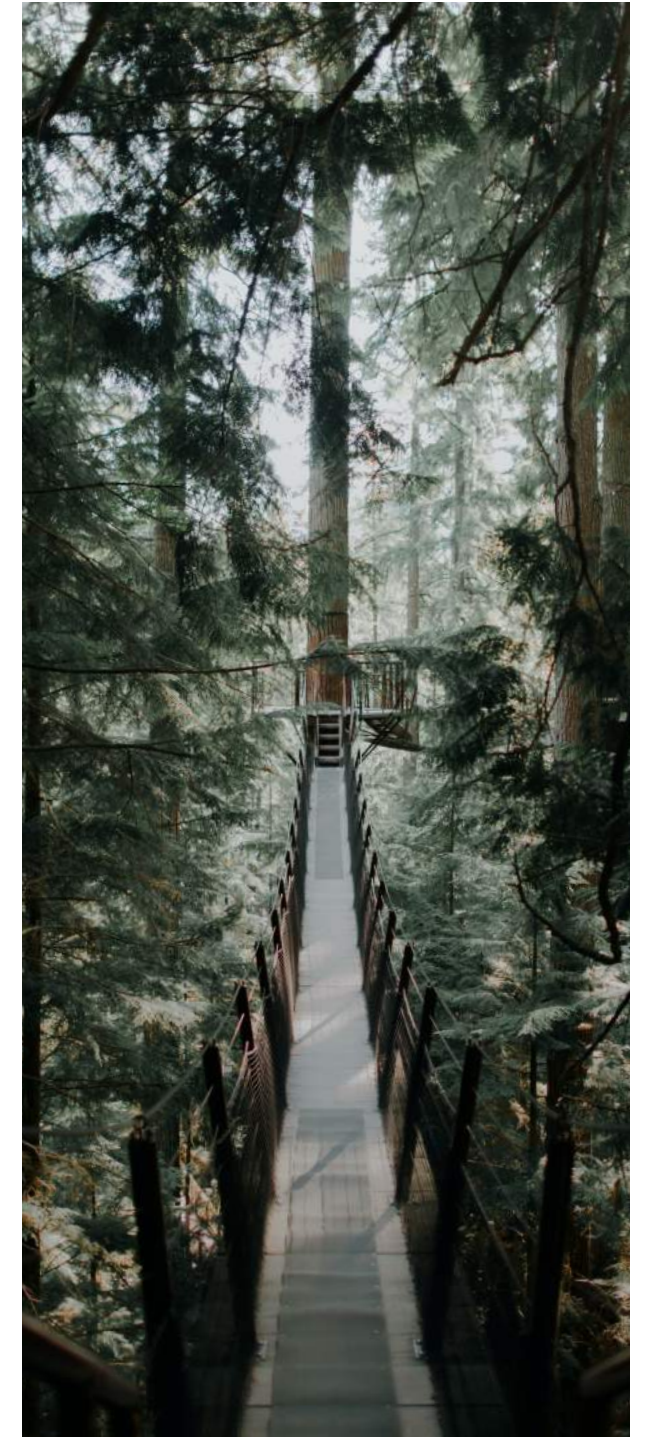
in becoming regional and national leaders in energy and environmental sustainability. By advancing an environmentally conscious culture that is actively aware and engaged in creating sustainable solutions for healthy lives and a healthy community, the GreenCare initiative encompasses and promotes a wide range of energy and environmental sustainability strategies, programs, and projects to reduce the environmental impact of health-care operations, reduce climate risk, and improve the resiliency of health-care facilities and human and environmental health.

Due to recent changes to legislation and changing health-care priorities, our current **Strategic Framework** needs to evolve to meet the needs of the ever-changing health-care sector. We're working on updating the framework to ensure that our health-care systems and leadership are supported in meeting the challenges ahead.

While the Government of British Columbia continues to review regulations and update legislation, and health-care staff awareness around climate change is increasing, given our climate reality, there is still much work to be done to embed environmental sustainability within our health-care system. I am so proud of our team's **achievements to date**, and just as proud of Vancouver Coastal Health staff and leadership for their commitment to building healthier workplaces. Our team looks forward to continuing to work together with Vancouver Coastal Health in making environmental sustainability an essential part of health care.



Robert Bradley
Director of Energy &
Environmental Sustainability



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3.2 These are our GreenCare Focus Areas.

To reduce the risks of our climate reality and the environmental impacts of health-care construction and operations, we must all take clear, meaningful action. The four GreenCare focus areas are essential to this action, and have been developed to ensure the health and well-being of health-care staff, patients, our communities, and our environment.

In order to support meaningful change, each of the following focus areas identifies a goal and a number of targets, along with measurable key performance indicators (KPI) that determine our progress. By pursuing these targets and tracking these KPIs in collaboration with key partners, Vancouver Coastal Health can assess its progress and achieve environmental sustainability.



**Smart Energy
& Water**



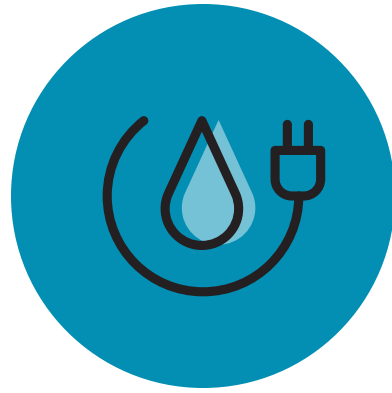
**Zero Waste
& Toxicity**



**Active & Clean
Transportation**



**Workplace
Leadership**



1. Smart Energy & Water

Our goal

Minimize energy and water consumption and GHG emissions to reduce costs and environmental impacts, helping to ensure the health and wellness of our living environments.

Achieving the Smart Energy & Water goals means stewarding energy and water and their utilities. The Lower Mainland health organizations are continually looking for opportunities to reduce the amount and intensity of energy and water use and GHG emissions from health-care operations. Efficiency measures and water-conserving infrastructure do more with less, thereby lowering our environmental footprint without compromising patient care or employee comfort.

Our targets

Reduce energy-use intensity of core sites* by



Reduce absolute in-scope GHG emissions by



Reduce in-scope GHG-emissions intensity



Reduce building water utilization intensity of core sites by



* Core sites are defined as primarily owned health-care facilities that can be actively monitored for energy, water, and waste data.

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Smart Energy & Water EES team



Kori Jones
Energy Manager



Kelly Lim
Energy Specialist



Jacob Vu
Energy Coordinator



Sabah Ali
Energy Coordinator



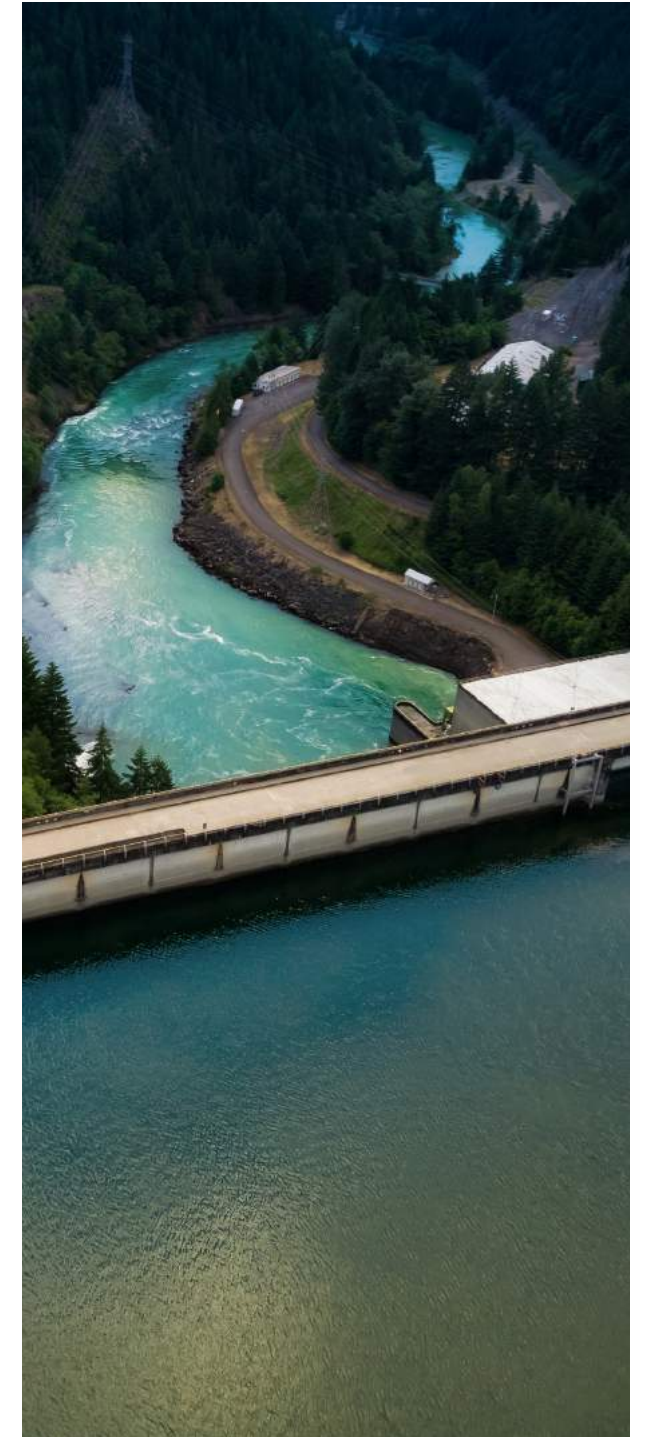
Ghazal Ebrahimi
Sustainability Consultant,
High Performance Buildings

Our partners

- BC Hydro¹
- Capital Projects and Planning teams
- Climate Action Secretariat
- Facilities Maintenance and Operations
- FortisBC¹
- Health Finance
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Health
- Municipal governments
- Public Health

Current programs include:

- ▶ Energy and Emissions Management
- ▶ Water Management



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Services Authority EPAR**

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ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Energy Management program seeks to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and overall energy consumption, thereby reducing negative environmental impacts and supporting human health.

The program develops strategic partnerships and strong relationships with a wide range of stakeholders — particularly maintenance and operations teams, project and planning teams, consultants, and utility providers — to identify and implement energy-reduction opportunities. It also undertakes measurement and reporting on key energy-performance indicators and benchmarks, connects with internal sustainability consultants on systemic and behavioural change initiatives, and monitors and tracks project funding.

Some of the initiatives included in the energy reduction strategy are as follows:

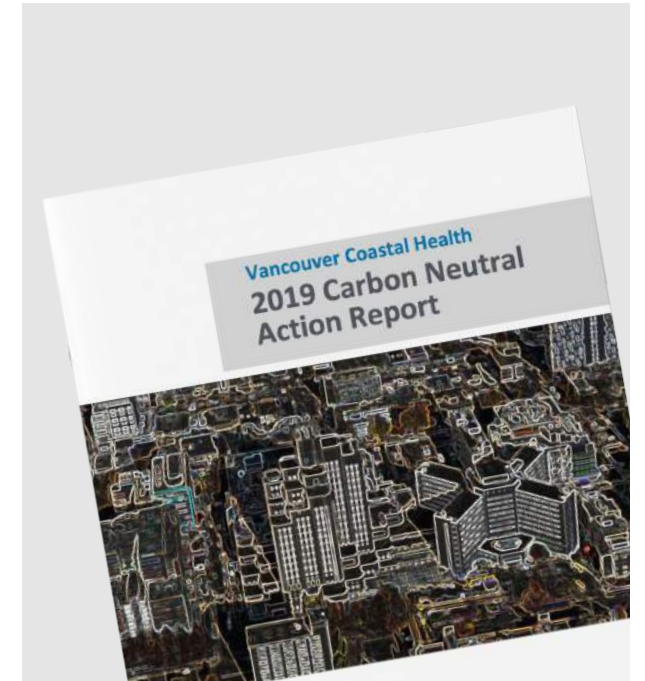
- ▶ Energy studies to determine project opportunities
- ▶ Heating-plant upgrades and district energy solutions
- ▶ Efficient lighting upgrades
- ▶ Control-system optimization
- ▶ Cooling-plant site strategies
- ▶ Heat-recovery chiller installations
- ▶ Waste-heat recovery strategies
- ▶ Behavioural-change campaigns for energy conservation

EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

The focus of the Emissions Management program is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and align with the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and the *CleanBC plan*. As indicated earlier, the CleanBC plan has set ambitious targets for public sector organizations requiring a reduction in emissions by 50% by 2030, by 60% by 2040, and by 80% by 2050. Of the total measured in-scope emissions generated by Lower Mainland health-care sites, over 95% are from buildings while the remaining 5% are from supplies (paper usage) and transportation (fleet and other vehicles) combined. The GreenCare goals and targets for carbon-neutral operations will be achieved, generally, by reducing GHG (carbon) emissions and purchasing carbon offsets.

Some of the initiatives included in the program are as follows:

- ▶ Emission-reduction strategies for buildings
- ▶ Reduction of operational energy (natural gas and electrical) consumption
- ▶ Optimization of existing plants and controls
- ▶ Building new facilities to aggressive performance standards
- ▶ Consideration of asset planning to ensure lower-carbon equipment



**The Vancouver Coastal Health
Carbon Neutral Action Report**

Each year, along with all public-sector organizations, B.C.'s health authorities submit a Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) to the Climate Action Secretariat of the provincial government. In this mandated reporting of GHG emissions and other data, and current and planned actions to reduce GHG emissions, CNARs detail our progress toward carbon neutrality.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, health authorities have been instructed to use their 2018 GHG emissions as a temporary estimate for their actual 2019 GHG emissions. Although 2018 emissions data will be used as a placeholder for 2019, all other qualitative components of this CNAR are completed with information from 2019.

Download: [Vancouver Coastal Health 2019 CNAR](#)

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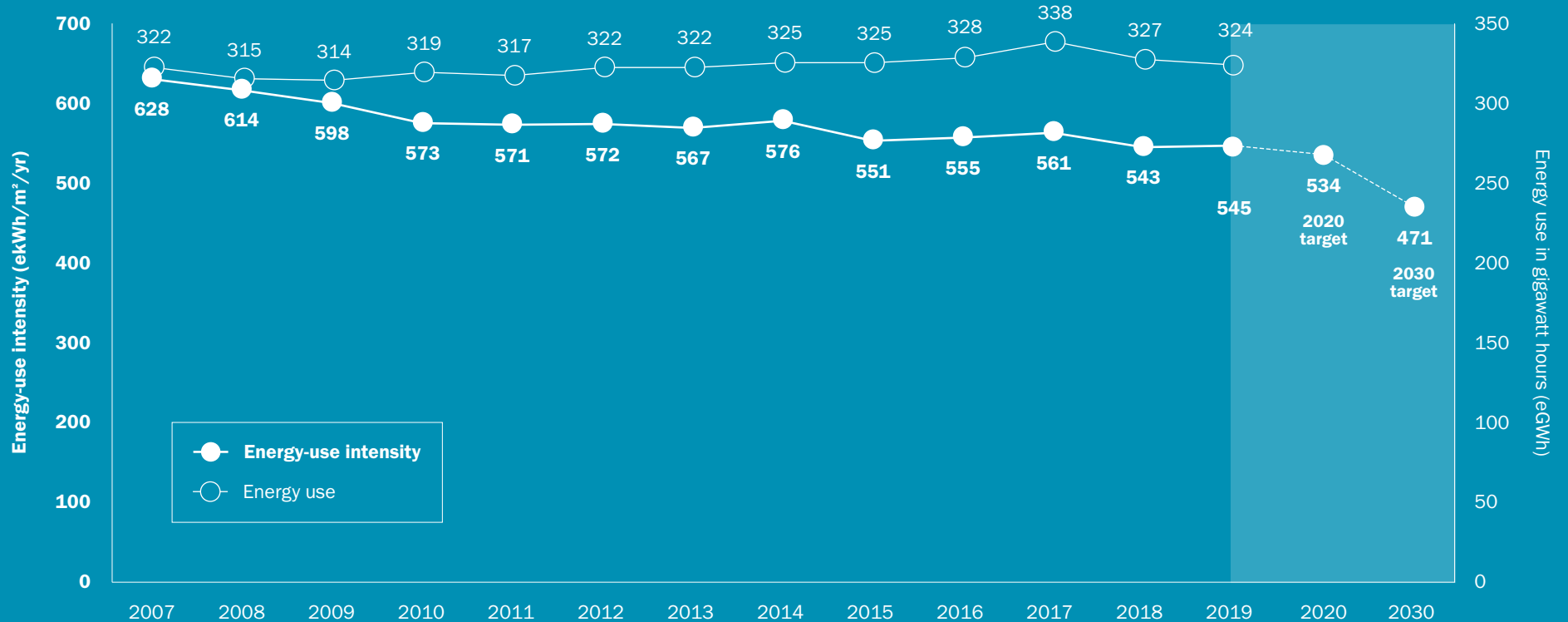
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Energy Use and Intensity

Energy use at core health-care sites* is measured in equivalent gigawatt hours (eGWh), and captures the entire amount of energy used from all energy sources** on an annual basis, including an adjustment for fluctuations in weather. Energy-use intensity (EUI) is measured in equivalent kilowatt hours generated per square metre of facility space per year (ekWh/m²/yr). This graph is a key benchmark for progress of energy consumption since it tells us that even as we grow in facility space,*** we are reducing our energy use per building area.

13.2% ↓

The EUI has decreased by 13.2% since 2007, and, despite an increase of 16% in core facility space since 2007, we used almost the same amount of energy.



* Core sites are defined as primarily owned health-care facilities that can be actively monitored for energy, water, and waste data.

** This includes electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil, and energy purchased from district energy systems.

*** Changes to facility area through new construction and demolitions directly impact these figures.

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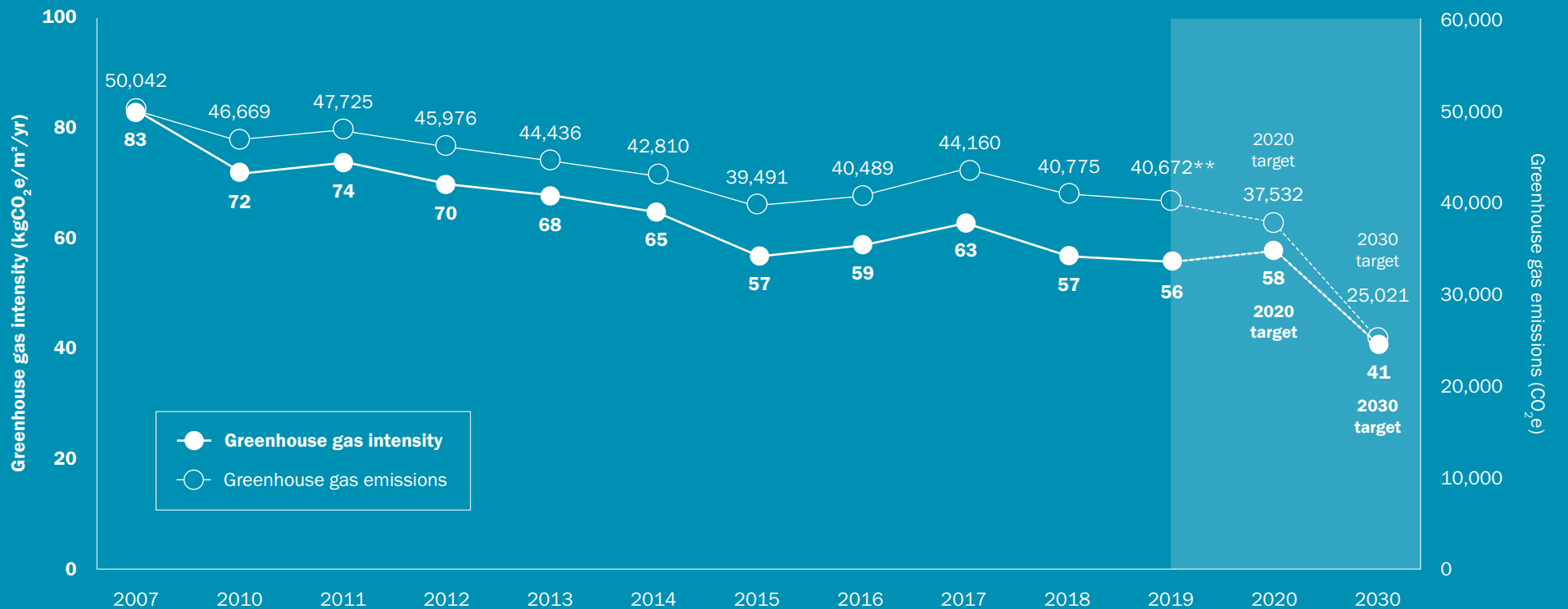
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Intensity

Absolute emissions,* measured in tonnes of CO₂e annually,** represent the total reported, in-scope emissions (energy consumption, fleet use, and office paper) for all owned and leased buildings. Intensity is measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted per square metre of usable facility space per year (kgCO₂e/m²/yr); this represents the emission-intensity average across owned and leased sites. Each building has a very different emission profile depending on the main fuel sources, energy

infrastructure age, facility condition, and clinical programs served. The emission intensity will continue to improve as we replace old emission intensive facilities with new, low-carbon facilities.

18.8% ↓

GHG emissions have decreased by 18.8% despite a 19.7% increase in total useable facility space since 2007.***



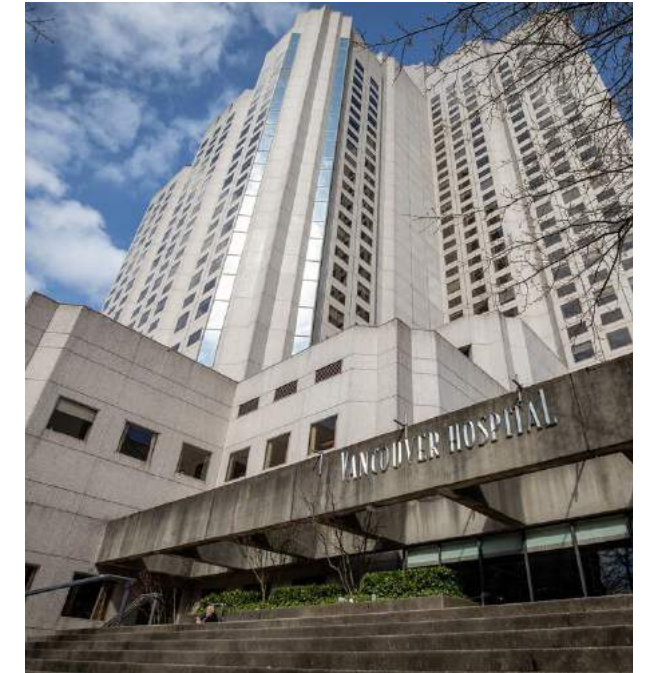
* Absolute emissions refers to total emissions regardless of growth change. In-scope emissions are from owned and leased buildings, fleet travel, and paper use (as defined by the *Climate Change Accountability Act*).

** 40,672 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents) is a placeholder for 2019 due to reporting interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vancouver Coastal Health's actual 2019 emissions are to be determined.

*** This data is a placeholder for 2019 due to reporting interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vancouver Coastal Health's actual 2019 emissions are to be determined.



Vancouver General Hospital chiller plant



OUR STORY

Minimizing environmental impact through collaboration at Vancouver General Hospital: Heat Recovery Chiller Project (phase 2)

The EES team, in close partnership with the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) Facilities Maintenance and Operations team, was able to deliver a progressive solution that considered the operational requirements of the VGH chiller plant, while minimizing environmental impact. Based on a collaborative approach which assisted with early risk identification and improved overall project coordination, the project will result in annual energy savings of 14,500 gigajoules (GJ), an annual energy cost saving of \$75,380, and the mitigation of 723 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e) each year, which is approximately the GHG emissions produced by 156 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

The centralized chiller plant, serving multiple buildings on campus, was in need of additional cooling capacity to meet

the peak temperature on warm summer days and minimize the use of a low efficiency steam absorption chiller overall. Previous energy studies identified that the absorption chiller consumed 43% of the total chiller plant energy, even though it was only in operation 25% of the time compared to the two other main chillers. Through extensive trend analysis, additional opportunities to optimize the operation and chiller sequencing of the remaining chiller plant were uncovered.

Several different heat recovery chiller configurations were assessed, and the installation of a second heat recovery chiller in parallel with the existing heat recovery chiller was selected. This captured the waste heat generated by the chilled water plant and converted it into thermal energy for the operational use in building heating. To use the full capacity of the new heat-recovery chiller, additional waste

heat will be captured by connecting the exhaust air glycol run-around loop into the new system.

Considering the complexity of this cooling plant, a commissioning and optimization plan is in place to ensure the plant operates as designed over the shoulder seasons, and the energy and emission savings will be monitored and verified going forward.

This project is an environmental sustainability win, and demonstrates that integration of teams, executive sponsorship, and effective resource allocation have great operational and environmental benefits.

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WATER MANAGEMENT

In our climate reality, the management of water use is a growing priority not only for health-care organizations but for all B.C. residents. Vancouver Coastal Health's Water Management program is an integral part of the Province's strategy to address the recurring issue of water shortage across B.C.

The Water Management program seeks to actively plan, develop, distribute, and optimize the use and possible reuse of water resources by Lower Mainland health-care sites. Focused largely on conservation, this program looks to:

- ▶ Optimize landscape irrigation.
- ▶ Eliminate once-through cooling systems.
- ▶ Capture/reuse rainwater.
- ▶ Optimize water use through behavioural change.
- ▶ Manage sewage and wastewater, with the eventual goal of recycling or reusing grey water where applicable.

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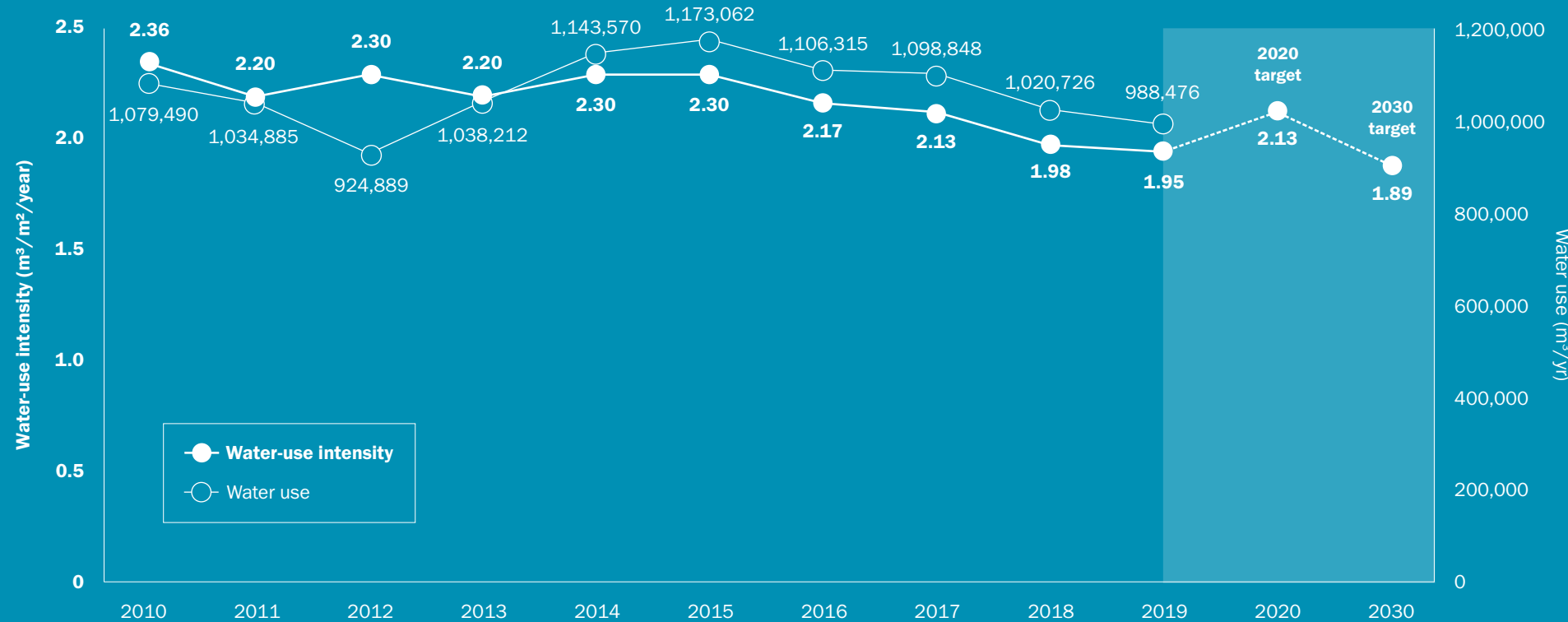
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Water Use and Intensity

Water use at core sites* is measured in cubic metres per year (m³/yr). Total water-use intensity at cores sites is measured in cubic metres per square metre of facility space per year (m³/m²/yr). Water use changes depending on operational needs and clinical equipment changes.

8.4% ↓

Water use has been reduced by 8.4% (equal to 36 Olympic-size swimming pools) since 2010 despite an increase of 8.6% in core facility space.



* Core sites are defined as primarily owned health-care facilities that can be actively monitored for energy, water, and waste data.

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Sustainability of energy and water is important to Vancouver Coastal Health staff. Here is what they are doing to make a difference.

Our staff are already taking action to conserve energy and water, and would welcome the opportunity to do more to advance environmental sustainability.

What do Vancouver Coastal Health staff have to say about energy and water consumption?¹

63%

of staff reported always turning off the desk light/office light when away.

27%

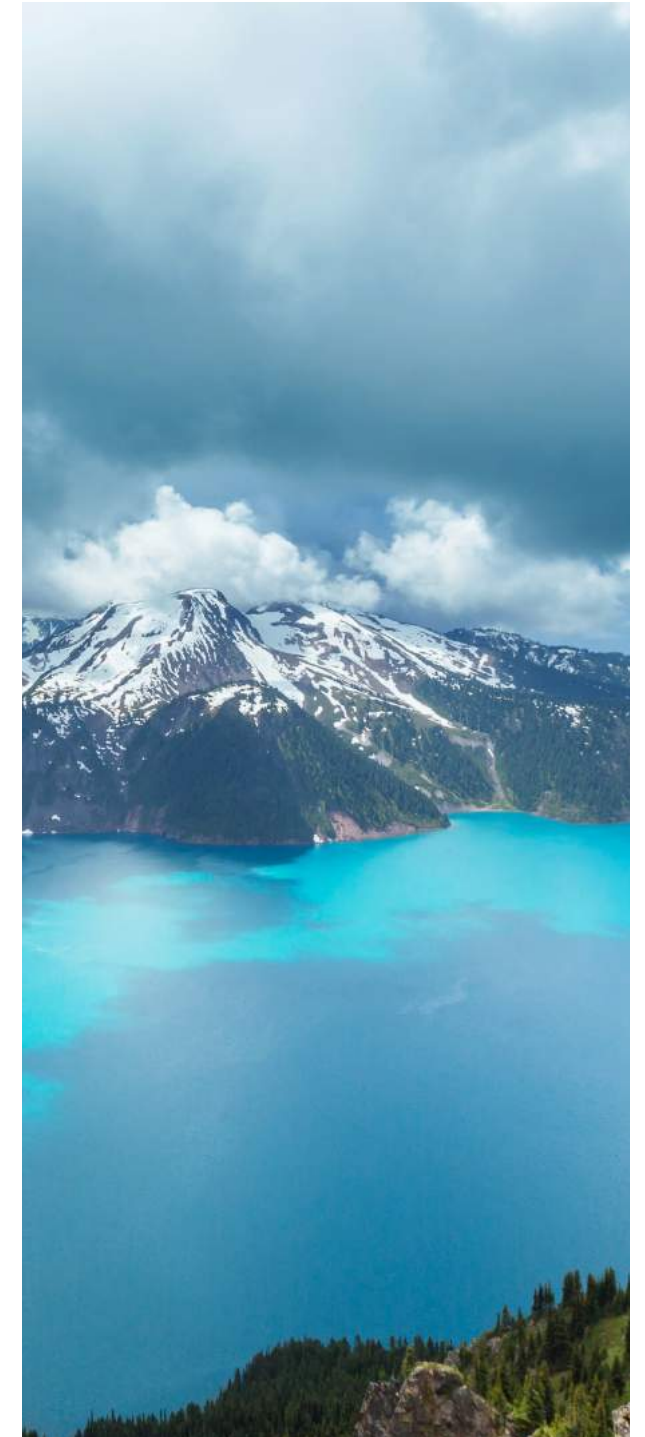
of staff reported always taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

39%

of staff reported always turning off their computers overnight, or when they are away from them for a long time.

26%

of staff reported always generally looking for ways to save energy in their workspace.



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Our successes

In 2019, energy and emissions reductions projects and climate resilience and adaptation strategy work are projected to reduce electricity consumption by over 1,100,000 kilowatt-hours (the equivalent of the annual electricity consumption of 42 CT scanners) and natural gas consumption by over 18,800 gigajoules (the equivalent of the annual natural gas consumption of 204 homes). Measures such as taking a collaborative approach to cooling-plant site strategies and GreenCare's increased involvement and role in new construction projects are resulting in environmental sustainability in Vancouver Coastal Health facilities. In addition, 2019 will be the third year in a row that a survey on climate adaptation has been carried out by all public sector organizations as part of the Carbon Neutral Action Report, recognizing the key role that adaptation must play as we face the impacts of our climate reality.

Challenges we face

In order to build on our successes, a number of challenges must be addressed. Integration is a clear area of opportunity, from more coordination between the EES team and the greater facilities maintenance teams, to integration of energy, emission, and water management strategies, infrastructure and equipment with capital planning teams and funding requests. Further, by increasing the amount of strategic communication and engagement activities with diverse stakeholders, including executive sponsorship, we will be better positioned to meet the aggressive emissions targets set by the [CleanBC plan](#), which for public service organizations are 10% over and above the Act's target of 40% by 2030.

The work isn't finished

We know that actions speak louder than words, so we're working on the following to advance environmental sustainability at Vancouver Coastal Health:

- ▶ Low-carbon resilience infrastructure plans, which provide a road map for infrastructure upgrades in alignment with organizational priorities, to ensure we evaluate all emission reduction and climate adaptation options as the site and facility develops. There are multiple co-benefits and these plans will ensure we have a path to the legislated emission targets.
- ▶ Continued efforts to upgrade to efficient lighting and build automation system optimization
- ▶ Emission reduction and electrification projects funded by the Carbon Neutral Capital Program
- ▶ A new project to capture base data for out-of-scope GHG emissions, including refrigerants gases, anesthetic gases, and organic waste
- ▶ As part of our water-management plan, we need to engage with the Facilities Maintenance and Operations team to review the use of our once-through water cooling system to ensure compliance with city bylaw requirements.





2. Zero Waste & Toxicity

Our goal

Minimize waste generated and toxic chemicals used by the health-care system and supporting operations.

In health-care settings, reducing waste and exposure to toxins produces better health outcomes for patient and staff, decreasing the risk of disease.

In the broader environment, scaling down the use of toxic chemicals and waste decreases greenhouse gas emissions and negative impacts on water, soil, and air, thereby reducing associated health impacts such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease, cancer, endocrine disruption, and birth defects.

Vancouver Coastal Health is working to reduce the negative environmental and health impacts of waste and toxins by focusing on programs that reduce and avoid generation of material waste, divert material waste to recycling streams and reuse programs, and reduce and monitor the use of toxic chemicals in health-care construction, furnishings, maintenance, cleaning, and patient care.

Our targets

Increase and maintain waste-diversion rates* at existing acute and long-term care sites to



Decrease waste-intensity rates at existing acute and long-term care sites to



Increase waste-diversion rates at all new LEED-certified health-care construction projects to



* Waste-diversion rates show a slow increase over time. However, as is the case for other sites in the Lower Mainland, they seem to plateau at approximately 40%. In order to reach the 2020 target of 50% waste

diversion, more aggressive action needs to be taken to reduce garbage waste and look for new streams of recycling. Until we better understand what actions are feasible, we will maintain the target in 2030.

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Zero Waste & Toxicity EES team



Marianne Dawson
Sustainability Consultant,
Recycling and Waste Reduction



Sonja Janousek
Sustainability Manager

Our partners

Business Initiatives Support Services (including the Food Waste and Sustainability Committee) Environmental Vendor Services

Facilities Maintenance and Operations

Infection Prevention and Control

PHSA Supply Chain

Projects and Planning teams

Team-Based Quality Initiative members

Current programs include:

- ▶ Blue Bin
- ▶ Waste Reduction
- ▶ Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)
- ▶ Safer Chemicals^K

BLUE BIN

The Blue Bin program, administered in partnership with Business Initiatives & Support Services, aims to increase material waste diversion at all owned hospital and long-term care sites, with the target of reaching 50% waste diversion by 2020. The program provides health-care sites with recycling equipment and signage, and staff education. As a standardized recycling program, it operates in the same way at every site, making it easier for staff, physicians, patients, volunteers, and visitors to compost and recycle correctly. Clear signage attached to each bin helps to reduce confusion and error at the time of disposal.

Recycling is undertaken in (appropriate) clinical and non-clinical areas of Lower Mainland sites for the following material waste streams:

- ▶ Mixed containers
- ▶ Mixed paper
- ▶ Organics



OUR STORY

The Cafeteria Waste Campaign

The cafeteria waste campaign was designed to make recycling easier for visitors by introducing new recycling and waste-bin stickers, campaign posters, and banners.

Using these fun and informative resources in campaigns launched at Lions Gate Hospital and UBC Hospital in fall 2019, our goals were to reduce contamination in recycling, divert more recycling and compost from landfill, and just make it less confusing to figure out where the waste should go!

In addition to promoting waste diversion, successes include redesigning the bin stickers to reflect actual cafeteria waste items. Feedback from staff and visitors alike expressed how much they like the cute visual designs on the posters and banners.

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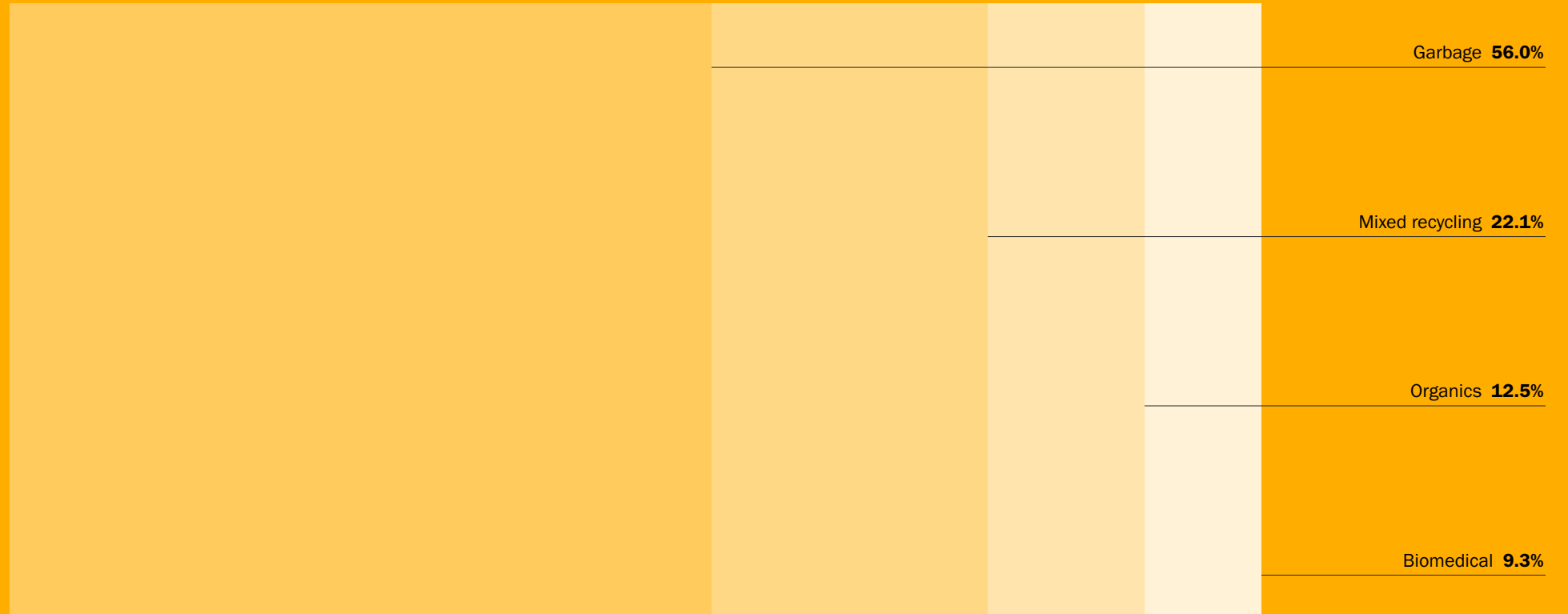
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Vancouver Coastal Health Waste Proportions*

Waste proportions show most health-care waste is non-hazardous. The majority of waste produced in health care is general, non-hazardous waste that doesn't need any special treatment. This data includes all acute and long-term care facilities owned by Vancouver Coastal Health.

6,790 t

VCH facilities generated a total of 6,790.6 tonnes of waste in 2019, which is the equivalent of approximately 1,350 five-tonne elephants.



* Due to rounding to one decimal point, these percentages do not add up to 100%, but do so when the percentages are presented in full.

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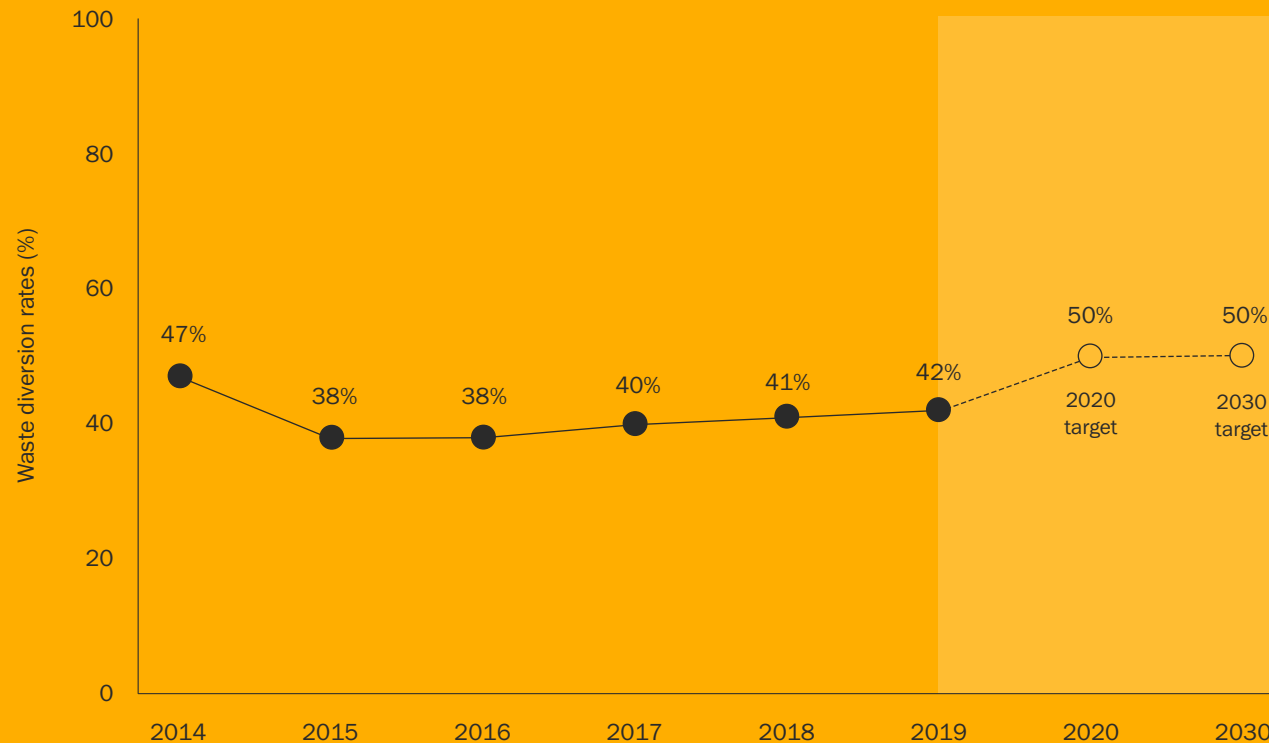
Waste-Diversion Rates

Waste-diversion rates are for all owned Vancouver Coastal Health acute and long-term care facilities, and do not include biomedical waste. The waste-diversion rate is calculated by dividing total estimated weights for paper, container, and organics recycling by the total estimated weight of general garbage waste and recyclables. Waste-diversion rates show a slow increase over time. However, as is the case for other sites in the Lower Mainland, they seem to plateau at approximately 40%. In order to reach the 2020 target of 50% waste diversion, more aggressive action needs to be taken to

reduce garbage waste and look for new streams of recycling. Until we better understand what actions are feasible, we will maintain the target in 2030. The decrease from 2014 to 2015 is attributed to the cancellation of the Soft Plastics Recycling program, as well as a change in waste vendors and the methodology used to track data.



8%
 We are only 8% away from our 2020 target.



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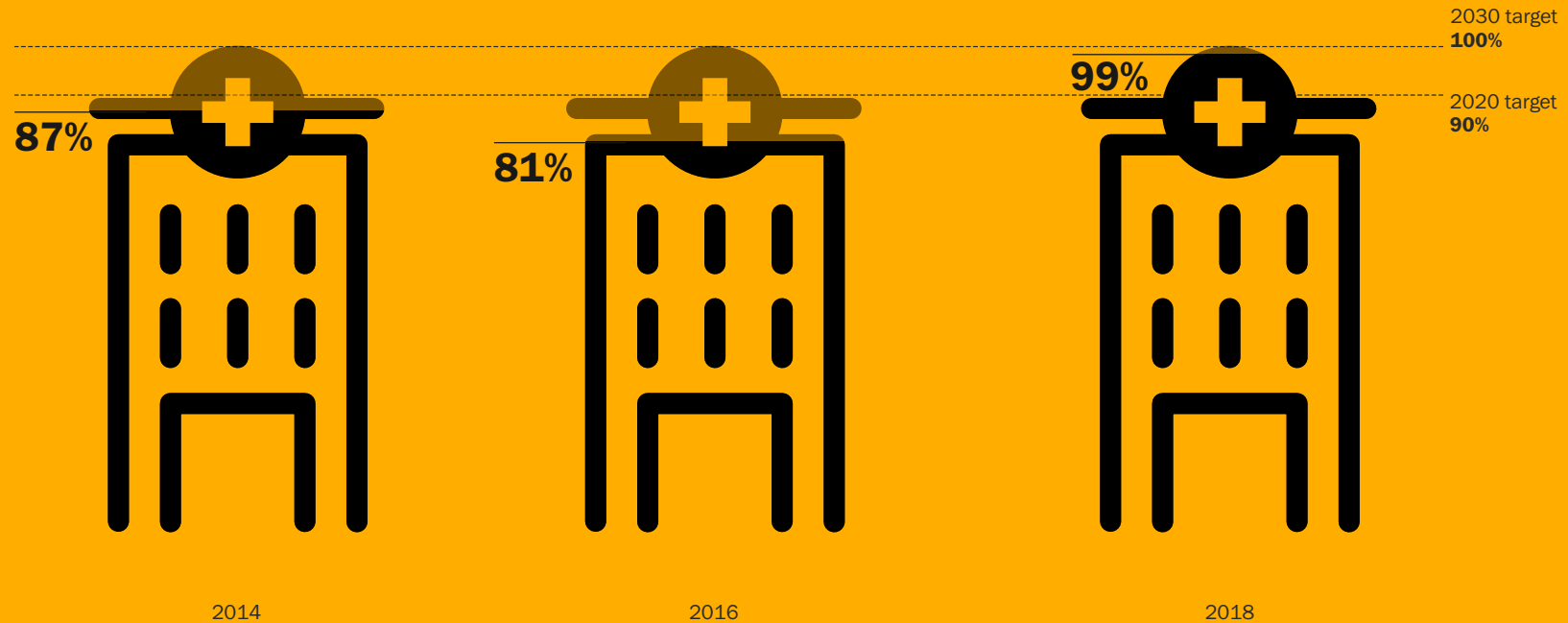
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Waste-Diversion Rates for LEED-Certified Construction Projects

Waste-diversion rates are only measured on LEED-certified projects. Vancouver Coastal Health completed no new LEED-certified construction projects in 2015, 2017, or 2019.

9%

In 2018, we surpassed our 2020 target by 9%.

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ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

Purchasing items that generate unnecessary packaging, contain toxic chemicals, and must be disposed of in the garbage or hazardous waste (not recyclable) contributes to the unnecessary extraction of natural resources, GHG emissions, and air pollution, which are associated with health problems such as asthma, endocrine disruptors, and mental illness. The EPP program aims to decrease the negative impact of building materials and patient-care equipment and supplies on environmental and human health.

The program includes the following actions to support the achievement of environmental-sustainability goals and targets:

- ▶ Collaboration with clinicians and key departments such as PHSA Supply Chain, Infection Prevention and Control, Workplace Health & Safety, and Facilities Maintenance, in order to signal to health-care vendors the importance of environmental and human health
- ▶ Making changes to our procurement processes; in 2019, weighted environmental questionnaires were included in procurement processes related to human waste management systems, nursing trays, adult disposable incontinence, and disposable gowns

OUR STORY

Identifying environmental concerns

In 2019, the Energy and Environmental Sustainability team collaborated with Provincial Health Services Authority Supply Chain to create a formal way for frontline health-care staff to report an "environmental concern" (an internal form which may not be accessible to all readers) of a product they use to deliver patient care. Identifying environmental concerns such as "not recyclable" and "excessive packaging" will help Supply Chain track concerns and use this information to shape specifications to procure environmentally preferable products and equipment.



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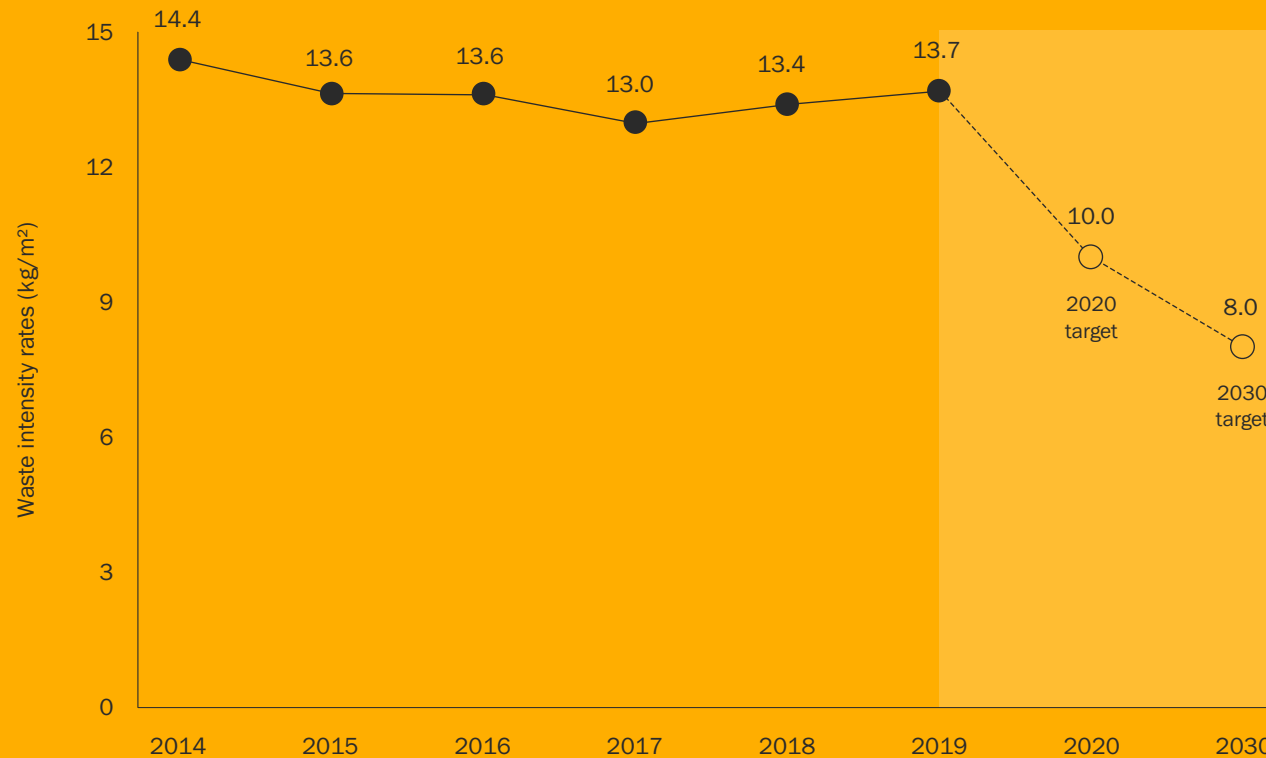
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Waste-Intensity Rates

The waste-intensity rate indicates whether or not we are reducing total waste generated for all Vancouver Coastal Health owned acute and long-term care facilities, and is measured in kilograms of waste generated per square metre of facility space (kg/m²). Since this metric is recent (2018), work is still being done to learn what practices impact waste intensity the most.



3.7 kg/m²

We are currently 3.7 kg/m² away from our 2020 target.

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SAFER CHEMICALS

The Safer Chemicals program aligns with international efforts to recognize that there are chemicals of concern contained in man-made products, including those used in our hospitals for construction, furnishing, maintenance, cleaning, disinfection, and patient care. Chemicals of concern refer to chemicals that, through credible evidence, have or can have adverse health effects on people or the environment, including carcinogenic and reproductive/development toxicants, and those that are persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic to the environment.

The Safer Chemicals program aims to develop a strategy across the four Lower Mainland health organizations that:

- ▶ Aligns health-care sites with work undertaken by Workplace Health & Safety, Infection Control, and other clinical stakeholders in order to develop toxicity reduction targets and create a pathway towards safer chemicals
- ▶ Identifies potential chemicals of concern, including using requests for proposals to ask vendors to declare chemicals of concern in their products
- ▶ Develops a list of chemicals of concern for health-care site construction and operations

OUR STORY

Identifying chemicals of concern

In 2019 the EES team worked with a UBC Sustainability Scholar to develop a master list of chemicals of concern for health care. This list caught the attention of the Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee, and we've committed to working together on a chemicals of concern list specific to skin and wound products.

OUR STORY

Waste reduction and sustainable procurement at Business Initiatives & Support Services (BISS)

Tracy Shannon, regional contracts manager, Waste, BISS, has collaborated with the EES team for 10 years on waste management and education and training for clinical staff and housekeeping partners. She connects the health-care world with the the waste management industry to deliver waste-management services to hospitals.

Sustainability has long been an important part of Tracy's life, beginning with the influence of her grandparents. She grew up seeing them raise 11 children in a small home, grow their own food, and make their own clothes. This created a connection with the land, and inspired her conservation and appreciation of the environment.

Conversely, working at a crude oil refinery and, later, standing on a landfill for the first time, the ills of waste hit home. For Tracy, waste and sustainability is about "making conscious choices and taking that bit of extra time to take action when we can."

The EES team and the many stakeholders and staff they engage are doing just that – working hard to standardize and improve the waste management and segregation programs and supporting sustainable service delivery at health authority facilities.

Tracy is excited about the new work that's being done by EES in collaboration with PHSA Supply Chain on waste reduction and sustainable procurement, drawing attention to the strong expertise in waste management and sustainability across the Lower Mainland health organizations, and highlighting the positivity and creativity of all the people who are making sustainability a part of their story at Vancouver Coastal Health.



Tracy Shannon

Regional Contracts Manager, Waste, at BISS

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Reducing waste is important to Vancouver Coastal Health staff. Here is what they are doing to make a difference.

What do Vancouver Coastal Health staff have to say about waste? ¹

Vancouver Coastal Health staff have clearly indicated that they support environmentally sustainable decision-making, and are already changing their behaviours.

76%

of staff said that they always recycle mixed paper.

35%

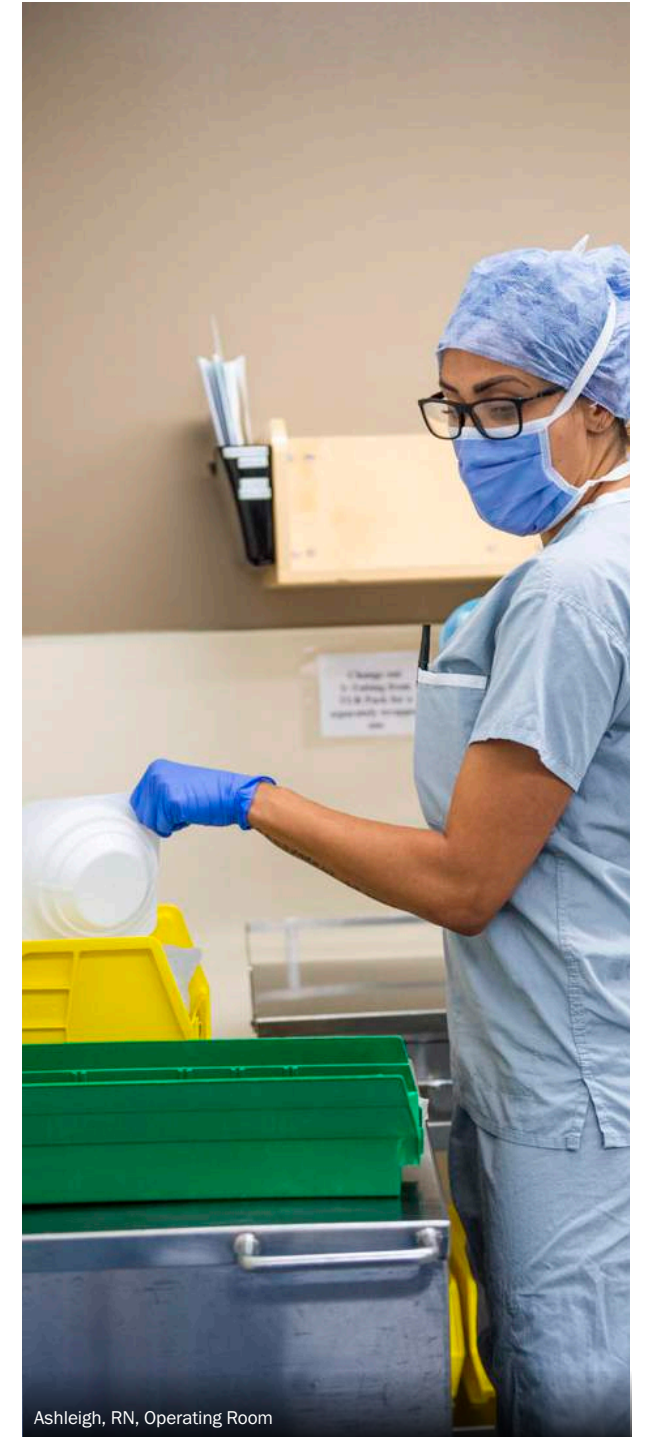
of staff said that they always divert/compost organic waste, 19% said that they want to do this more.

62%

of staff said that they always recycle mixed containers (e.g. hard plastic and tin).

72%

of staff said that they always choose tap/filtered water instead of individually bottled water.



Ashleigh, RN, Operating Room

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Our successes

Implemented at Lions Gate and UBC hospitals in fall 2019, the cafeteria waste campaign, for which staff were engaged to address waste-diversion challenges, was received well by staff and visitors.

We also conducted the Richmond waste volume study, a multi-day, site-wide waste volume study that measured the weights of garbage, mixed recycling, and organics waste streams from individual departments. This provided unit-specific waste information such as which areas have good recycling rates, which need additional support, and how to deepen our understanding of waste based on patient activity.

Communications around environmental sustainability were strengthened with a range of Vancouver Coastal Health stakeholders, from staff to leadership, through the following:

- ▶ A presentation of waste context and waste reduction priorities to the Vancouver Coastal Health senior executive team and establishing a follow-up plan to report back with updates
- ▶ Increased engagement with physicians and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)
- ▶ Team-Based Quality Improvement: The EES team connected with TBQI teams of nurses and set up two presentations (a TBQI Richmond joint meeting and a TBQI VA-Coastal joint meeting) to discuss ways to support environmental sustainability.

Challenges we face

Vancouver Coastal Health staff and leadership work hard at their jobs. As a result, time can be limited and meaningful engagement with busy staff is a challenge we need to overcome. We need to work towards more creative and innovation solutions. We also face an ongoing need to improve data collection. Currently, there are gaps in our knowledge of exactly how much waste is being generated and disposed of, and constant improvement of how we collect this information will be key to properly addressing it. Similarly, waste data around non-LEED construction projects is very difficult to obtain, making it difficult to improve disposal practices and diversion rates in these instances.

The work isn't finished

We want to build on 2019 successes by continuing to engage key clinical stakeholders such as TBQI, IPAC, and Workplace Health & Safety. We'll also continue to learn from our planning, design, and construction teams about how to reduce and divert waste and co-develop health-authority and site-specific waste-reduction plans and strategies. Finally, we want to continue to work with staff in PHSA Supply Chain to understand procurement processes in Vancouver Coastal Health and work towards environmentally preferable policies and practices.



Hospital recycling at Urban Impact



3. Active & Clean Transportation

Our goal

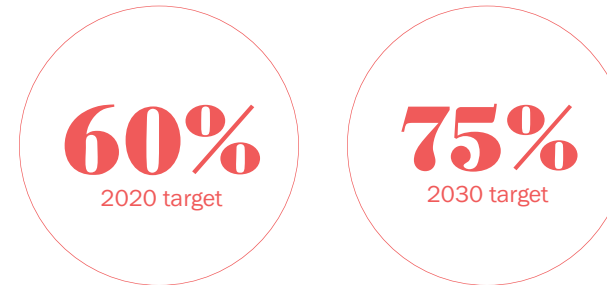
Ensure a health-care system in which employees commute to and travel in between sites in a manner that reduces GHG-related pollutants, minimizes the need for on-site parking, and increases overall health and wellness.

Active transportation (walking and cycling) helps to reduce the risk of disease, the effects of psychological stress, and the negative physical impact of a sedentary lifestyle. Clean transportation (walking, cycling, carpooling, and transit) reduces greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to environmental and human health by reducing consumption of fossil fuels and resulting air pollution. For instance, if all employees of Vancouver Coastal Health were to commute via an active and clean manner, approximately 500 fewer metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (the equivalent of nearly two million kilometres driven by a passenger vehicle) would enter the environment annually.

Please note that this report does not feature data for 2019, as data is collected every two years.

Our targets

Increase the per cent of health-care staff that commute via cleaner and healthier means by



Increase the proportion of core sites that provide end-of-trip (EOT) bicycle facilities/storage by



Our partners

- BC Hydro
- Climate Action Secretariat
- Commuter Services
- Healthy Transportation
- Integrated Protection Services
- PHSA Supply Chain

Active & Clean Transportation EES team



Glen Garrick
 Sustainability Manager (until April 29, 2020)



Sonja Janousek
 Sustainability Manager (from May 1, 2020)

Current programs include:

- ▶ Healthy Transportation

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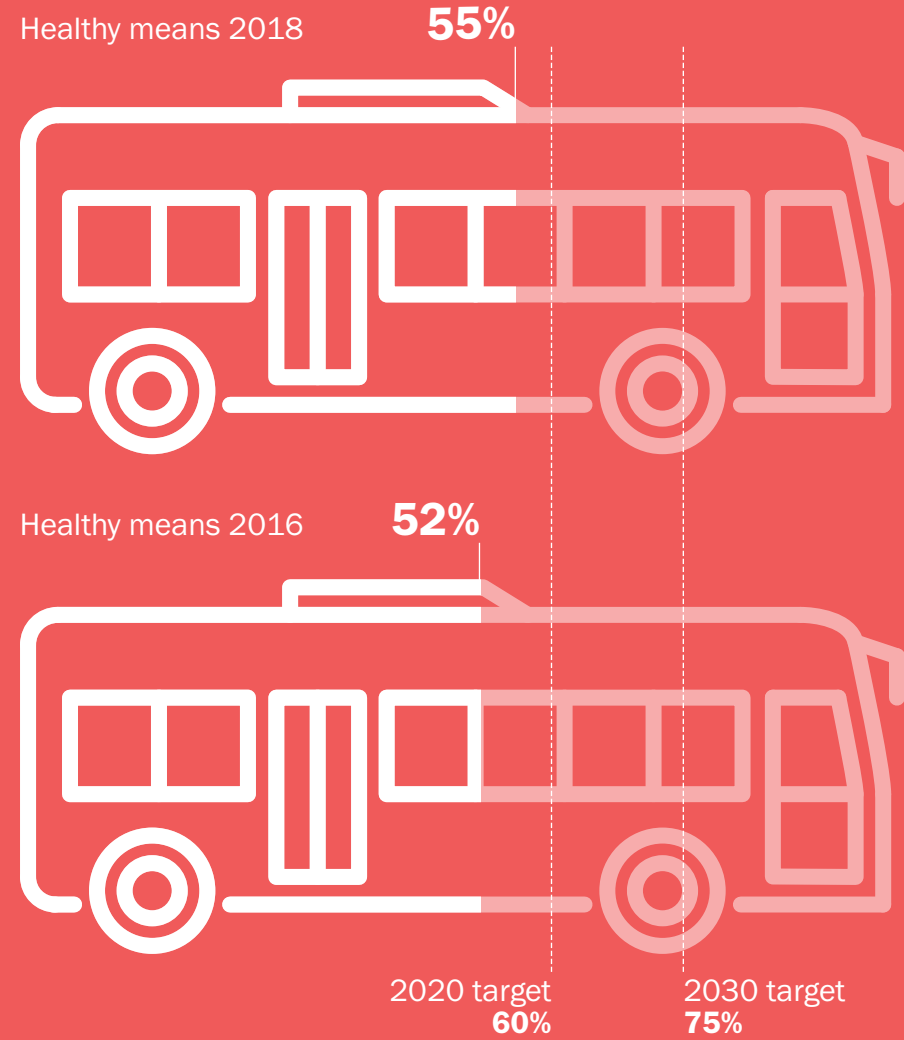
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Healthy and Clean Commuting

Staff are choosing healthy and clean commuting, which includes carpooling, carsharing, and using single-occupancy hybrid/electric vehicles; taking public transit; walking; cycling (electric or manual); using scooters; and taking shuttles. By supporting these options, our goal is to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips. This information is collected from staff biannually in the Future of Health Care Survey.

3% ↑

We have increased healthy and clean commuting by 3%.



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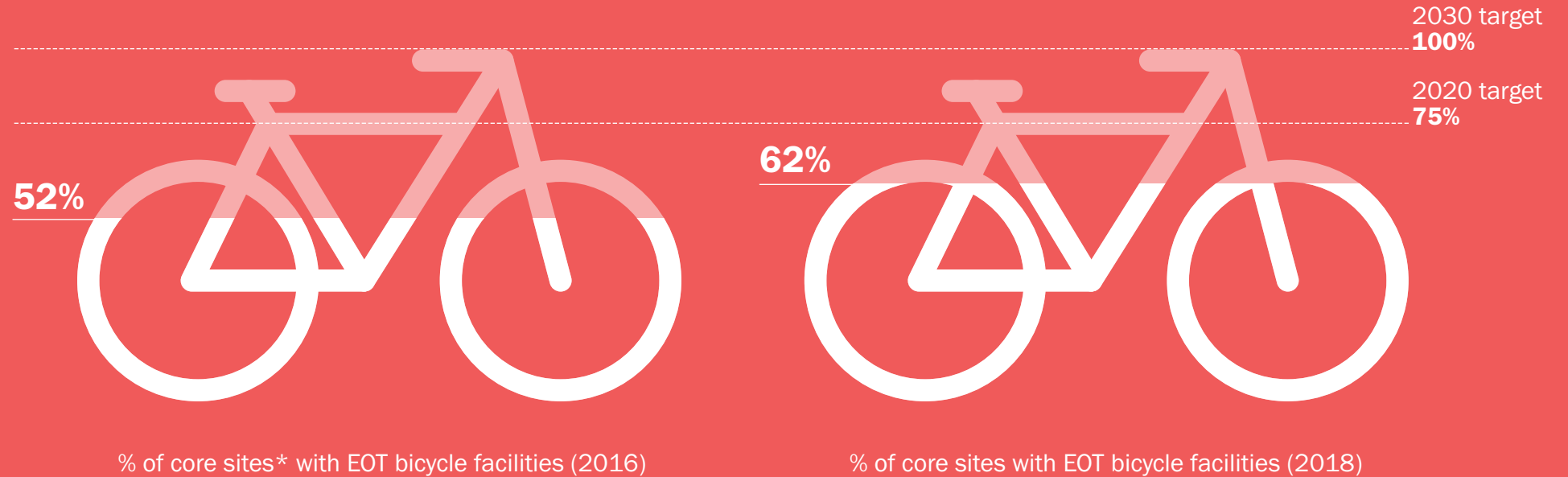
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Bicycle Facilities at Our Sites

The implementation of bicycle facilities at acute and long-term care sites is trending positively. End-of-trip (EOT) bicycle facilities are defined as sites that provide secure space for bicycle racks, lockers, and/or change rooms where cyclists, joggers and walkers can shower, change, and secure their personal belongings. Bicycle storage or parking areas should be accessible to users, and located within the facility or on-site within reasonable walking distance of a primary entrance of the site.

10% ↑

There's been a 10% increase in Vancouver Coastal Health sites with bicycle facilities.



* Core sites are defined as primarily owned health-care facilities that can be actively monitored for energy, water, and waste data.

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Active & clean transportation is important to Vancouver Coastal Health staff. Here is what they are doing to make a difference.

What do Vancouver Coastal Health staff have to say about active & clean transportation?↓

Staff reported commuting to work via driving a single-occupancy, gas vehicle 44% of the time; via public transit (bus, rail, etc.) 23% of the time; via walking 13% of the time; and via a manual bicycle 8% of the time over the course of the year.

The future of electric vehicle (EV) ownership

34%

of staff plan to own an EV.

35%

of staff do not own an EV and do not plan to own one; 4% of staff currently own an EV.

27%

of staff are unsure about owning an EV.

Our successes

We had 46 participants attend the Bike to Work Week lunch and learn in May 2019, with the aim of learning more about the health benefits of choosing active and clean transportation options, as well as providing an opportunity for attendees to share their Bike to Work Week experience. In addition, 10 new EV charging stations were implemented at two sites, Lions Gate Hospital and Vancouver General Hospital.

Challenges we face

The Vancouver Coastal Health Healthy Transportation team aims to respond to all staff concerns, problems, and requests as they relate to the work commute and outreach for client visits within the community. It can be challenging to address the volume of interest, particularly around requests from community sites lacking adequate bike facilities, and those hoping for EV charging stations away from our larger acute sites. It can also be difficult to broadly promote healthy transportation options to a broader audience, such as e-bike trials for community staff. We also face an ongoing need to improve data collection in collaboration with our partners at Integrated Protection Services.

The work isn't finished

We are continuing to promote Bike to Work Week and car sharing, and are working with partners to review the feasibility of increasing the number of on-site electric vehicle charging stations.





4. Workplace Leadership

Our goal

Together, we will reach, engage, and inspire staff in health care to be leaders that share a commitment to and passion for sustainable and thriving healthy communities, workplaces, and environments.

In the workplace, leaders, who lead by example and inspire others to do the same, are critical to an organization's success. Fostering a culture of workplace leadership for environmental sustainability in health care presents an opportunity for better health outcomes for patients and staff. In addition, supporting and bringing leaders together — whether this is frontline staff, corporate team members, and/or executives — contributes to a more engaged and motivated workplace where values are shared and appreciated.

Vancouver Coastal Health is working to inspire a culture of workplace leadership for environmental sustainability through the GreenCare Community initiative and Green+Leaders staff engagement program.

Our targets

Increase the number of Green+Leaders across the organization by*



Increase the number of health-care staff presentations and education and training sessions to



Decrease the GreenCare Community website bounce rate** to



* Based on the number of Green+Leaders trained in the previous year

** Bounce rate refers to the percentage of visitors who enter the site and then leave after viewing only one page.

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Workplace Leadership EES team



Sarah Currie
 Sustainability Consultant,
 Workplace Leadership
 (on leave: June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021)



Aubree Mcatee
 Sustainability Consultant,
 Workplace Leadership
 (starting May 25, 2020)

Our partners

BC Hydro

Clinical and non-clinical frontline staff

Communications & Public Affairs

Community Engagement Advisory Network (CEAN)

Employee Engagement and Transformation Office

Human Resources

Current programs include:

GREEN+LEADERS

The [Green+Leaders](#) program provides direct engagement and support for health-care staff in their efforts to create environmentally sustainable workplaces.

Green+Leaders make a significant contribution to the improvement of the environmental performance of the Lower Mainland health organizations, with more than 500 trained staff volunteers (working in all areas of health care) now participating in the Green+Leaders program. These individuals are agents of change, encouraging environmentally sustainable behaviour, improving existing processes, and helping to create an overall culture of environmental health and wellness inside and outside the workplace.

The program focuses on behaviour change in the following areas:

- ▶ Smart Energy & Water
- ▶ Zero Waste & Toxicity
- ▶ Active & Clean Transportation
- ▶ Climate Resilience & Adaptation

It also supports Workplace Leadership efforts while providing the following benefits to staff volunteers:

- ▶ Training, tools, and leadership development
- ▶ Support from a community of like-minded colleagues
- ▶ Participation in inspiring and educational events
- ▶ Opportunities for making a positive, meaningful impact on workplace and community



Caroline Heisler, Culture & Change Advisor, Vancouver Coastal Health



Adrian White, Radiation Therapist, Provincial Health Services Authority



Kay McQueen, Dietitian, Healthy Heart Program, Providence Health Care

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Green+Leaders Trained

At Vancouver Coastal Health, there are currently 58 active Green+Leaders. The number of Green+Leaders trained throughout the year refers to those staff who have received face-to-face or online, half-day training to support their journey as a Green+Leader, and is measured as a year-on-year proportional increase. This training isn't mandatory, but strongly recommended as a starting point to joining the program and having the knowledge and tools to implement initiatives that reduce the environmental impact of their workplace.

75% ↑

We've increased the number of Green+Leaders trained to seven, which is a 75% increase over 2018.




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Adam and Robert, Sechelt HVAC



OUR STORY

Innovating to increase HVAC efficiency at Sechelt Hospital

An initiative to replace the chillers at Sechelt Hospital and find a more efficient way to cool the facility brought together Adam Helfer, Green+Leader and Sechelt Hospital manager, Facilities Maintenance and Operations; his team; Robert Carson, HVAC mechanic, Facilities Maintenance and Operations; Kori Jones, energy manager; and Steve Roberts, project manager, Coastal Community of Care.

With the chillers in the south wing 30 years old and in need of upgrading, Adam and his team partnered with the EES team to identify ways to capitalize on their existing geothermal system, while finding more efficient ways to cool the building. Robert had already made some excellent changes to the control scheme for the geothermal heat pumps to ensure capacity to serve the south wing, so their initiative is focused on replacing the chillers with chilled water from a geothermal loop. This offers more than twice the energy efficiency of existing chillers, increases system redundancy to improve patient care, and, as an added bonus, will provide low-carbon heating in the winter, since heat pumps can switch from heating to cooling and back. As a result, the initiative will eliminate a certain amount of natural gas boiler heat by replacing that heat with geothermal/electrical energy.

Typically, when something in the hospital shows signs of failure, it is simply replaced, so proposing a new solution presented some challenges. To reengineer a hospital HVAC system rather than taking the conventional route of replacement could have been low on a long list of other, larger priorities. Fortunately, having worked with Kori before on a range of energy and emission reduction projects, Adam was able to effectively communicate the value of a more unconventional system, and, with Robert's outline for how the project would work and Kori's support in the capital funding process, the initiative got the green light.

Launching this initiative is a source of pride for Adam and everyone involved. In particular, it is an opportunity to make a difference by improving their hospital and contributing to environmental sustainability. Well aware of the negative

impacts we have on the climate and the environment, Adam emphasizes the need to minimize our footprint on an individual and societal level. By studying, learning, teaching, and practising ways to minimize how we affect the natural environment, he sees real opportunity for positive action.

For those who are interested in initiatives of their own, Adam has the following advice about how Green+Leaders can create change: "Generate excitement within a small group. If you can convince a couple of your colleagues that your idea is a good one, it empowers you to take that next step. Then, be tenacious ... Your idea is worth it, and you will find allies who will help in meaningful ways. But only if you try."

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OUR STORY

The circular economy: reducing waste and improving recycling at Vancouver Coastal Health

With a focus on principles of circular economy, Green+Leader De-Ann Chan, clinical operations supervisor, set out to improve how staff used essential supplies, and worked in collaboration with Hillal Savas, circular economy specialist with the National Industrial Symbiosis Program (NSIP).

Observing unnecessary waste and a growing movement by staff to think of more effective ways to order supplies and recycle, De-Ann began collecting expired and discontinued supplies, and sending them to organizations around the world that could use them. This led her to ask what could be done to decrease waste and improve recycling of usable items, and to begin a journey in networking with groups looking at these issues, specifically platforms focused on the circular economy.

De-Ann also collaborated with others, reaching out to other Green+Leader teams, networking with companies such as NSIP, and sharing their approach with the project leads at Vancouver Coastal Health Supply Chain Management, who were starting the process of reviewing and improving supply chains.

Getting her initiative going was not without challenges, including bringing people and departments together to work on a common purpose. But De-Ann feels strongly about taking positive action to secure the world's future via sustainability. She also drew on her recent Master's in Health Leadership and Policy to better understand sustainability and business, and how the circular economy movement could be applied in health care.

De-Ann underscores the importance of collaboration to see projects through. She recognizes the support for her initiative by Green+Leaders, especially Sarah Currie and Marianne Dawson, who helped move ideas forward and created important networks. Putting this into practice, De-Ann builds

bridges with other teams at Vancouver Coastal Health, such as the Vancouver Strategy Deployment Team led by project manager Kimberly Murphy.

For anyone else interested in starting a sustainability initiative, De-Ann advises going forward with ideas and seeing where they lead.



De-Ann Chan

Clinical Operations Supervisor and Green+Leader

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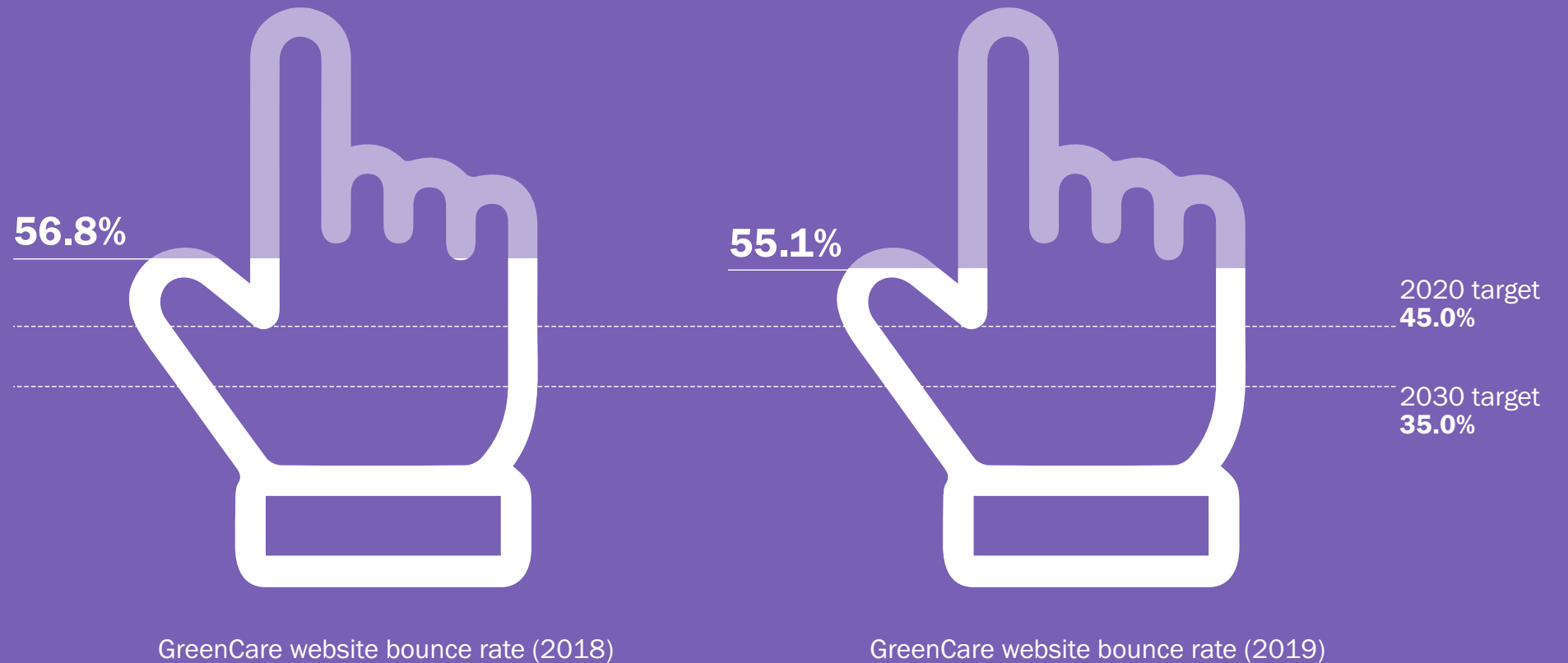
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Website Bounce Rate*

In an effort to focus on the improvement of online engagement efforts, the annual BC GreenCare website bounce rate (calculated for all Lower Mainland health organizations) is a new KPI in this focus area as of 2018. Decreasing the bounce rate to 45% by 2020 requires prioritizing a website refresh, and taking a collaborative and strategic approach to GreenCare communications.

1.7% ↓

We've made a 1.7% reduction in bounce rate.

* Bounce rate: the percentage of visitors to a particular website who navigate away from the site after viewing only one page

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Education Sessions and Presentations

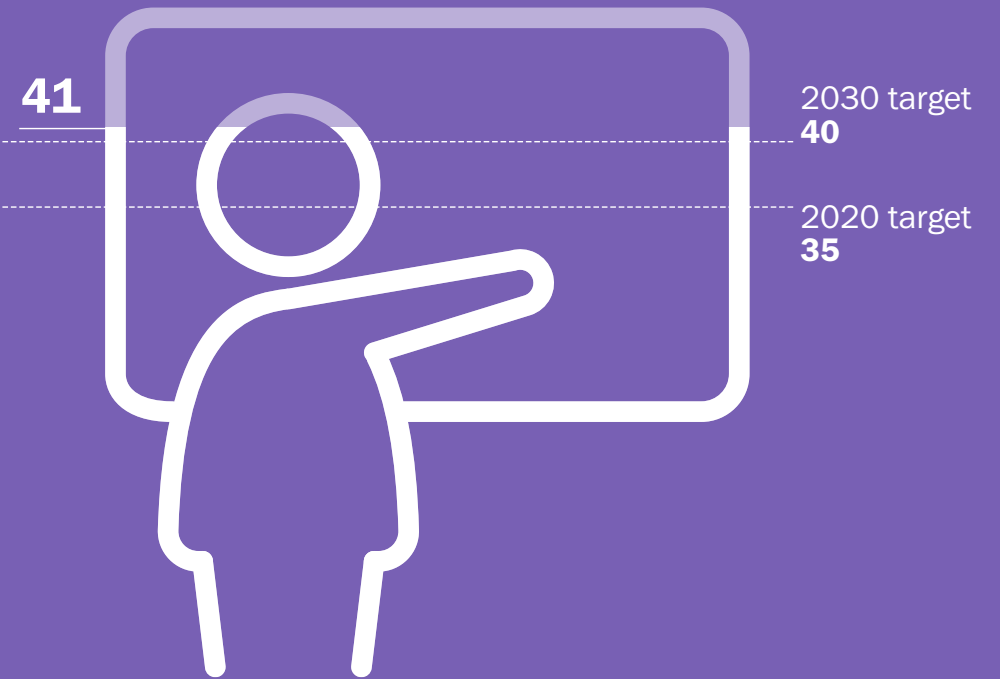
In an effort to increase awareness among health-care staff, the EES team set a target to increase the number of presentations and education sessions undertaken to diverse audiences across the organization. This is a new KPI in this focus area as of 2018.

6 ↑

The EES team surpassed our 2020 target by six presentations.



Education sessions and presentations in 2018



Education sessions and presentations in 2019

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Vancouver Coastal Health staff want the opportunity to engage more with workplace environmental policies and programs. Here is what they are doing to make a difference.

What do Vancouver Coastal Health staff have to say about workplace environmental policies and programs?¹

In the survey of Vancouver Coastal Health staff, in regards to familiarity with policies and programs to address our climate reality within the workplace, staff expressed a need to know more.

79%

of staff said they are not at all familiar with the health authority Environmental Sustainability Policy.

79%

of staff said they are not at all familiar with the health authority's Green+Leaders program.

76%

of staff said they are not at all familiar with the GreenCare Community website.

Our successes

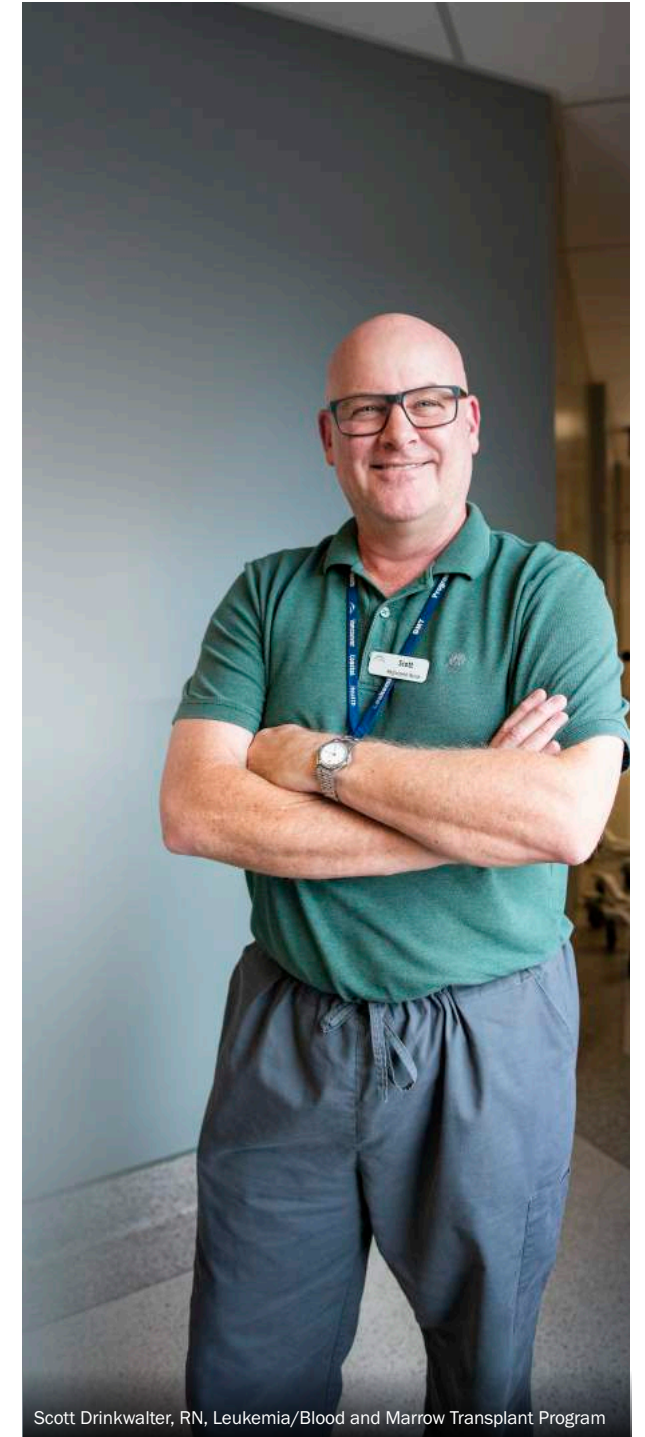
In 2019, we strengthened online engagement opportunities for Green+Leaders. This included initiating the Green+Leaders Dialogue Series, monthly webinars on sustainability topics; developing and launching quarterly e-newsletters; and collaborating with Vancouver Coastal Health's Health Transportation lead to deliver a Bike to Work Week lunch and learn. After a successful recruitment campaign (Green+Leaders Together), we are pleased that three clinical workers have joined the program from an array of different departments, including Evergreen Home Health, Public Health, and Bone Marrow Transplant.

Challenges we face

As we continue to support sustainability leadership, some of the challenges include finding inspiring, effective ways to engage staff around sustainability, and overcoming obstacles in website and communications technology that prevent outreach to a larger audience.

The work isn't finished

As we work towards ensuring that GreenCare can offer the best support possible to Vancouver Coastal Health, we'll continue to engage and support leadership as it addresses environmental sustainability; refresh the GreenCare website; celebrate your leaders; and seek out additional opportunities for staff and Green+Leader engagement.



Scott Drinkwalter, RN, Leukemia/Blood and Marrow Transplant Program

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3.3 Climate Resilience & Adaptation^L

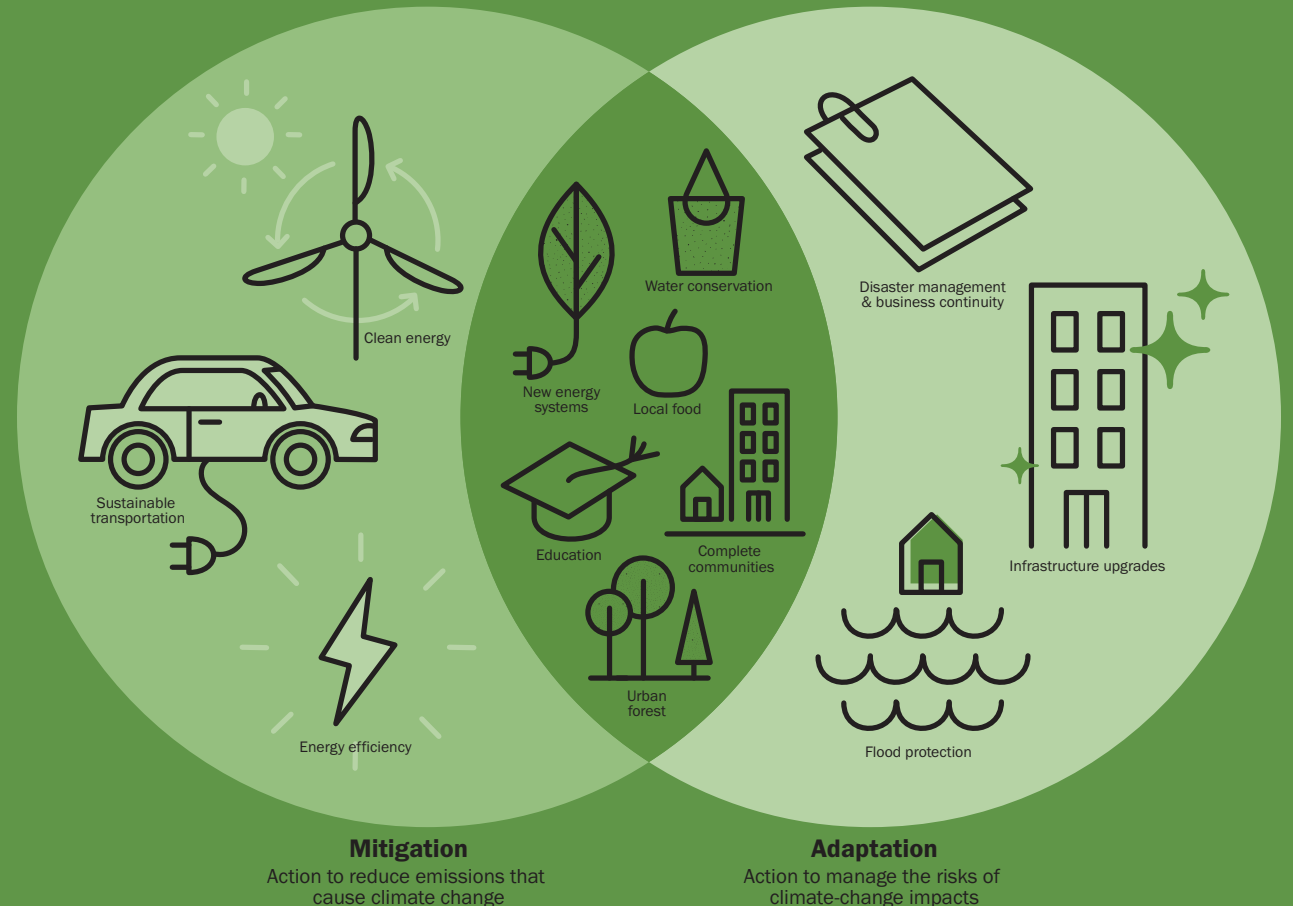
The Climate Resilience & Adaptation program works to reduce the impacts of the environment (e.g. climate shocks and stresses, earthquakes, and pandemics) on our hospitals, community health centres and long-term care homes, and to break the chain of cascading impacts on the services we provide in our health facilities and our broader communities of care. In collaboration with many health system and other stakeholders, we work to reduce risks and build resilience such that we are better prepared for expected and unexpected climate events over the coming years.

In 2016, we recognized that reducing GHG emissions through work in our four GreenCare Focus Areas is not enough to ensure that Vancouver Coastal Health is prepared for climate change. We created the first Climate Resilience & Adaptation program in western Canada's health sector to reduce climate-related risks to the delivery of patient care and human health/well-being, and build resilience to the impacts of chronic stresses (drought, sea level rise) and acute shocks (extreme weather events). Our work involves reducing the exposure and sensitivity of our health facilities and services to wildfires, high winds, floods, and heat waves, while building our capacity to adapt at the building, health campus, and community levels.

In partnership with VCH Population & Public Health, Health Emergency Management BC, capital project teams, clinical planning and operations, Facilities Maintenance & Operations, and others, we work to ensure that our health system's capacity to absorb shocks and stresses, and adapt in a timely and cost-efficient manner, results in minimal disruptions to health services delivery in times of urgent need.

In order to adapt and overcome adverse conditions resulting from our climate reality, we need a different set of tools and processes to work at the project level and at the strategic systems level in order to address the complexity of risk associated with climate change. By being more flexible and agile in the face of climate-related pandemics and natural disasters, we can achieve both health and climate benefits. Meaningful collaboration among facilities, public health, emergency management, and other health-system building blocks is key to preparing communities for our climate reality. We must build resilience for the organization as a whole, and also work in partnership to support opportunities that achieve co-benefits and integrate resilience and adaption into plans and actions wherever possible.^{M,N}

Building climate resilience



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Climate Resilience & Adaptation EES team



Angie Woo

Climate Resilience & Adaptation Lead

Our partners

BC Climate Action Secretariat, Climate Risk Management

BC Housing, Mobilizing Building Adaptation
and Resilience (MBAR)

BC regional health authorities

Canadian Coalition for Green HealthCare

Health Canada, Climate Change and Innovation Bureau

Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)

Integral Group and AME, Associated Engineering, Bush
Bolman, IBI, RDH, Reload Sustainable Design, Stantec, WSP

Ministry of Health, Capital Services Branch and Health
Protection Branch

Municipal and regional governments

Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

Population & Public Health (PPH), Vancouver Coastal Health
and Fraser Health

University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University

Projects

HealthADAPT

In early 2019, PPH — in partnership with Fraser Health PPH, HEMBC and Facilities Management — launched an innovative, three-year project to create a strategic climate change adaptation plan on the basis of an integrated vulnerability assessment. This initiative will help to reduce negative health outcomes for priority populations in our communities of care, and increase resilience across our health system in B.C., by bringing together the four departments' respective work to reduce vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses. Using an innovative and participative vulnerability assessment methodology, this first-of-its-kind project engages those people on the ground who are most impacted by climate change (including rural and First Nations communities) and ultimately can be change agents in their communities.

**Climate Resilience & Well-Being Through
Neighbourhood-Scale Green Design:
A Better Practice Guide**

Exposure to green landscape elements benefits human health in many ways, and green space is recognized as an important adaptation response to predicted changes in climate. To optimize the impacts of greening on our communities, planners and designers need evidence-based guidance to design and retrofit green spaces that maximize co-benefits for both human health and climate resilience. This report uses as examples Vancouver General Hospital and Lions Gate Hospital to illustrate how health campuses and their communities may use green design strategies to better prepare for and adapt to our climate reality that includes more frequent, intense, and unpredictable heat waves, forest fires, and floods among other threats. It presents eight tangible green-space strategies and associated metrics to integrate climate resilience and human health co-benefits into design and planning. Most importantly, this report provides planners and designers with tools for assessing the benefits and advantages of various greening scenarios, and information to carry out a cost-benefit analysis with respect to conventional green or grey infrastructure strategies.

OUR STORY

**Resilience Guidelines for Health Facility
Planning and Design**

In Spring 2019, our Climate Resilience & Adaptation program teamed up with public and private sector leaders to map out a process to jointly develop the first Resilience Guidelines for Health Facility Planning & Design. Our aim is to better ensure that new constructions and major redevelopments are resilient to extreme heat, wildfire smoke, overland flooding, and chronic stresses, with a view to minimizing disruption to patient care as our climate changes over the next decades.

With the support of two forward-thinking executive directors — Mauricio Acosta, Business Performance & Corporate Support, and Larry Harder, Projects & Standards — and Integral Group, an engineering and sustainability consulting firm, our project team set up a task force composed of subject-matter experts in building-sciences research, energy modeling, engineering, and architecture derived from 10 consulting firms; a health-authority working group with capital project, sustainability, and resilience managers; and a cross-sector, multi-disciplinary, and pan-Canadian advisory committee. Our joint initiative set up an iterative process to develop resilience options and pathways; ensure proposed measures' robustness and viability; and contextualize development, application, and evaluation of our guidelines in our working reality.

Our shared success story is in our coming together to develop a practical tool that is intended to be usable from day one. It should be customized as needed by health authorities, and capital project teams and their consultant teams. It should also be updated every three to five years to keep in step with new information and innovations. It has been an ongoing exercise in creativity and collaborative problem solving. The abundance of goodwill among all those who generously contribute their time and expertise to this initiative has afforded regular injections of hope and optimism in these challenging times.

The project team acknowledges the funding support provided by Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Housing (Mobilizing Building Resilience and Adaptation project).

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Our successes

Our joint HealthADAPT project was among only 10 in Canada to be awarded a \$300,000 grant from Health Canada's Climate Change and Innovation Branch to improve health-system climate resilience. Our shared success is among several key initiatives that support Vancouver Coastal Health's commitment to reduce human-health vulnerability to climate change in 2019 and in the coming years. With this project, we will accelerate and amplify our work to reduce exposure and sensitivity of our facilities and services to climate shocks and stresses; leverage partners' knowledge, capacity, and progress to build and embed resilience; and co-create an organization-level strategic adaptation plan that is grounded in our communities' lived experiences.

Challenges we face

Key challenges to preparing for and adapting to the "greatest threat to public health in the 21st century" include the fact that embedding low-carbon resilience to reduce human-health and services vulnerabilities and risks is not yet a strategic priority in our health-governance framework. The scale and complexity of our shared climate challenge demand a well-coordinated and well-supported "all hands on deck" approach to problem solving that includes leaders and innovators in the health and other sectors. The work ahead necessarily involves tackling our challenges head-on, including developing climate resilience policies and practical tools that enable us to work effectively at the scale of our climate challenge.

The work isn't finished

We will continue to work with Vancouver Coastal Health leadership and other key health-system stakeholders to embed climate risk and resilience into their strategic and operational priorities. Our role on the HealthADAPT Project Steering Committee is among our best opportunities to discover synergies and to advance our work in a way to achieve cascading benefits across our health system. We also will continue to do our part in building health-system resilience more broadly, in large part through ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Climate Action Secretariat, and Health Canada. Our Resilience Guidelines for Health Facility Planning & Design will be completed in 2020 and ready to use (and adapt for other facility archetypes including existing and long-term care facilities) in 2021.



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3.4 This is what we've done: the 2019 Dashboard.

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES) team was created in 2010 to ensure that a collaborative energy and environmental sustainability approach is taken across the Lower Mainland health organizations. Since then, we've partnered with many other stakeholders to integrate and enhance sustainability and climate resilient infrastructure and practices in a variety of programs, and made health and wellness central to our work. Our team's work is guided by the GreenCare initiative that supports the four Lower Mainland health organizations in becoming regional and

national leaders in energy and environmental sustainability. To guide this work, EES has established four focus areas, 12 targets, and related key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2020 and 2030. These KPIs and targets were formulated, monitored, and reported in consultation with relevant senior executives at the various health organizations. In some cases, a target is influenced by but not necessarily aligned with provincial or regional mandates. The following chart lists the results and performance for 2019.

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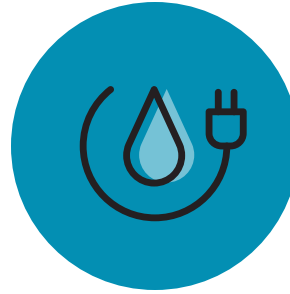
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Smart Energy & Water

Goal: Minimize energy & water consumption and GHG emissions to reduce costs and environmental impacts, helping ensure the health and wellness of our living environments.

Target	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Baseline	2019 Results	2020 Target	"Traffic Light"	2030 Target
Reduce energy-use intensity (EUI) of core sites.*	EUI (ekWh/m ² /year)	2007	13.2%	15%	●	25%
Reduce absolute in-scope GHG emissions.**	GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e/year)	2007	18.7%	25%	●	50%
Reduce absolute in-scope GHG-emissions intensity.	GHG-emissions intensity (kgCO ₂ e/m ² /yr)	2007	32.5%	30%	●	50%
Reduce building water (use) performance intensity (BWPI) of core sites.	BWPI (m ³ /m ² /year)***	2010	17.4%	10%	●	20%

* Core sites are defined as primarily owned health-care facilities that can be actively monitored for energy, water, and waste data.

** Absolute emissions refers to total emissions regardless of change in facility space. In-scope emissions are from owned and leased buildings, fleet use, and paper use (as defined by the *Climate Change Accountability Act*). 2019 results are a placeholder due to COVID-19 interruptions of the reporting cycle.

*** It is recognized that water consumption is more directly influenced by staff count per facility. Due to the uncertain and changing nature of staff counts, for the time being facility space is used for the intensity metric.

● Work on track, ahead of schedule, or exceeding

● Work on track but requires monitoring

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Zero Waste & Toxicity

Goal: Minimize waste generated and toxic chemicals used by the health-care system and supporting operations.

Target	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Baseline	2019 Results	2020 Target	"Traffic Light"	2030 Target
Increase waste-diversion rates at existing acute and long-term care sites.*	% of waste diverted (annual average)	n/a	42%	50%	●	50%
Increase waste-diversion rates at all new LEED certified health-care construction projects.	% of waste diverted (annual average)	n/a	n/a**	90%	●	100%
Decrease waste-intensity rates at existing acute and residential care sites. ***	Waste intensity (metric tonnes/m ² /year)	n/a	13.7	10.0	●	8.0

* Waste-diversion data does not include segregated bio-medical waste.

** No new LEED-certified projects in 2019.

*** This is a new target as of 2018.

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Active & Clean Transportation

Goal: Ensure a health-care system in which employees commute/travel between sites in a manner that reduces GHG-related pollutants, minimizes the need for on-site parking, and increases overall health and wellness.

Target	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Baseline	2019 Results	2020 Target	"Traffic Light"	2030 Target
Increase the % of health-care staff that commute via cleaner and healthier means (i.e. alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles).*	% of annual staff commute via cleaner and healthier means (2016 baseline)	2016	55%	60%	●	75%
Increase portion of core sites that provide end-of-trip (EOT) bicycle facilities/storage options.**	% of core sites with EOT facilities	n/a	62%	75%	●	100%

* The performance data for staff commuting is determined through a biannual survey of staff across the health-care organizations. Using a confidence interval of 95%, the survey attained the following margin of error, the maximum amount by which the results are expected to differ from those of the actual population, for Vancouver Coastal Health (4%).

** End-of-trip facilities must include a minimum of one on-site shower/changing facility and a minimum of bicycle secure storage for 5% of on-site staff.

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Workplace Leadership

Goal: Together, we will reach, engage, and inspire staff in health care to be leaders that share a commitment to and passion for sustainable and thriving healthy communities, workplaces, and environments.

Target	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Baseline	2019 Results	2020 Target	"Traffic Light"	2030 Target
Increase the number of Green+Leaders across the organization through the direct training of staff.*	A year-over-year percentage increase in the number of trained Green+Leaders	n/a	75%	10%	●	15%
Decrease the GreenCare Community website bounce rate through stronger awareness of brand and resources.	Annual BC GreenCare website % bounce rate**	n/a	55%	45%	●	35%
Increase the number of health-care staff actively aware of and informed about how workplace decisions and processes can support environmental conservation and GHG reduction.***	The annual number of BC GreenCare related presentations and educational and/or training sessions	n/a	41	35	●	40

* Based on number of Green+Leaders trained in previous year

** Bounce rate refers to the percentage of visitors who enter the site and then leave after viewing on single page.

*** This performance data indicator includes only the number of GreenCare education or training sessions conducted by the Energy & Environmental Sustainability team.

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4.0

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Thank you for your
ongoing support.

From the successes in Vancouver Coastal Health to the challenges still faced, it's clear: environmental sustainability is everyone's story. If we are to address the impacts of our climate reality, ensure that we are making responsible choices for our environment, and continue to offer our staff, volunteers, and patients the very best quality of life possible, together we must all take a leading role in transforming health care. There are a number of ways in which you can get involved.

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This report has been compiled by Be the Change Group for GreenCare's Energy and Environmental Sustainability team.

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**Do you want updates on
environmental sustainability?**

Join the GreenCare community [here](#).

**How about meeting others interested
in environmental sustainability?
Want to green your workplace?**

Find out more about the
Green+Leaders program [here](#).

**Do you have an environmental
sustainability story in your
workplace?**

Share your story [here](#).

**Think environmental sustainability is
too important a story to write alone?**

Talk to your colleagues and see how
you can work together.

5.0 References

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- B Vancouver Coastal Health fact sheet: <http://www.vch.ca/Documents/VCH-fact-sheet.pdf>
- C The full-time equivalent staff includes all designated groups reported in HSCIS (i.e. physicians (doctors on staff), executive/excluded, non-union, and bargaining unit employees. (Source: Health Employers Association of BC)
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- I Program staff partner with FortisBC and BC Hydro to attract funding support for energy conservation and efficiency projects, with the incentives received from industry partners used to supplement the project funding. The implementation of these projects directly reduces operating expense and the environmental impact of Lower Mainland health organization sites.
- J Based on the 2018 Future of Health Care Survey of staff; this survey is biannual and was not conducted in 2019.
- K Currently, there are no targets for Safer Chemicals.
- L The Climate Resilience & Adaptation program began in 2015 under the Regenerative Design focus area (see the [GreenCare Sustainability Strategic Framework](#)). In 2018, the Regenerative Design Focus Area was under review, leaving the Climate Resilience and Adaptation program without a proper “home” in our framework. As such, the program was not included as a Focus Area but is an important part of our current work. The EES team is working on updating the framework to ensure that our health-care systems and leadership are supported in meeting the challenges ahead.
- M GreenCare Community. Climate Resilience & Adaptation [Internet]. [cited 2020 Jun]. Available from: <https://bcgreencare.ca/program/climate-resilience-adaptation-program>
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