
Green + Leaders

Annual Report

2019





Thank you Green+Leaders for your continued commitment to engage, connect and advance sustainability in the workplace! On behalf of the entire GreenCare Energy and Environmental Sustainability Team, we would like to thank you for your efforts!

What was new this year?

Climate Strike 2019

- In September 2019, youth activists inspired +100k Lower Mainland citizens to come out on the streets for a climate strike. Leadership and staff from various health authorities took this opportunity to stand for climate action. One of the results was a huge surge of people signing up to be Green +Leaders. Welcome to the community!

Green+leaders Dialogue Webinars

- BCGreencare introduced Dialogue webinars and ran three successful webinars!
 - Waste Reduction Toolkit Feedback (20 G+Ls attended via skype)
 - How to Start a Green Team in your Workplace (50 G+Ls attended via skype)
 - Kick-Starting your Sustainability Workplace Project (40 G+Ls attended via skype)

Green+Leaders Workplace Funding Opportunities

- We launched and are currently implementing Fraser Health Exnovation Grants in collaboration with the Fraser Health innovation team. This grant is an opportunity for Green+Leaders at Fraser Health to fund projects that eliminate waste. A special congratulations to three G+L's for being selected to initiate a project.
 - Amy Setterstorm, Eliminate environmental waste at bedside initiative- \$1000 award
 - Charmaine Waters, Plastic water bottle elimination at Burnaby Hospital - \$1000 award
 - Grace Stussi, Community recycling awareness campaign in patient homes - \$1,000 award
- Coming up in July 2020, in partnership with Provincial Health Services Authority's healthy promotions team, we are launching the Sustainability stream of Healthy Workplaces Fund at PHSA, with grants from \$500 to \$5000 per project!

Let's hear from the G+Ls!

This year 11 G+L storytellers shared their sustainability story with us! Read these two selected stories below to learn more about their initiatives.

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

A Green+Leader De-Ann Chan, clinical operations supervisor, working in collaboration with Hilal Savas, circular economy specialist with the National Industrial Symbiosis Program (NISP), set out to improve how staff used essential supplies.

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.

While getting her initiative going wasn't without challenges, including bringing people and departments together to work with a common purpose, De-Ann feels very strongly about taking action to make positive change that secures the world's future via sustainability.



Tracy and Parminder at BCWH

Successful project led by Green + Leaders to reduce product waste at BCWH

In the 2018/19 year, over 5200 sitz basins with gradient bags were never used and discarded in BC health authorities.

Stakeholders came together to look into this product waste and look for a solution. Maternity RNs initiated this project, along with BCW Lead for Patient Safety, Quality, and Accreditation, later involving the purchasing clerk, GreenCare, Energy and Environmental Sustainability team, PHSA supply chain coordinator, and the sourcing buyer to extend the investigation to other Lower Mainland hospitals.

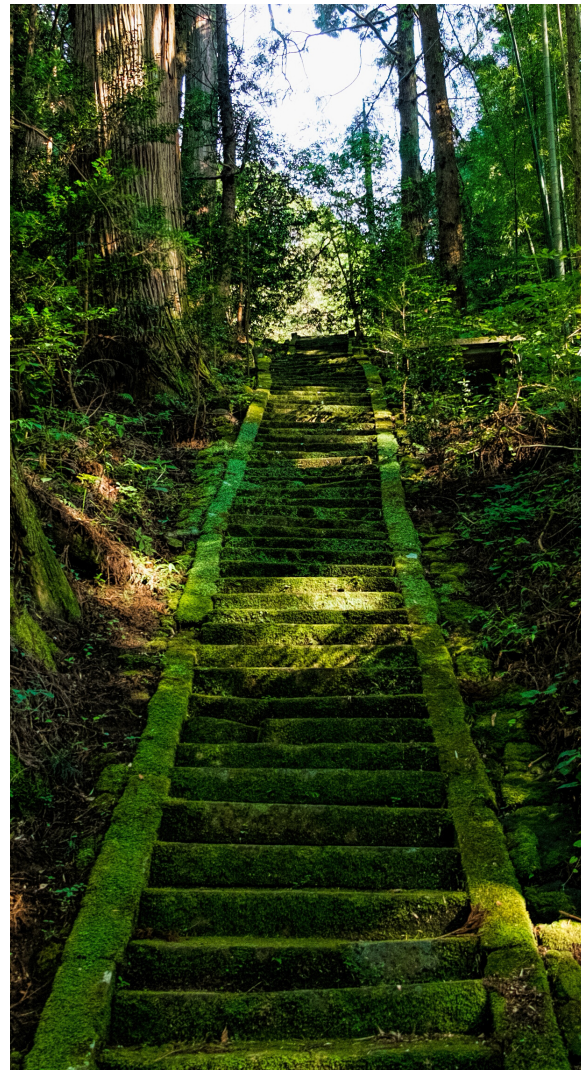
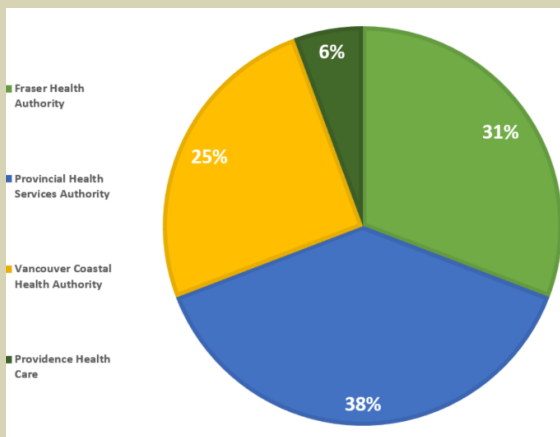
A product concern was completed to inform the vendor of product issues. From here the vendor supported the team's concern and are now offering the sitz basin without the gradient bags! Expected savings include: 278 kilograms of plastic waste and 17.3% cost savings.

Green+Leader Quotes Corner:

- "I think the initiatives that the Green+ leaders and program is supporting is so important and I am proud to be participating in this program" - Paddy Assenheimer, VCH
- "Such a great program, which has brought many amazing changes to how Fraser Health does some things." - Krista burrows, FH

Green + Leader by Health Organization

Total # of currently active G+Ls: 233
Total # trained since 2010: 600



POPULAR FOCUS AREAS

1. Workplace leadership
2. Energy conservation
3. Climate change and adaptation
4. Recycling and waste reduction

WHAT'S TO COME IN 2020?

- BC GreenCare website refresh
- More webinars with exciting new guest speakers!
- Adapted networking opportunities for G+Ls to meet others within the program
- More clinical and non-clinical specific resources
- Efforts to scale up BC GreenCare initiatives through leadership involvement!