

2023 Fraser Health Environmental Performance Accountability Report

Environmental sustainability is everyone's story.



fraserhealth



GreenCare™



Recognizing First Nations Title and Rights & Indigenous Human Rights

We recognize that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations and is home to 32 First Nations within the Fraser Salish region.

Fraser Health is dedicated to serving all Indigenous people and honours the unique cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit living within the Fraser Salish region.

Indigenous Peoples have been stewards and caretakers of the lands, waters and ice and leaders in ecosystem conservation in what is now known as Canada since time immemorial. Recognizing, learning from and incorporating Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge into our planetary health and anchor mission goals is a priority for Fraser Health.

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AUTHORS

This report was written by Energy and Environmental Sustainability (EES), a regional collaboration team of four health organizations that works to drive change for environmentally sustainable and climate resilient care across planning, design, construction and operations. Housed within the Facilities Management department, the EES team cannot do this work alone, and works with diverse teams, departments, and health-care staff and medical staff across Fraser Health.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to communicate commitments and progress, and to celebrate the good work that has been accomplished thus far, both independent of and in cross-disciplinary collaboration and partnership with EES. With a focus on actions and achievements in relation to low carbon resilience and environmental sustainability, we acknowledge that it does not include all of our partners’ actions and achievements undertaken in the shared journey toward planetary health.

COLLABORATORS

In particular, we’d like to acknowledge the contributions of the Planetary Health Steering Committee and Working Groups, Planetary Health Leads, Communications, Population Public Health, Indigenous Health, Environmental Services, Integrated Protection Services, Food Services, Green Teams and Green+Leaders and many others named throughout this report.



This is an interactive report. Easily navigate to different sections by **clicking** on the text headings, including those in the navigation bar to the left.

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1.0 Executive Message



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Welcome to the 12th annual Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR), which marks a year of important achievements in our commitment to leading in social and environmental sustainability.

In 2023, we developed our first Planetary Health Strategy, demonstrating that our staff, medical staff, volunteers and partners are working across our organization and beyond to ensure that our health system is resilient, sustainable and equitable for all.

With the vision of a healthy planet, healthy people and healthy communities, we are working together to reduce emissions and waste, prioritize actions that conserve energy and water, and embed environmentally preferable purchasing in our planning and operations. And, as our many accomplishments over the past year show, it's working.

Some of last year's many highlights include developing nine working groups to advance key areas of work in planetary health; advancing climate resilience by screening 26 facilities for climate hazard exposure and prioritizing action; adding to new

research on emissions from inhalers; switching to reusable sharps containers that help reduce waste; and launching a 50% transit subsidy to support staff to take more sustainable commutes.

While we are proud of these achievements, hard work remains. Recent years' events have shown the real effects of climate change in our region. From wildfires to floods to extreme heat, the two million people we serve across 20 diverse communities have faced adversity, life-changing impacts and profound loss. As the largest regional health authority in British Columbia, we must continue to take concrete action to restore and protect the health of the environment and the people we serve.

Accordingly, under the leadership of the Energy and Environmental Sustainability team and Planetary Health Steering Committee, our staff and medical staff will continue to focus on advancing sustainability practices within our health system. We will also continue to work to understand and respectfully incorporate Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge into decision-making, partnering with the 32 First Nations in the Fraser Salish region

to ensure we are making culturally appropriate decisions. And together, we will support each other to build knowledge, face challenges and find solutions that support everyone.

Restoring planetary health is a shared responsibility — one that requires determination, innovation and hope. As I reflect on the findings of this year's EPAR, it gives me great pride to see that our staff and medical staff are working day in and day out toward our planetary health goals. This continued action and dedication will help ensure our success in achieving a greener, healthier future.



Dr. Victoria Lee
President and Chief Executive Officer

Fraser Health

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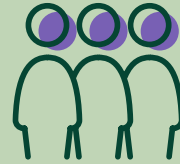
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1.1 Milestones and Achievements

First ever!



Launched the **2023-2028 Planetary Health Strategy** for Fraser Health and created new Planetary Health executive and lead roles

Screened **26** Fraser Health facilities across the province for climate hazard exposure, **identifying areas of vulnerability and prioritizing actions**



Published the **first inhalers analysis in Canada in the BC Medical Journal**, which calculated the carbon footprint of community-dispensed inhalers and modelled scenarios for switching to lower-carbon alternatives



2023 highlights

Created **9** working groups to support **key planetary health focus areas** for the organization: circular health, anchor institution, resilient healthcare system, evaluation and monitoring, natural environment, quality improvement, communications, anesthesiology, sustainable inhalers



Upgraded hot water systems at Delta Hospital and Peace Arch Hospital with **54** solar thermal panels, projected to **reduce annual emissions** from domestic water heating by **20%**



Signed the **Cool Food Pledge**, an organizational commitment to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with food served at Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH). RCH set a goal of reducing these emissions by

25% by 2030, relative to the baseline.

Replaced **single-use sharps containers with reusable ones** across Fraser Health, which is expected to save up to

4,691 single-use bins annually



Launched a **50%** transit incentive for staff using TransLink



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2.0 Our Story



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2.1 Fraser Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Fraser Health Together

Working collaboratively, and with the support of our cross-departmental Planetary Health steering committee, this past year we developed a [Planetary Health Strategy](#) that features the following strategic priorities:

- 1 Reduce the impact of our services on the planet.
- 2 Create a climate resilient health system.
- 3 Live our anchor mission by reinforcing the connection between planetary health and healthy communities.
- 4 Cultivate a culture and system of social and environmental responsibility.

Through partnerships, research, measurement, evaluation, technology and leadership, we will take concrete actions informed by these priorities and continue to drive change across our organization and region.

Fraser Health embraces our role as an anchor institution in our region. Through our role in our communities as an employer and purchaser of goods and services, we can influence the health and well-being of our region beyond the health care we provide. Examples of these efforts include embedding social and environmental criteria in our contracts, enhancing the natural environment, and honouring and acting on our commitment to Indigenous economic reconciliation.

We will also continue to provide training and opportunities for staff and medical staff to learn about planetary health and climate change in health care,

and to support innovation in sustainability. By working together and identifying the actions we are able to control and change, we can transform our health system so it is not only resilient to current and future threats, but also environmentally sustainable.

Everyone has a right to optimum health and well-being. However, climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect the health of some individuals and groups due to existing social and economic disadvantages. These disadvantages create inequalities in health outcomes or in access to resources that must be considered in our efforts to restore and protect our environment.

Accordingly, equity, diversity and inclusion will be at the heart of our decision-making as we work to implement our planetary health strategy, and continue our efforts to better serve our staff and medical staff, and the patients, families and communities in the Fraser Health region.

VISION:

Healthy planet, healthy people,
healthy communities

MISSION:

To inspire, empower and activate our people and partners to improve planetary health, health equity and sustainability at all levels of the health system



“
It is absolutely critical that we incorporate the Indigenous perspectives, values, traditions and ways of knowing, doing, being and connecting with the land into our strategy and how we go forward.

Amanda Laboucane
Director
Indigenous Health

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2.2 Building and Operating for Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

In operating our current facilities, and in the design and construction of new facilities, Fraser Health is working towards the highest level of human and environmental health and well-being by:

- ▶ Evaluating and reducing the impacts of climate change on a facility and the surrounding community (e.g. wildfires, extreme heat, floods and storms)
- ▶ Assessing how the design, construction and operation strategies of a facility will impact the environment and human health
- ▶ Drawing on credible evidence that links health outcomes to planning and design of the built environment
- ▶ Implementing low carbon resilience and environmental-sustainability strategies
- ▶ Collaborating with project compliance teams to ensure energy and carbon performance targets are embedded into design and construction agreements
- ▶ Achieving a recommended green building standard such as LEED certification (a globally recognized green-building rating system administered by the Canadian Green Building Council)
- ▶ Meeting and exceeding environmental and climate change legislation

Our buildings

773,537 m²

usable facility space^A

187

distinct buildings^A

25,260

full-time equivalent staff and medical staff^B

220,454 m²

LEED Gold-certified facility space^C

Our LEED projects

LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership.

To learn more about Fraser Health's LEED projects, click [here](#).



Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre in Abbotsford, B.C.

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3.1 The 2023 Dashboard

Setting targets helps us all to recognize achievements and act to transform our health-care system toward environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient care. A target may be provincially mandated, or be Fraser Health-developed and based on past trends and current resourcing.

Measuring results

The 2023 dashboard captures 11 key performance indicators (KPIs). It is a snapshot in time of our progress and, this year, includes links to trends in previous years and how we plan to meet our targets.

However, the dashboard alone doesn't tell the entire story. Environmental sustainability is a journey, and there are many process-related KPIs and qualitative efforts that are not included in this dashboard. In addition, active work continues to take place to identify the current situation and collaborate on the development of performance targets. To learn more, see [4.0 Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together](#).

[+ Visit the Methodology and Context for Calculating KPIs](#)

Regulatory guidance

The [Climate Change Accountability Act](#) (CCAA) has set ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for public sector organizations:

40% by 2030 (from the 2007 baseline)

60% by 2040 (from the 2007 baseline)

80% by 2050 (from the 2007 baseline)

These targets include emissions from owned and leased buildings, and from the use of fleet vehicles and paper consumption. For reference, in 2023, 96% of Fraser Health's emissions come from buildings, while the rest come from fleet and paper.

The government's [CleanBC plan and Roadmap](#) is the pathway to achieve these targets and has set even more aggressive targets:

50% reduction in emissions for public sector buildings **by 2030** (from the 2010 baseline)

40% reduction in fleet vehicle emissions **by 2030**



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Energy and Carbon

Goal: Reduce our carbon footprint by increasing energy efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.



New construction activity is growing at a fast pace and impacts our ability to meet GHG emissions targets.

	Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Regulatory guidance	To meet the CCAA target, decrease total GHG emissions from owned and leased buildings, fleet vehicles and paper use from 2007 levels (% change of tCO ₂ e/year)	-2%	16%	40%
	To meet the CleanBC target, decrease total GHG emissions from owned and leased buildings from 2010 levels (% change of tCO ₂ e/year)	-7%	16%	50%
	Decrease the amount of GHG emissions generated per floor area of owned and leased buildings from 2010 levels (% change of tCO ₂ e/m ² /year)	18%	25%	50%
	Decrease the amount of energy used per floor area of owned buildings ^D from 2007 levels (% change of ekWh/m ² /year)	13%	20%	25%

GO TO GRAPHS

- On track to meet target
- Minimal or slow progress towards target
- Behind schedule to meet target, and requires attention

How we will reach our targets

- ▶ Partnering with Facilities Maintenance & Operations teams presents an opportunity to identify ways to integrate energy and emissions reduction strategies and support optimization and renewal of infrastructure and equipment.
- ▶ In collaboration with internal and external partners, we are seeking and implementing a combination of low emission designs for new construction and aggressive energy retrofits to existing facilities.
- ▶ As we renew our energy infrastructure and assets, we have the opportunity to make system-level changes and shift to lower-impact facilities.
- ▶ Developing a low carbon resilience roadmap will inform decision-making processes for lowering carbon emissions while enhancing resilience to climate risks and the quality of indoor environment for staff and patients.

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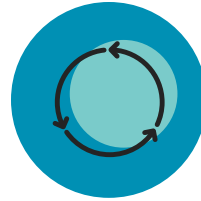
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Materials

Goal: Choose materials and products that contribute to human and environmental health, while avoiding waste and unnecessary chemicals.



Recycling has not yet reached pre-2020 service levels at all facilities, and the numbers and traffic lights here are based on staff-sorting of recyclables only.

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)*	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase waste recycled or composted in acute care owned sites ^E (% recycled, annual average)	33%	33%	40%
Increase waste recycled or composted in non-acute care owned sites ^F (% recycled, annual average)	50%	50%	60%
Decrease waste generated per floor area in acute care owned sites (kg/m ² /year)	17.5	13.7	12.3
Decrease waste generated per floor area in non-acute care owned sites (kg/m ² /year)	21.7	19.2	17.3

GO TO GRAPHS

How we will reach our targets

- Actively identifying pathways to get the few remaining sites back to full recycling services, including prioritizing staff and visitor education, waste composition audits and exploration of waste management innovations.
- Collaborating with waste haulers and contract managers to review metrics and reporting will ensure quality and transparency.
- A shift away from recycling alone and toward overall waste reduction is required, including choosing reusables over disposables and exploring ways to share or donate usable items to prevent them from going into landfill. Collaboration and close partnership with clinical and procurement staff will be key ingredients in this journey.

- On track to meet target
- Minimal or slow progress towards target
- Behind schedule to meet target, and requires attention

* Does not apply to leased buildings because waste management is the responsibility of the property manager and out of the hands of Fraser Health.

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Transportation

Goal: Increase access to and use of transportation modes that reduce negative environmental impacts and benefit human health and wellness.

i Access to sustainable commuting is shaped by the municipal and regional transportation infrastructure between home and work locations and impacts our ability to reach targets.

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase the proportion of self-reported ^G commutes staff make by cycling, walking and rolling* (% commutes, annual average)	4%	10% 	15%
Increase the proportion of self-reported commutes staff make by hybrid and electric vehicles, public transit, carshare, carpool and hospital shuttle (% commutes, annual average)	27%	25% 	30%

GO TO GRAPHS

How we will reach our targets

- ▶ Continuing to work collaboratively across the health system with internal and external partners will enable us to strategically develop and prioritize efforts that increase cycling and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, including bicycle storage, showers and change rooms, and EV charging stations.
- ▶ Promoting and facilitating car share, car pooling, public transit, walking and cycling will engage and empower staff to choose active and clean transportation to commute for work travel.
- ▶ Increasing EV and cycling (e.g. scooters, e-bikes) will continue to reduce carbon emissions.

■ On track to meet target * E.g. wheelchair, seated electric scooter
◆ Minimal or slow progress towards target
● Behind schedule to meet target, and requires attention

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Water

Goal: Minimize water consumption to reduce demand on natural resources and impact on our living environments.

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Decrease the amount of water used per floor area in owned ^H buildings from 2010 levels (% change of m ³ /m ² /year)	17%	30% ◆	35% ◆

[+ GO TO GRAPHS](#)

- On track to meet target
- ◆ Minimal or slow progress towards target
- Behind schedule to meet target, and requires attention



Water is essential for many clinical and non-clinical activities, such as sterilization processes and kitchen operations. All of these affect our ability to meet targets.

How we will reach our targets

- ▶ Working collaboratively across health-system departments to enhance our understanding of water usage and saving opportunities at Fraser Health facilities will support our strategy to prioritize water management planning efforts and allocation of resources.
- ▶ Introducing a new regional position, beginning summer 2024, will support actions focused on water conservation and identify synergies with strategies for climate resilience and energy conservation.

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4.0 Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together



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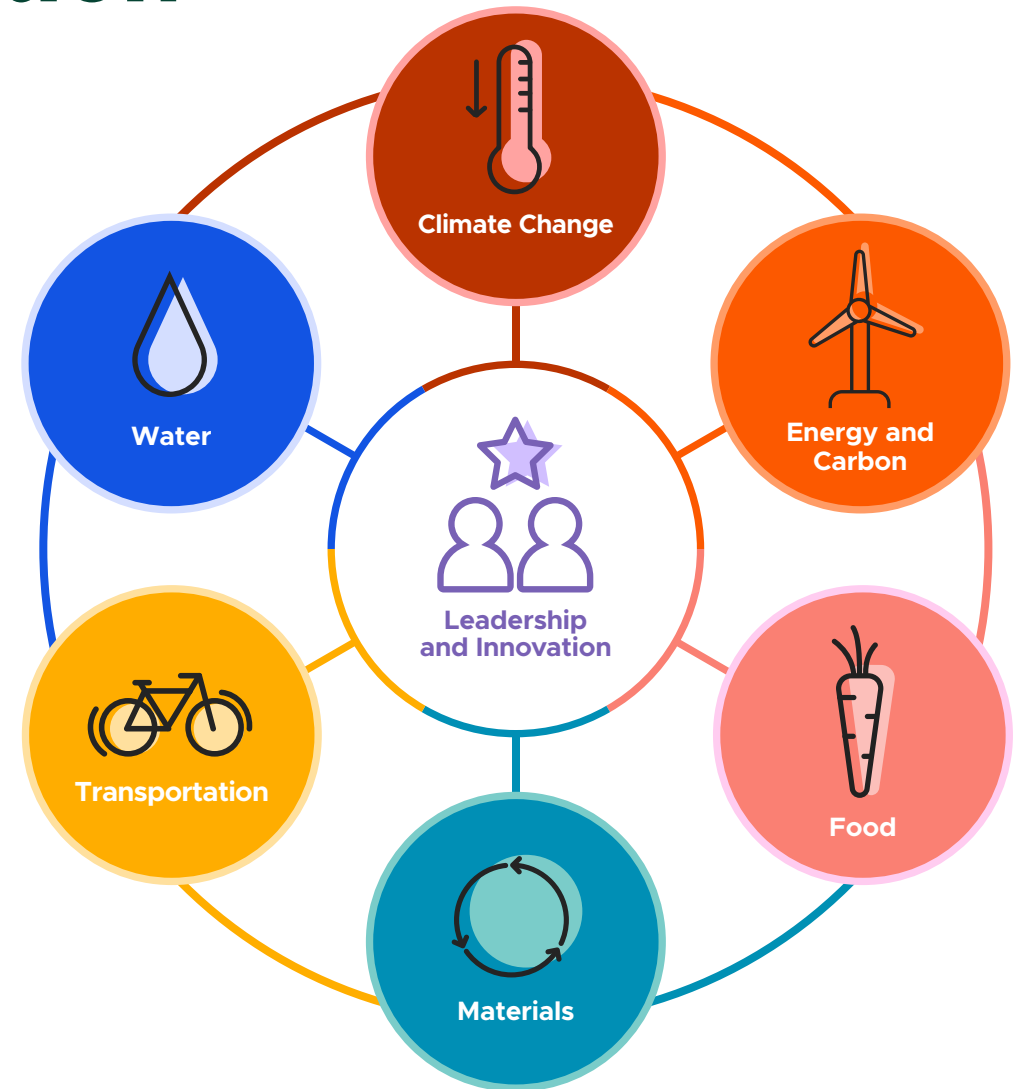
4.1 Collaborative and Integrated Action

Efforts to advance environmentally sustainable and climate resilient health care can be categorized into six Focus Areas, which, just like the connections between human and environmental health, are interrelated in that efforts and progress made in one will impact the others.

In working together to find solutions that restore and regenerate planetary health, it is important to note that leadership and innovation are essential elements for meaningful transformation of the health-care system, particularly in driving engagement, education and action at the departmental and team level. As we all move along our low carbon resilience and environmental sustainability journey, Leadership and Innovation efforts will intersect with and impact all of the Focus Areas.

The selection of actions, achievements and stories in each Focus Area on the right represents the work of multiple departments and diverse teams across the organization. In addition, Fraser Health works with external partners to advance planetary health work. See [Appendix A](#).

Want to read stories or find information and resources related to these Focus Areas?
Visit [here](#).



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Leadership and Innovation

Our goal: Collaboratively foster a culture of transformative leadership and innovation for environmental sustainability in health care.

Select 2023 actions and achievements



New strategy and resource

- ▶ Launched the 2023-2028 Planetary Health Strategy for Fraser Health, with 4 strategic goals:
 - Reduce the impact of our services on the planet
 - Create a climate resilient health system
 - Live our anchor mission by reinforcing the connection between planetary health and healthy communities
 - Cultivate a culture and system of social and environmental responsibility
- ▶ Created new planetary health executive and lead roles with responsibilities for strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of planetary health initiatives that will support cross-departmental implementation of the strategy and project design in line with quality improvement principles



Education and engagement

- ▶ Created nine working groups to support key planetary health focus areas for the organization: circular health, anchor institution, resilient healthcare system, evaluation and monitoring, natural environment, quality improvement, communications, anesthesiology, and sustainable inhalers
- ▶ Published the first inhalers analysis in Canada in the [BC Medical Journal](#), which calculated the carbon footprint of community-dispensed inhalers between 2016-2021 and modelled scenarios for switching to lower-carbon alternatives
- ▶ Surveyed 610 patients and residents on their perceptions of sustainable health care and advocacy, and learned that there is strong support for the health-care system to reduce its carbon footprint and waste
- ▶ Co-created the new GreenCare Lunch & Learn working group, which plans events that inform, educate and spread innovative ideas related to climate resilient and environmentally sustainable care across B.C. health organizations
- ▶ 148 staff and medical staff were members of the GreenCare Network,¹ receiving quarterly environmental sustainability news, education, resources and engagement opportunities
- ▶ 19 new staff and medical staff joined the Green+Leaders program,¹ for a total of 203 participants
- ▶ Co-hosted 100+ sustainability advocates from B.C. health organizations at the Green+Leaders Recognition Event, which featured workshops on change management and the circular economy, networking opportunities, and success stories

The 2023 Green+Leaders Annual Report recognizes all staff and medical staff working to decrease the environmental footprint of their workplaces and health systems.

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OUR STORY

A prescription for waste reduction

As part of the Medication Use Evaluation team at Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services, Green+Leaders Aaron M. Tejani from the Langley Fulfilment Centre, Isla Drummond from Lions Gate Hospital, and Deborah Heidary from Surrey Memorial Hospital have embraced planetary health as a new area of their practice. This past year, they took on the environmental footprint of MDIs — also known as metered dose inhalers — by identifying a number of ways to reduce unnecessary waste.

[Read more ►](#)

“
Our motivation is to try and identify and promote meaningful change within our workplaces so that we can start to create a movement within pharmacy and health care to reduce waste. We can see that younger generations are very scared of climate change, and that systemic change is not happening fast enough to protect their future.

Aaron M. Tejani

Pharmacist

Langley Fulfilment Centre, Green+Leader



Members of the Medication Use Evaluation team at Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services and Green+Leaders: Isla Drummond, Deborah Heidary and Aaron Tejani

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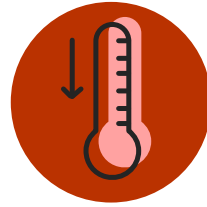
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1. Climate Change

Our goal: Move toward a climate resilient health system in facility design and operations.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Policies and guidelines

- ▶ Updated the Climate Resilience Guidelines for BC Health Facility Planning & Design to Version 2.0, aligning with new standards for public sector buildings and incorporating 4 years of lessons learned
- ▶ Participated in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) committee to embed climate risk into the CSA Z8000 Canadian Healthcare Standard
- ▶ Updated the Fraser Health Technical Design Requirements (TDR) to include items related to climate resilience such as future design temperatures and post-disaster requirements

Capital projects and studies

- ▶ Screened 26 Fraser Health facilities across the province for climate hazard exposure, identifying areas of vulnerability and prioritizing actions
- ▶ Embedded climate resilience planning and design strategies into the Burnaby Hospital Redevelopment, the new Surrey Hospital and BC Cancer Centre, Royal Columbian Hospital – Phase 2, and several long-term care facilities
- ▶ Applied a climate resilience perspective to facility master planning exercises at four sites, with 4 more currently in progress

- ▶ Enhanced mechanical cooling capacity at the Langley Memorial Hospital long-term care site, boosting capacity at Maple Pavilion by 75% and Cedar Pavilion by 100%
- ▶ Incorporated climate change mitigation and resilience considerations into Fraser Health’s asset management planning framework and stewardship dashboard to inform decision-making
- ▶ Established a pilot program for monitoring and addressing indoor air quality, with a focus on particulate matter, including that from wildfires
- ▶ Established heat-related illness tracking and initiated plans for a climate change and health data dashboard

Education and engagement

- ▶ Updated seasonal readiness resources and webinars for local governments and non-governmental organizations and provided seasonal readiness training across Fraser Health departments
- ▶ Coordinated seasonal readiness planning activities across departments and with Métis Nation BC and First Nations Health Authority
- ▶ Developed the Inter- and Intra-Health Authority Relocation toolkit to enhance the resilience and responsiveness of health services in

- B.C. during climate-related emergencies by facilitating complex evacuations and ensuring continuity of care
- ▶ Participated in the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (BC HEAT) Coordinating Committee to support planning and response efforts related to the public health impacts of significant heat events in B.C.

What do Fraser Health staff and medical staff have to say about the impact of extreme climate events on their job duties?

In the GreenCare Survey,^G 770 responses indicated **the most common impacts on job duties were:**

- ▶ Inability to physically get to the place of work
- ▶ Impacts to physical health or mental well-being of staff and/or family members
- ▶ Interruption to care or patient surges due to extreme weather events
- ▶ Interruptions to childcare, making it difficult to come into work

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Charting the path to resilience

Given the urgent reality of soaring temperatures, rampant wildfires and a surge in extreme weather events caused by climate change, Craig Dedels, regional manager of Climate Risk & Resilience for the EES team, worked with engineering and design consultants at Introba to launch the Portfolio-Level Climate Hazard Exposure Screen for Lower Mainland Health Facilities project. This ambitious endeavour involved conducting simultaneous climate hazard exposure screens for 96 hospitals, long-term care facilities and clinics.

[Read more ►](#)

“
As we delved into the assessments, it became evident that we weren't simply compiling a report; we were crafting an essential blueprint for action.

Craig Dedels

Regional Manager, Climate Risk & Resilience
Energy and Environmental Sustainability team



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2. Energy and Carbon

Our goal: Reduce our carbon footprint by increasing energy efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Energy and emissions reduction projects initiated or continued

- ▶ Upgraded hot water systems at Delta Hospital and Peace Arch Hospital with 54 solar thermal panels, projected to reduce emissions by reducing domestic water heating by 20% annually
- ▶ Implemented Queen’s Park Care Centre Heat Recovery Chiller project, which is projected to save 224 tCO₂e emissions per year, and has also improved patients’ comfort in hot summer weather by adding 65 tonnes of cooling to the building
- ▶ Completed Eagle Ridge Hospital Parking Lighting projects and started 6 more lighting projects
- ▶ Piloted energy- and emissions-saving retrofit technology, such as gas absorption heat pumps, gas engine heat pumps, solar thermal systems, and combined heat and power at multiple sites, with monitoring and verification in progress

- ▶ Included comprehensive and integrated strategies for low carbon resilience and environmental sustainability in the approved Burnaby Hospital and BC Cancer Centre Redevelopment Phase 2 Business Plan, such as a plan to include shared and clean transportation to the hospital
- ▶ The fully electric new Surrey hospital and BC Cancer Centre — in construction since 2023 — is being designed as a digitally-equipped and technologically advanced smart hospital to provide improved health outcomes and an enhanced care experience for our patients, staff and medical staff

Studies and engagement

- ▶ Completed energy modelling processes for Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Phase 2 and Burnaby Hospital Redevelopment Phase 1 that will support energy and emissions reduction design measures
- ▶ Completed 2 sessions of building operator training as part of the EnergyWise Network Campaign

Funding and investments

- ▶ \$466,000 invested in energy efficiency initiatives from the Green Revolving Fund
- ▶ \$3.2M invested in carbon-reduction projects from CNCP funding
- ▶ \$683,000 received in incentives from utility partners and invested in energy and emissions studies and projects

The Fraser Health Climate Change Accountability Report

Each year, along with all public sector organizations, B.C.’s health organizations submit a Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) to the Climate Action Secretariat of the provincial government. This is a mandated reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other data, and current and planned actions to reduce GHG emissions.

[Download the Fraser Health Climate Change Accountability Report](#)

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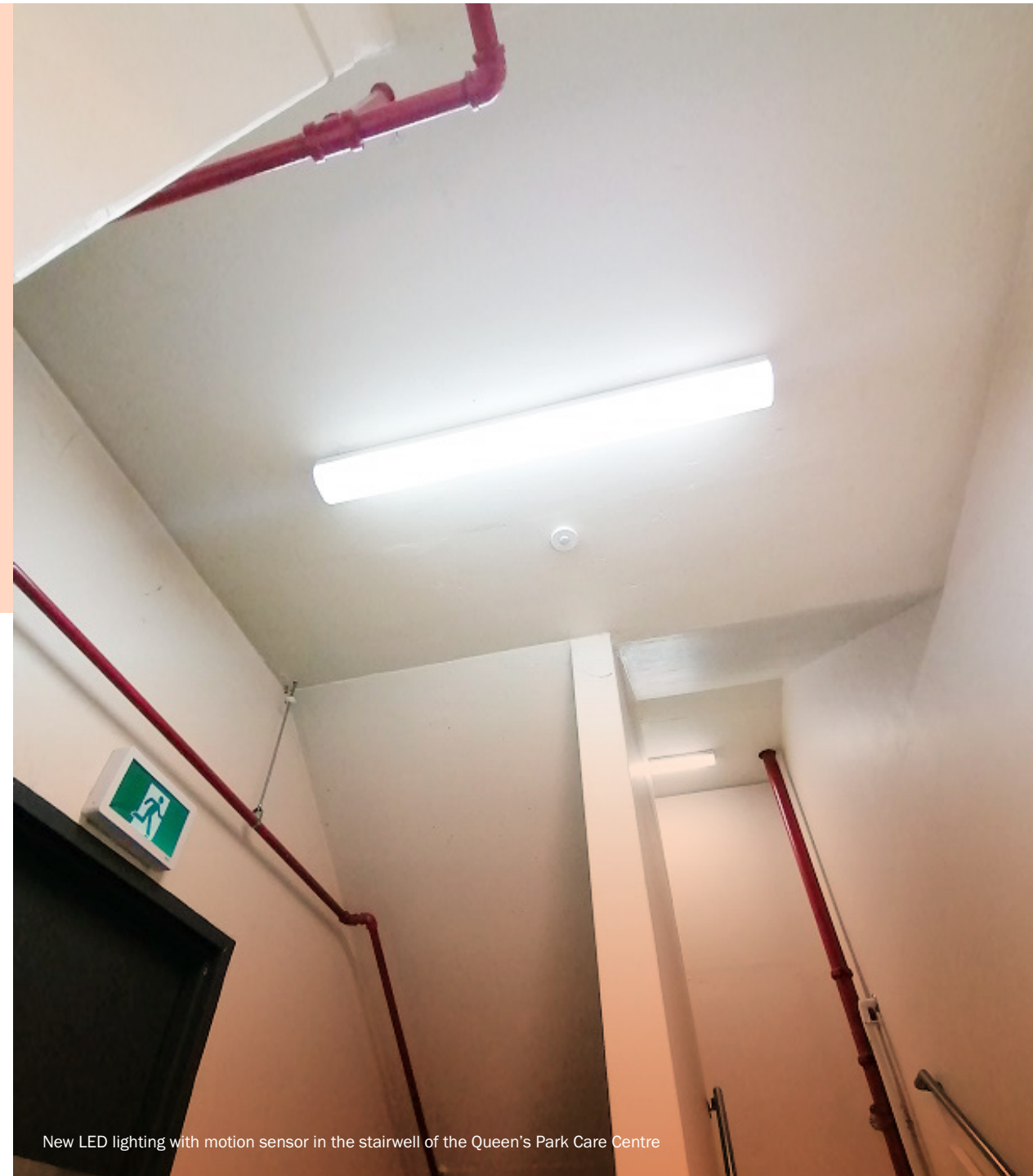
Illuminating progress

After years of relying on old fluorescent lighting, New Westminster's Queen's Park Care Centre (QPCC) carried out a full lighting overhaul. Over a 12-month period, the Facilities Management and Operations team worked closely with the site's staff and residents to ensure a smooth upgrade, resulting in energy efficiency and a reinvigorated sense of community spirit.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**Staff really appreciated
the new lighting right away.
It improved visibility for
the nurses who dispense
medication from carts in
the hallways.**

Russell Carlin
Electrician
Maintenance



New LED lighting with motion sensor in the stairwell of the Queen's Park Care Centre

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Reducing carbon emissions through collaborative care

While the health-care sector is dedicated to promoting health and well-being, globally it contributes up to five per cent of GHG emissions. Recognizing the urgent need to reduce this, B.C.'s Low-Carbon, High-Quality Care Collaborative is tackling emissions with a focus on perioperative care and respiratory medicine. Led by Health Quality BC (HQBC), in partnership with CASCADES Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health's Planetary Health Department and several B.C. health organizations, this initiative aims to lower the carbon impact of health care while improving patient care. [Learn more.](#)



Team members from Eagle Ridge Hospital: Puneet Jammu, medical device reprocessing supervisor; Rachel Lemire, operating room clinical nurse educator; Charlene Chojnacki, staff nurse; Hardip Atwal, medical device reprocessing technician

At Fraser Health, several clinical teams are participating in the LCHQ Collaborative. Two teams are engaging in the sustainable perioperative stream, focusing on reducing waste from single-use operating room items, finding reusable alternatives, and **minimizing anesthetic gas usage**. This initiative involves nurses, educators, physicians, quality leads, environmental sustainability leads and planetary health leads.

Another team is **enhancing patient education to promote low-carbon inhaler alternatives**. They are gathering baseline data, developing patient handouts and tracking the distribution of low-carbon inhalers. This team includes respiratory therapists, pharmacists and physicians, all working to reduce the carbon footprint through informed patient choices and careful tracking.

As the project heads towards its conclusion in November 2024, the focus will shift to the tangible results and future possibilities of this climate-conscious approach to health care, with the goal that this initiative will serve as a blueprint for sustainable clinical practices across Canada and beyond.

Team members from Peace Arch Hospital: Jenna Robinson, operating room clinical nurse educator; Dr. Marshall Cheng, anesthesiologist; Nerrisa Bonifacio, quality improvement lead and post anesthesia care unit/surgical day care clinical nurse educator



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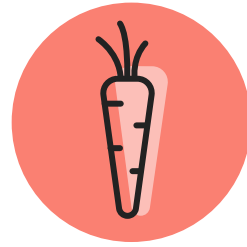
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3. Food

Our goal: Develop plant-rich, local, culturally relevant and equitable food service to advance food as medicine.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Commitments

- ▶ Signed the Cool Food Pledge, an organizational commitment to reduce the GHG emissions associated with the food served at Royal Columbian Hospital, which set the goal of reducing emissions associated with food served by 25% by 2030 (relative to the 2022/23 baseline)

Projects

- ▶ Developed a [CASCADES](#) playbook on Food Infrastructures for Planetary Health, which aims to support informed decision-making throughout the planning, design, construction and ongoing operation of health-care facilities. See the playbook [here](#).
- ▶ Launched the Choice Dining pilot at RCH and Surrey Memorial Hospital, an innovative hospital food service that helps empower patients and their loved ones with the power of meal selection while also reducing food waste

Education and engagement

- ▶ Selected to participate in the [2023-2025 Nourish Leadership cohort](#) working on:
 - Bringing the concept of food into healing
 - Improving patient and staff food experience
 - Establishing planetary health menus
 - Advancing sustainable purchasing



Food Services team at Royal Columbian Hospital

The 2023 GreenCare Survey^G results show that

59% of 707 staff surveyed are “**extremely willing**” or “**very willing**” to try sustainable plant-based food at health-care cafeterias.

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One plate at a time: Health care meets hospitality

Thanks to a new program called Choice Dining, patients at Royal Columbian Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital can pre-order food using an app or by speaking to a menu assistant at their bedside. Through this innovative service, the Food Operations team believes the Choice Dining Program will improve patients' dining experiences while reducing malnutrition and food waste.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**Often, a lot of uneaten food
comes back on trays. We are
looking at reducing waste,
and the literature supports
that one way to reduce that
is to give patients a choice
in what they're eating.**

Kaitlin Wilkie

Director

Food Operations



Lydia Aziz, a menu assistant, holds a tablet with the pre-order food app

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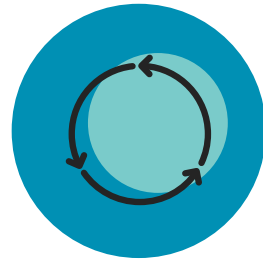
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4. Materials

Our goal: Choose materials and products that contribute to human and environmental health while avoiding waste and unnecessary chemicals.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Waste reduction and recycling

- ▶ Audited non-sterile glove use across the organization to inform an unnecessary glove use reduction project in 2024 and beyond
- ▶ Replaced single-use sharps containers with reusable ones across the organization, which can save up to 4,691 single-use bins annually and reduce the risk of needlestick injuries
- ▶ Implemented a clinical process change to the administration of IV iron in the hemodialysis unit at Surrey Memorial Hospital, which prevented 36 kilograms of medical waste from going to the landfill after one month. An annual reduction of 1,900 kilograms of medical waste is anticipated once the initiative is scaled to hemodialysis units across Fraser Health in 2024.
- ▶ Repurposed 299 beds and 256 mattresses that were being replaced across long-term care facilities and donated them overseas to Ukraine, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, providing much needed medical aid globally and reducing waste locally
- ▶ Established a Circular Health Care Working Group looking at moving to a more circular model of health-care delivery, which includes exploration of using reusable rather than single-use items where clinically safe
- ▶ Created a dedicated Waste Contract Specialist role that will support waste audits, education, innovation and reporting

Education and engagement

- ▶ Participated in a newly formed provincial Waste Management Services Technical team to undertake a collaborative approach to monitor and evaluate waste management services, with the vision of providing industry leadership in the provision and promotion of high-quality waste management at all health-care facilities across B.C.
- ▶ Hosted a Lunch & Learn session focused on Infection Control and Sustainability: A Myth Busting Conversation on Single-Use Items Versus Reusables

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Baby steps leading to giant strides in reducing plastic pollution

At Surrey Memorial Hospital, Neonatal and Pediatric Pharmacy Coordinator Brandi Newby led a challenge from Patient Care Coordinator Theresa Gee to create a more sustainable practice of packaging and delivering medications in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Thanks to a collaborative effort between nurses, pharmacy technicians and pharmacists on the unit, Brandi and the unit staff were able to replace paper and plastic bags with reusable containers to deliver medications.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**Together, we can work to
eliminate the plastic pollution
in our marine ecosystems and
preserve our natural resources
for our future generations.**

Kathleen Vince

Pharmacy Technician, Neonatal and Pediatric Pharmacy
Surrey Memorial Hospital



Surrey Memorial Hospital

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5. Transportation

Our goal: Increase access to and use of transportation modes that reduce negative environmental impacts and benefit human health and wellness.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Incentives

- ▶ Launched a 50% transit incentive for staff using TransLink and, on average, 1,035 staff participated monthly (approximately doubling the previous enrolment)
- ▶ Added a real time GPS and notification shuttle tracker to routes for 3 facilities in order to support staff planning to travel by Fraser Health shuttle services

Commuting

- ▶ Staff took 129,489 shuttle rides between health-care sites and transit hubs in 2023

Education and resources

- ▶ Hosted GoByBike Celebration stations at Royal Columbian Hospital, Surrey Memorial Hospital, Burnaby Hospital and Abbotsford Regional Hospital; 7,715 people were engaged in conversations at the seasonal stations
- ▶ Increased support for e-bikes by updating bike infrastructure guidelines for new and existing health-care facilities

- ▶ The EV Steering Committee collaborated on a framework to support everything from requests for EVs to feasibility studies, infrastructure specifications and operations

What do Fraser Health staff surveyed have to say about EVs?

Based on GreenCare Survey^G results:

- ▶ **17%** of 710 staff currently own an EV.

- ▶ **34%** of 587 staff plan to own an EV in the next five years.



EV charging station, Royal Columbian Hospital

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Pumped up

Fraser Health is helping transform the way its workforce commutes with the addition of bike repair stands and air pumps at nine of its facilities. Led by Integrated Protection Services (IPS) Commuter Services, this initiative reflects a deep commitment to enhancing the well-being of employees, as cycling comes with considerable benefits, including physical fitness, boosting mental clarity before a shift, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**This project is an investment
in the health of our
employees. We want to foster
a community of cyclists who
feel safe and equipped to
choose active transportation.**

Harpreet Bhumrah

Lead and Green+Leader

Transportation Demand Management & Commuter Services



Integrated Protection Services commuter services team: Raman Rangji, Harpreet Bhumrah, Maria Kalamkarian

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6. Water

Our goal: Minimize water consumption to reduce demand on natural resources and impact on our living environments.

Select 2023 actions and achievements

- ▶ Completed 3 energy-saving projects which contributed to water saving
- ▶ Achieved water savings at Queen's Park Care Centre through a heat recovery chiller project comprised of a dry cooler requiring significantly less make-up water and water treatment
- ▶ Replaced kitchen dishwasher equipment at Cottage-Worthington Pavilion, increasing energy and water efficiency
- ▶ Completed annual reports for 9 acute care sites as part of the five-year Metro Vancouver Pollution Prevention Plan



The Peace Arch Hospital Expansion project in White Rock, B.C.

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A river runs through it

To ensure that Ridge Meadows Hospital protects the Fraser River ecosystem from harmful waste, numerous teams throughout the hospital mobilized to revamp processes and infrastructure according to its new wastewater pollution prevention plan. Nurses, food service personnel, facilities management and operations, and pharmacy staff were among those who took part in this crucial action.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**It’s been a collective
endeavour. Every
department involved has
contributed significantly to
our mission of protecting
the water system.**

Maleeka Aamer

Regional Energy Coordinator

Energy and Environmental Sustainability team



Ridge Meadows Hospital

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5.0 Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Given our climate reality and the urgency of restoring planetary health, it's clear that environmental sustainability is everyone's story. At Fraser Health, we're engaged and active in writing a story of change. This includes creating nine working groups to support key planetary health focus areas; developing a specialized planetary health dashboard that will improve how we report on our progress; and consulting with patients, residents, staff and medical staff on how best to advance sustainability.

As the many achievements at Fraser Health demonstrate, much is already being done by so many. But as this report also shows, much more remains to be done. Fraser Health invites the whole health-care community to take actions that will restore and regenerate the interdependent health of people, place and planet — now and for future generations.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Learn more about climate change and sustainability in B.C. health care:

Subscribe to the [GreenCare Network](#) for updates and newsletters, or visit bcgreencare.ca for more information.

Get involved in sustainability activities in your health organization:

Join the [Green+Leaders](#) community and make a difference in your workplace.

Transform our processes and health system away from business as usual:

Access [toolkits and resources](#) to engage your team in discussion and action toward environmentally sustainable practices for your department.

Inspire:

Share your environmental sustainability story [here](#).



Susan Shyluk, Nurse and Green+Leader, Royal Columbian Hospital

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B

BC Centre for Disease Control
BC Emergency Health Services
BC Housing
BC Hydro
BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon
Innovation
BC Ministry of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy
BC Ministry of Health
BC Patient Safety & Quality Council
BC Renal

C

Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care
CASCADES Canada

E

Environment and Climate Change Canada

F

First Nations Health Authority
FortisBC

H

Health Canada
Health Emergency Management BC
Health Quality BC
Homelessness Services Association of BC

I

Interior Health
Island Health

L

Local and regional governments

M

Métis Nation BC
MOSAIC

N

National Research Council of Canada
Northern Health
Nourish Leadership

P

Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
Providence Health Care
Provincial Health Services Authority
Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee

S

Simon Fraser University
Strategic Planning & Management

U

University of British Columbia

V

Vancouver Coastal Health

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Visit the Methodology and
Context for Calculating KPIs



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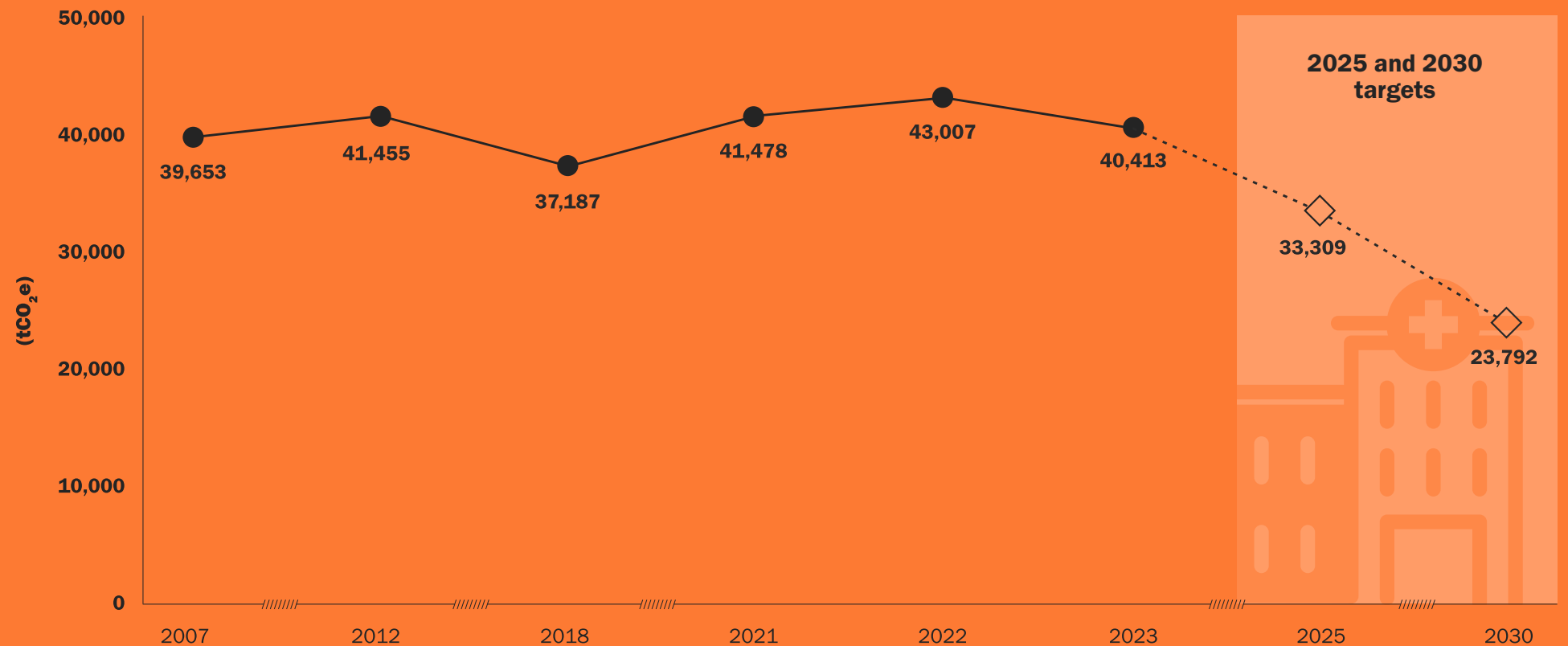
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Owned and Leased Buildings, Fleet, and Paper)

GHG emissions have **increased by 2%** since 2007 while the portfolio has increased by over 40%.



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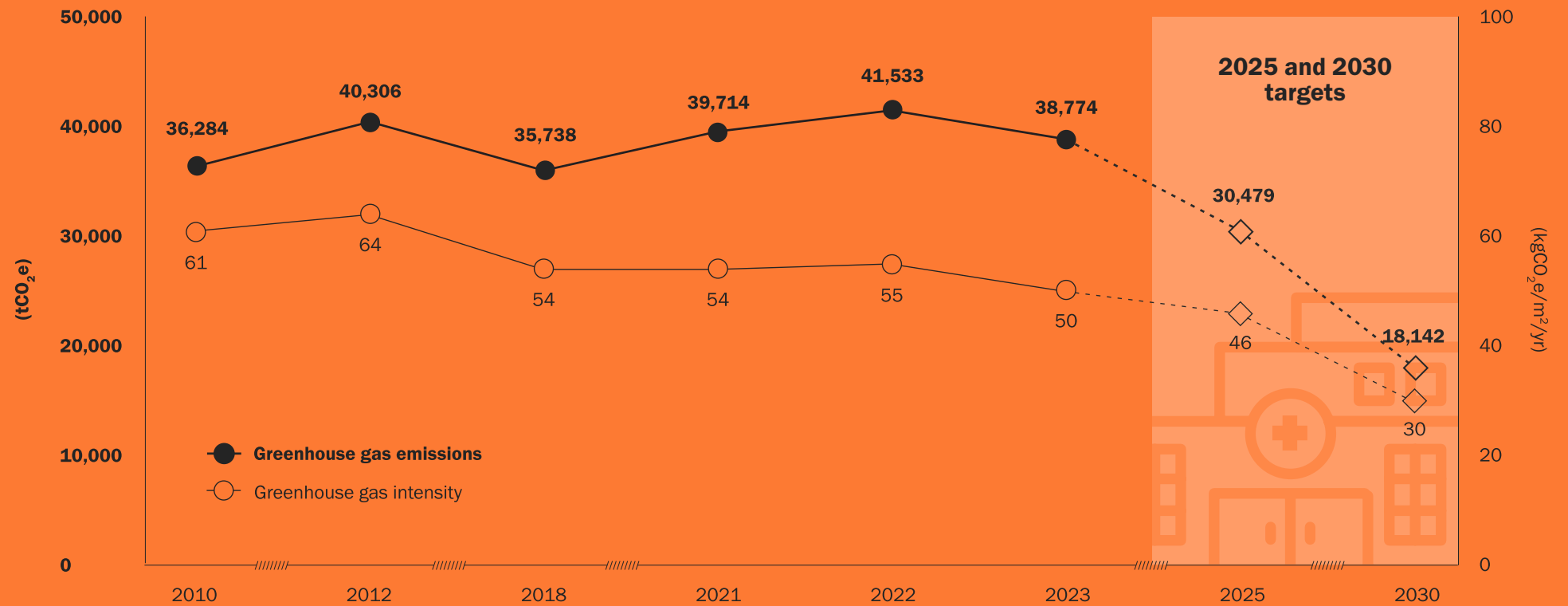
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Intensity (Owned and Leased Buildings Only)

GHG emissions from buildings have **increased by**

7% since 2010.

GHG emissions generated per floor area have **decreased by**

18% since 2010.



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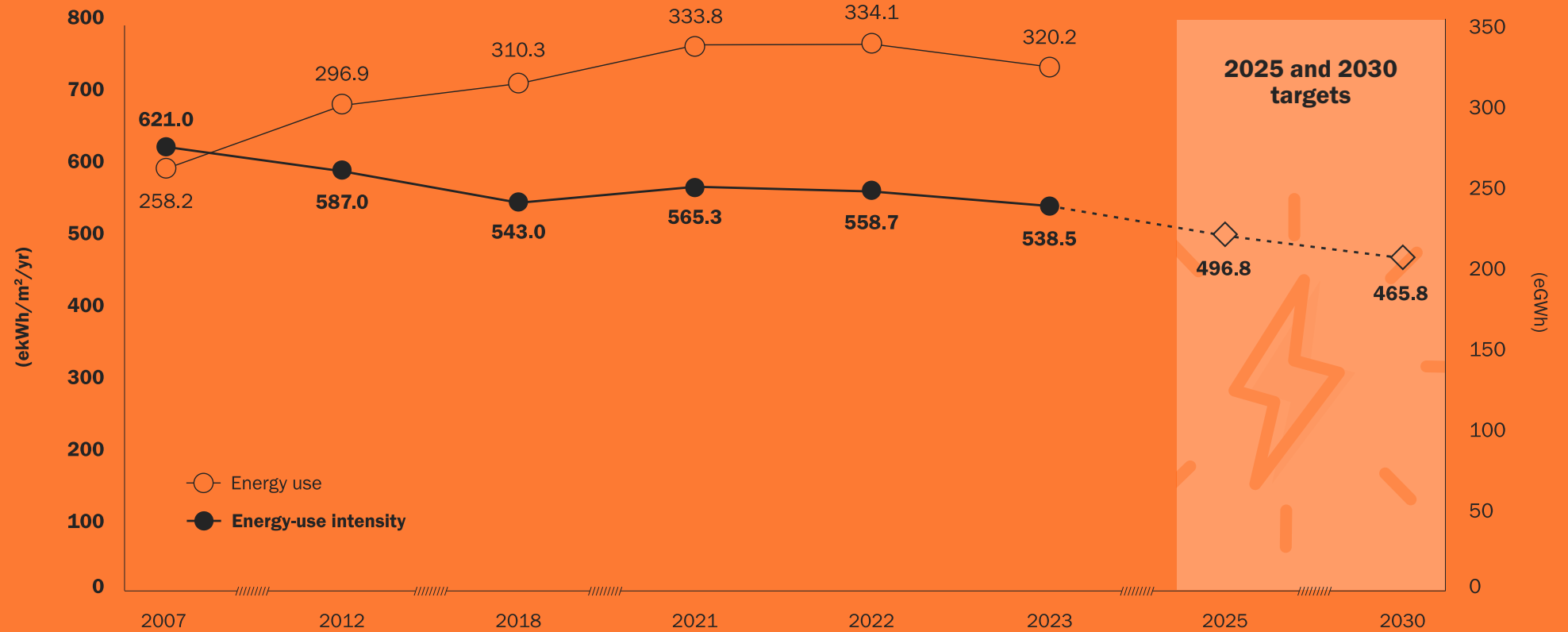
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Energy Use and Intensity

Energy-use has **increased by 24%** since 2007.

Energy-use per floor area has **decreased by 13%** since 2007.



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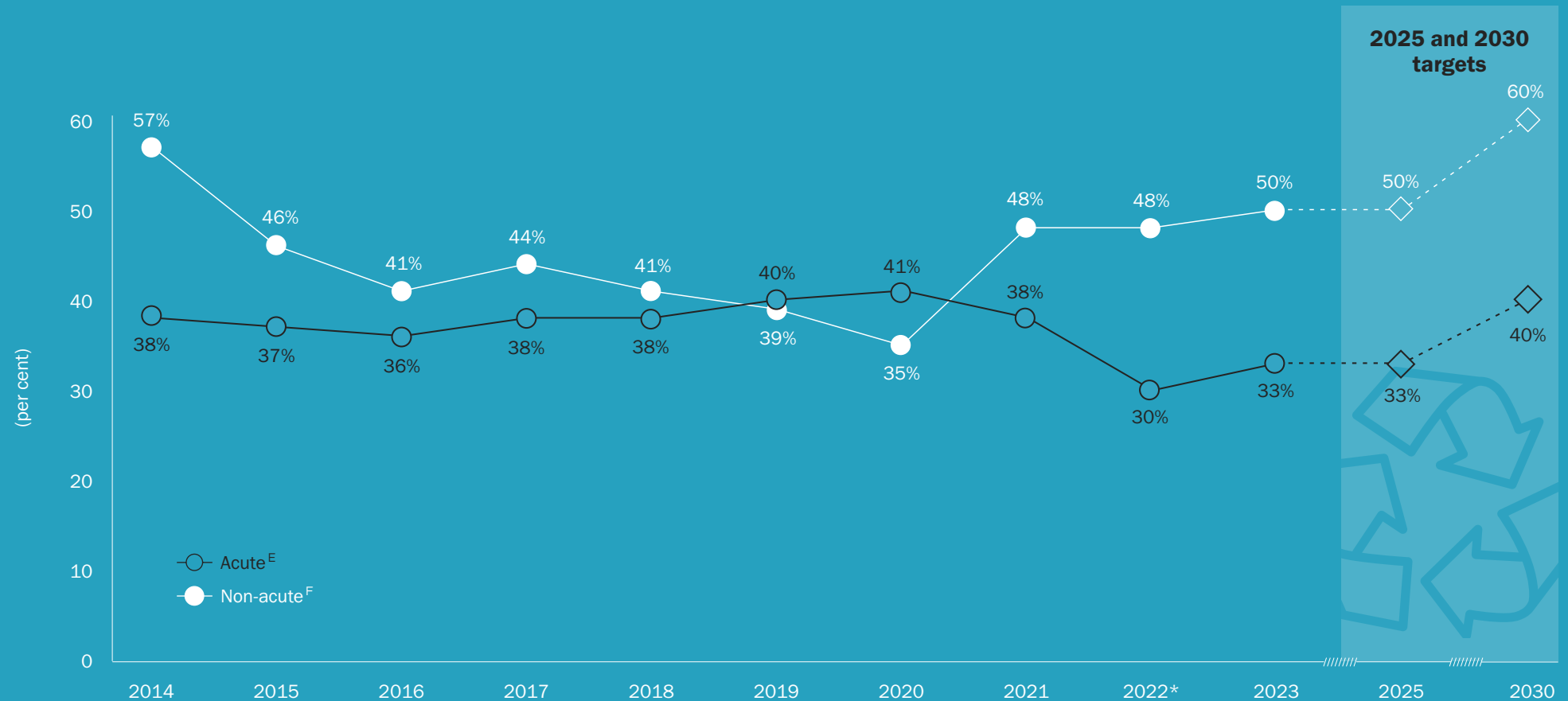
Recycling Rates

At **acute** care sites, we are

7% away from our **2030 target**.

At **non-acute** sites, we are

10% away from our **2030 target**.



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* In 2022, recycling bins were returned to patient care areas after a pause during the pandemic. While recycling is back to full capacity in non-acute care sites in 2023, some acute care sites are still not back to pre-2020 service levels.

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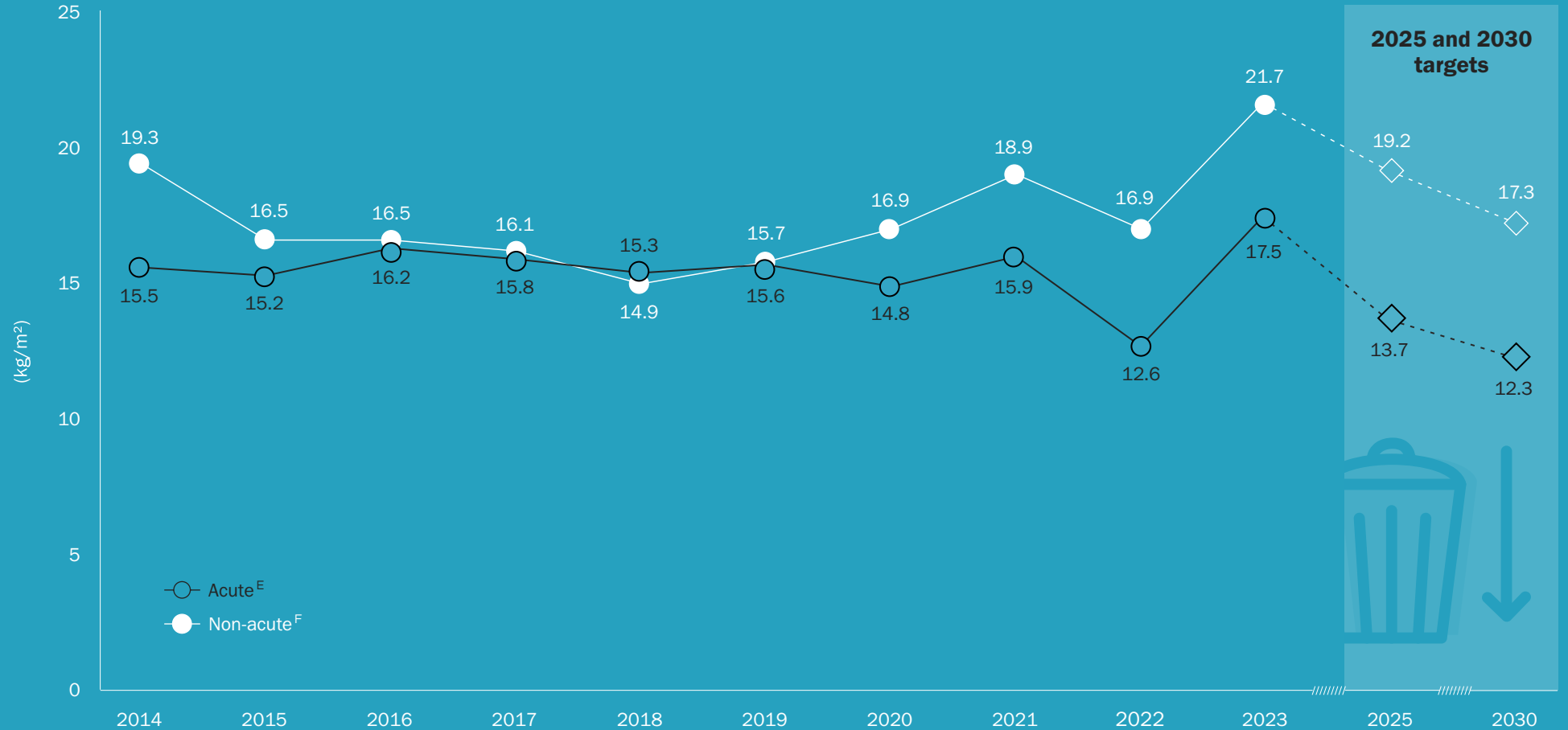
RELATED REPORTS

- Fraser Health Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Waste Generation Per Floor Area

At **acute** care sites, we are **30%** away from our **2030 target**.

At **non-acute** sites, we are **20%** away from our **2030 target**.



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Staff Commuting

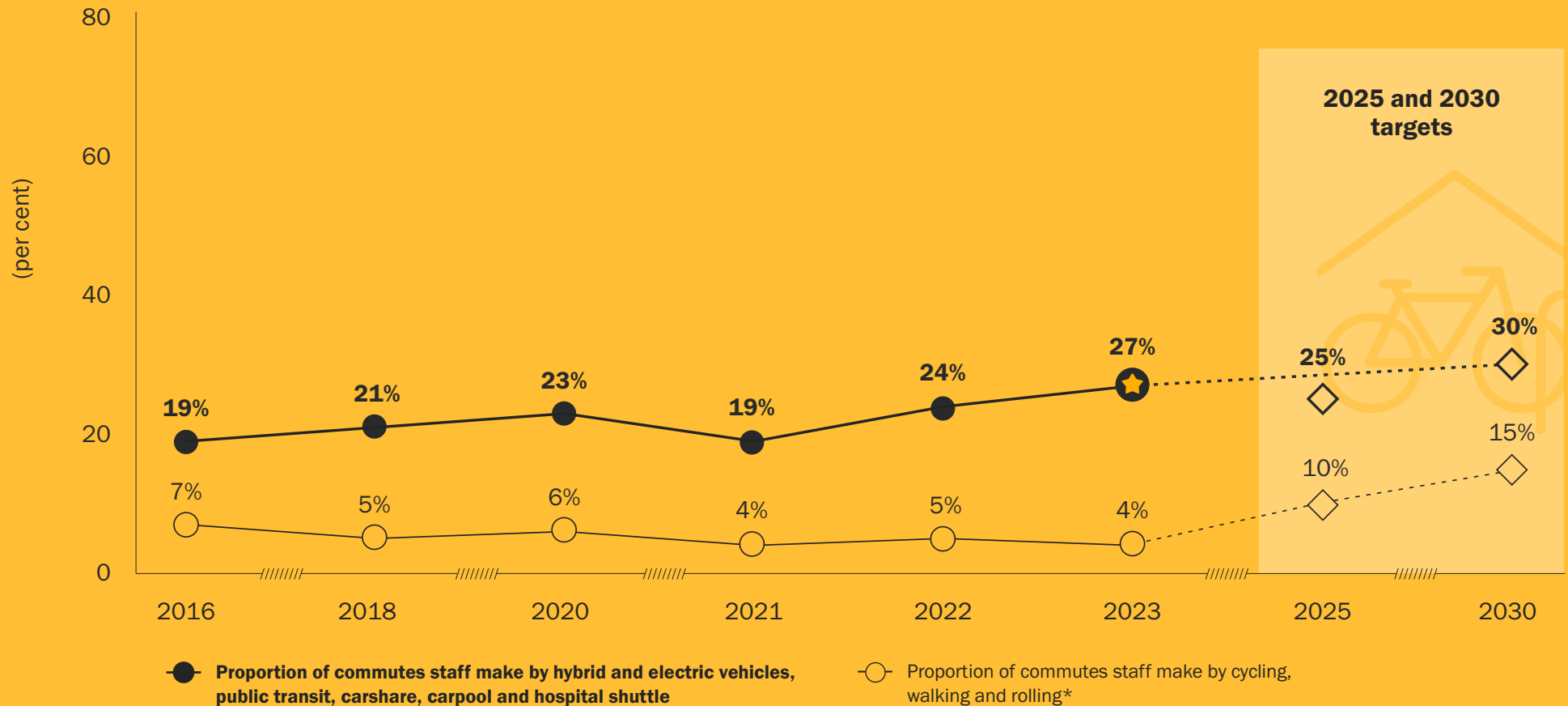
Staff commuting by cycling, walking and rolling is

11% away from the **2030 target**.



Staff commuting by hybrid and electric vehicles, public transit, car share, carpool and hospital shuttle is

3% away from the **2030 target**, and has surpassed our **2025 target**.



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* E.g. wheelchair, seated electric scooter

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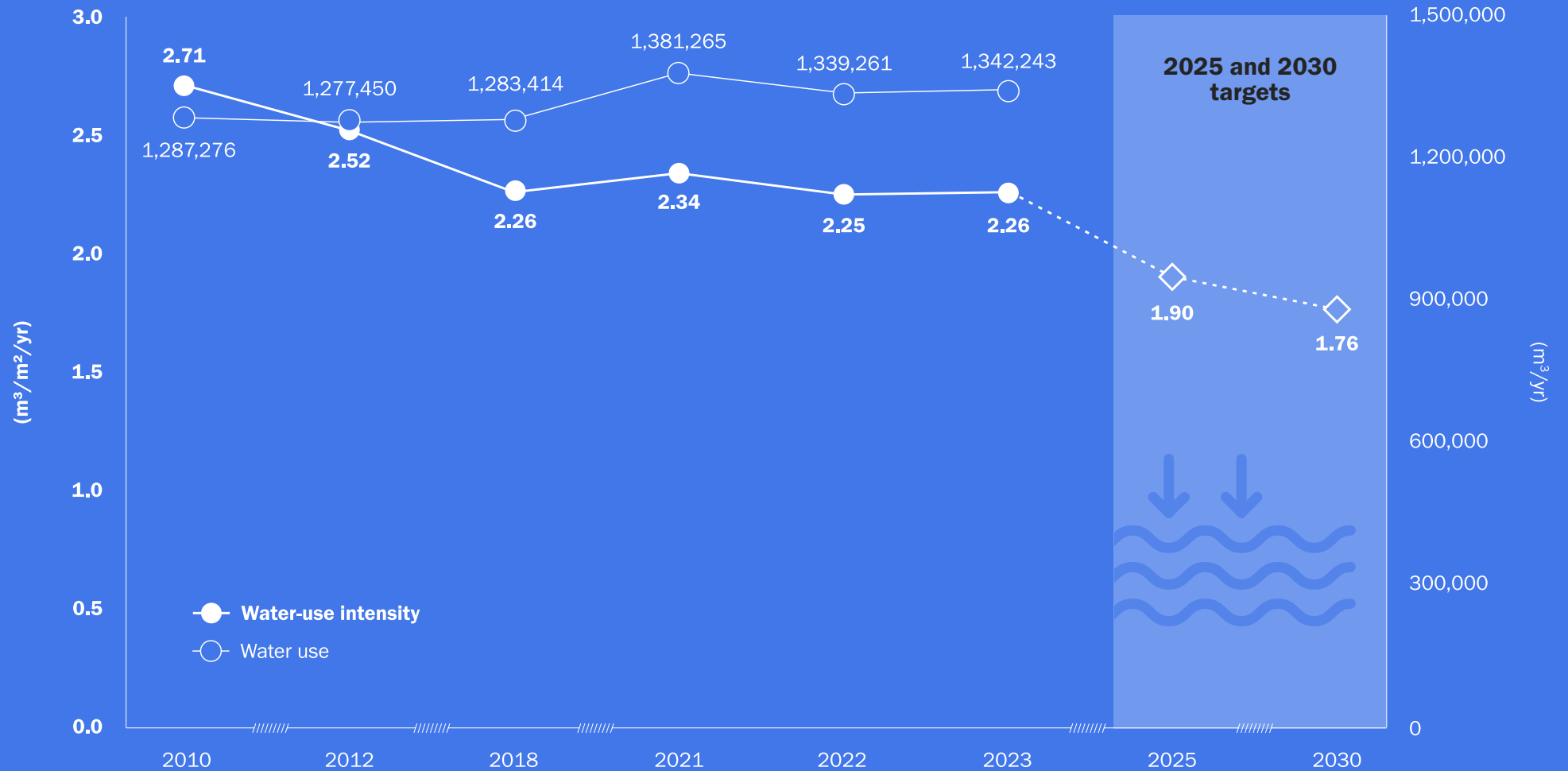
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Water Use and Intensity

Water use has **increased by 4%** since 2010.

Water-use intensity has **decreased by 17%** since 2010.*



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* The facility space used to calculate the building water performance intensity is different to energy and carbon facility space due to the difference between the baseline years 2010 and 2007, respectively.

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References

A Information sources for buildings: ARCHIBUS and Fraser Health Real Estate Team

B Full-time equivalent staff and medical staff includes all designated groups reported in the Health Sector Compensation Information System (HSCIS). This includes physicians (doctors on staff), executive/excluded, and non-union and bargaining unit employees. It excludes affiliate employers and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) employees. (Source: Health Employers Association of BC)

C Canadian Green Building Council

D In 2023, Fraser Health-owned and operated facilities included in energy metering were (* denotes a facility that is not owned but is monitored for energy usage):

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Eagle Ridge Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
- Delta Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Mission Memorial Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Parkholm Place
- Cottage and Worthington Pavilions
- Fraser Canyon Hospital
- Queen's Park Care Centre
- Fellburn Care Centre
- Heritage Village

- Chilliwack Health Centre
- Czorny Alzheimer Centre*
- Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre*
- Maple Ridge Treatment Centre
- Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
- Timber Creek Tertiary Care Facility
- Peace Arch Hospital Foundation Lodge*
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital

E Fraser Health acute care sites included in waste related key performance indicators are as follows (* denotes facilities that are still working on returning to pre-2020 recycling service levels):

- Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre*
- Burnaby Hospital*
- Chilliwack General Hospital*
- Delta Hospital
- Eagle Ridge Hospital
- Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Mission Memorial Hospital*
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital*
- Royal Columbian Hospital*
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

F Fraser Health non-acute sites included in waste related key performance indicators are:

- Cottage-Worthington Pavilion
- Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre
- Czorny Alzheimer Centre

- Fellburn Care Centre
- Queen's Park Care Centre
- Timber Creek Tertiary Care

G The GreenCare survey is an annual survey (biennial prior to 2020) for all staff and medical staff working within Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health. The survey collects information on staff and medical staff perspectives, familiarity with, and actions related to planetary health, climate change and environmental sustainability efforts in areas such as transportation and food. The data is used to measure trends and progress, and develop programs that will meet staff and medical staff needs.

H In 2023, Fraser Health-owned and operated facilities included in water metering were (* denotes a facility that is not owned but is monitored for water usage):

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Eagle Ridge Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
- Delta Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Mission Memorial Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Parkholm Place
- Cottage and Worthington Pavilions
- Fraser Canyon Hospital

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- Queen's Park Care Centre
- Fellburn Care Centre
- Heritage Village
- Chilliwack Health Centre
- Czorny Alzheimer Centre*
- Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre*
- Maple Ridge Treatment Centre
- Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
- Timber Creek Tertiary Care
- Peace Arch Hospital Foundation Lodge*
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital

- I GreenCare is a network that unites efforts across B.C. health-care organizations to advance our health-care system toward environmentally sustainable and resilient care for the health of people, place and planet.
- J The Green+Leaders program is a community of health-care staff who are engaged in advancing sustainability practices within the health system. Green+Leaders are change agents who encourage environmentally sustainable behaviour, improve existing processes, and help to create an overall culture of environmental health and wellness inside and outside of the workplace.

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