

2023 Providence Health Care Environmental Performance Accountability Report

Environmental sustainability is everyone's story.



Providence
Health Care



GreenCare™



Recognizing Indigenous Nations and Communities

We would like to humbly and gratefully acknowledge that the work guided by our Mission: Forward Strategic Plan will be delivered on the unceded, traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish People — and, in particular, the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwx̣wú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/ Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh).

Indigenous Peoples have been stewards and caretakers of the lands and waters since time immemorial. We affirm that efforts toward reconciliation are directly tied to the environment and respecting the land, plants and animals.

We acknowledge that there is much to be learned about environmental stewardship from Indigenous traditional knowledge, histories and teachings.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- ▶ **Table of Contents**
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
- References

RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Table of Contents

1.0 Executive Message	4
▶ 1.1 Milestones and Achievements	6
2.0 Our Story	7
▶ 2.1 Providence Health Care’s Commitment to Planetary Health	8
▶ 2.2 Building and Operating for Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.....	9
3.0 Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results	10
▶ 3.1 The 2023 Dashboard	11
4.0 Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together	16
▶ 4.1 Collaborative and Integrated Action.....	17
▶ Leadership and Innovation	18
▶ Climate Change	20
▶ Energy and Carbon.....	22
▶ Food	25
▶ Materials	27
▶ Transportation	29
▶ Water	31
5.0 Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future	33
Appendices	34
▶ Appendix A: Our Partners.....	35
▶ Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress.....	36
References	44

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 Providence Health Care.

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 Lead, the Environmental Stewardship organizing team and working group leads, Communications, Indigenous Wellness and Reconciliation, Food Services, Waste Management, 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.

**2023
Environmental
Performance
Accountability
Report (EPAR)**

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

▶ **Executive Message**

Milestones and Achievements

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

1.0 Executive Message



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

▶ Executive Message

Milestones and Achievements

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Welcome to the 12th annual Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR), which acknowledges the hard work, dedication and passion of everyone at Providence Health Care (Providence) as they practice environmental stewardship and work to achieve environmental sustainability.

Given that climate change is a serious threat to human health, the urgency to focus on sustainability and build climate resilience is clear. And together, we're doing just that. Stewardship is one of our key organizational values, Sustainability is a foundational principle of Our Mission: Forward Strategic Plan, and one of our key goals is to reduce the environmental impacts of our health system. It's in our heads, and it's in our hearts.

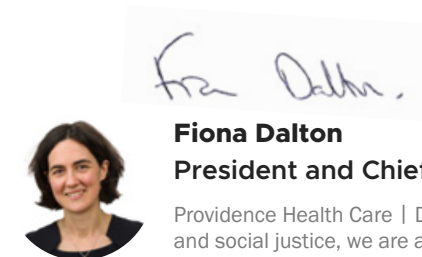
Throughout our long history of providing compassionate and innovative care, teaching and research, we have been responsible and accountable stewards. This includes taking personal responsibility

for the waste and emissions produced by our operations and facilities. But it's also more than that. It's about recognizing when we fall short, encouraging and supporting each other through each challenge we face, and finding solutions that will lift up every person in our care and restore planetary health.

It's also about acknowledging, taking pride in and building on our achievements, some of which include advancing climate resilience by screening nine facilities for climate hazard exposure and prioritizing action; surpassing our 2025 carbon emissions target from buildings; creating a new Planetary Health Lead position to support the development and implementation of an organization-wide strategy; and earning a Transit Friendly Employer Certificate in recognition of making employee travel easier, more affordable and climate-friendly.

I congratulate and thank each person at our organization, along with our many partners, for

the ideas and effort that you have brought to Providence this past year. You are making a difference. You are valued. And you embody the spirit that makes Providence an exceptional health organization. Though climate change will continue to impact us all and there is much more that we still need to do, I'm confident that — guided by our heads and our hearts — we'll achieve it.



Fiona Dalton
President and Chief Executive Officer

Providence Health Care | Driven by compassion and social justice, we are at the forefront of exceptional care and innovation

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

► Milestones and Achievements

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

1.1 Milestones and Achievements

First ever!

Created a new **Planetary Health Lead position** under Quality, Safety & Accreditation to support the development and implementation of an organization-wide Planetary Health Strategy



Screened **9** **Providence facilities** for climate hazard exposure, identifying areas of vulnerability and prioritizing actions



Formed a **partnership with the Binners' Project** at St. Paul's Hospital, part of continuing efforts to build community capacity and drive positive sustainability initiatives. The Binners' Project aims to foster social and economic inclusion and build strong community resilience and networks.



2023 highlights

Achieved a **21%** reduction in **carbon emissions** from buildings, fleet and paper from the 2007 baseline, surpassing our 2025 target — a decrease equivalent to the annual emissions from 745 passenger vehicles^A



Launched the **Rescued Food Project** to use excess or unused food in programs that support patients who are facing food insecurity, which also reduces CO₂ emissions by reducing food waste



6 new staff members joined the Green+Leaders program, for a total of 62



Launched a **50% transit discount** for staff using TransLink, leading to an average of

608 staff participating in the incentive monthly



Received a **Transit Friendly Employer Certificate** in recognition of making employee travel easy, affordable and climate-friendly



Switched **all long-term care facilities to ozone laundry**, a water treatment system that saves water, chemicals and energy by eliminating the need for multiple washings for heavily soiled items and extends fabric life

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

► **Our Story**

Providence's Commitment
to Planetary Health

Building and Operating for
Low Carbon Resilience and
Environmental Sustainability

**Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results**

**Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together**

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

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

2.0 Our Story



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

- Providence's Commitment to Planetary Health
 - Building and Operating for Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

2.1 Providence's Commitment to Planetary Health

With climate change posing a serious threat to human health, the urgency to focus on sustainability and build climate resilience is clear. Providence is accelerating our activities to significantly reduce the harmful environmental impacts of the health system and adapt to be resilient to climate shocks and stressors, in alignment with the B.C. Ministry of Health Mandate Letter and [the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#).

Environmental Stewardship, a foundational principle

Sustainability is a foundational principle of our Mission: Forward Strategic Plan. At its core, our sustainability plan is about ensuring we can continue to pursue our mission into the future by reducing our environmental footprint to achieve — and hopefully exceed — national benchmarks for sustainable, green and minimal impact. Everyone at Providence has a role to play, and our Environmental Stewardship team is leading the way.

Created by members of the Providence community to help all of us meet the sustainability challenges identified in the Environmental Stewardship foundational principle, the team's goal is to coordinate sustainability and climate resilience initiatives within Providence. Four working groups (Waste, Food, Communications and Education, and Measurement and Evaluation) have since been established, and key members have stepped up as team leads. Members within the broader team and across Providence are welcome to participate in one or multiple working groups as ongoing members or on a project-specific basis to help move the dial on environmental sustainability initiatives.

“

I feel energized because 2023 was full of planetary health activities at Providence Health Care. As we look to the future, we are strengthening our commitment to environmental sustainability by hiring our first Planetary Health Leader, who will coordinate and enhance our ability to tackle meaningful climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

Agnes Black

Director, Health Services & Clinical Research and Knowledge Translation, Green+Leader

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Providence's Commitment to Planetary Health

► Building and Operating for Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

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, Providence 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
- ▶ Collaborating with project compliance teams to ensure energy and carbon performance targets are embedded into design and construction agreements
- ▶ Implementing low carbon resilience and environmental-sustainability strategies
- ▶ 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

181,106 m²

usable facility space^C

41

distinct buildings^C

6,113

full-time equivalent staff^D

799 m²

LEED-certified facility space^E

Our LEED projects

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

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



St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

► **Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results**

The 2023 Dashboard

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



3.0 Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

► The 2023 Dashboard

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

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 Providence-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, 98% of Providence'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**



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

► The 2023 Dashboard

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Energy and Carbon

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

	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)	21%	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)	20%	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)	19%	25%	50%
	Decrease the amount of energy used per floor area of owned buildings ^F from 2007 levels (% change of ekWh/m ² /year)	10%	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 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 also highlighting opportunities to enhance resilience to climate risks and the quality of indoor environment for staff and patients.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

► The 2023 Dashboard

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

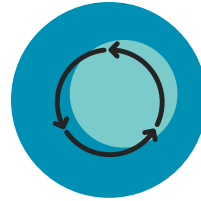
Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Materials

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



Recycling options are shaped by **global market demand**, ability of local processors, complexity of materials and facility logistics.

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)*	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase waste recycled or composted in acute care owned sites ^G (% recycled, annual average)	19%	30% 	40%
Increase waste recycled or composted in non-acute care owned sites ^H (% recycled, annual average)	37%	40% 	60%
Decrease waste generated per floor area in acute care owned sites (kg/m ² /year)	11.8	11.3 	10.2
Decrease waste generated per floor area in non-acute care owned sites (kg/m ² /year)	17.1	15.2 	13.7

GO TO GRAPHS

- 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 Providence.

How we will reach our targets

- Continuing to expand and refine the reporting process to ensure all relevant recycling streams are incorporated.
- Shifting away from recycling alone and toward overall mindful product use and waste reduction, including choosing reusables over disposables and exploring ways to share or donate usable items to prevent them from going into landfills — collaboration and close partnership with clinical and procurement staff will be important in this journey.
- Adding a new position for waste coordination and partnering with a local social enterprise to help us move toward our targets by improving waste sorting, increasing education for staff and visitors, and monitoring and evaluating progress.

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
 - ▶ The 2023 Dashboard
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
- References

RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report



Transportation

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

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2023 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase the proportion of self-reported ^B commutes staff make by cycling, walking and rolling* (% commutes, annual average)	19%	30% 	35%
Increase the proportion of self-reported commutes staff make by hybrid and electric vehicles, public transit, carshare, carpool and hospital shuttle (% commutes, annual average)	49%	40% 	50%

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.
- ▶ Shifting commuting away from single occupancy vehicles to alternatives such as cycling, transit and carpooling will continue to reduce carbon emissions.

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

* E.g. wheelchair, seated electric scooter

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

► The 2023 Dashboard

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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 ¹ buildings from 2010 levels (% change of m ³ /m ² /year)	6%	20% ◆	30% ◆

[+ GO TO GRAPHS](#)

How we will reach our targets

- ▶ Working collaboratively across health-system departments will enhance our understanding of water end-uses and saving opportunities at Providence facilities, and support our strategy to prioritize water management planning efforts and allocation of resources.
- ▶ Exploring and implementing electrification and emissions reduction technologies that support water conservation
- ▶ A new regional position starting in summer 2024 will support actions focused on water conservation and identifying synergies with strategies for climate resilience and energy conservation.

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

**2023
Environmental
Performance
Accountability
Report (EPAR)**

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

► **Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together**

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

4.0 Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

- ▶ Collaborative and Integrated Action
- Leadership and Innovation
- Climate Change
- Energy and Carbon
- Food
- Materials
- Transportation
- Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

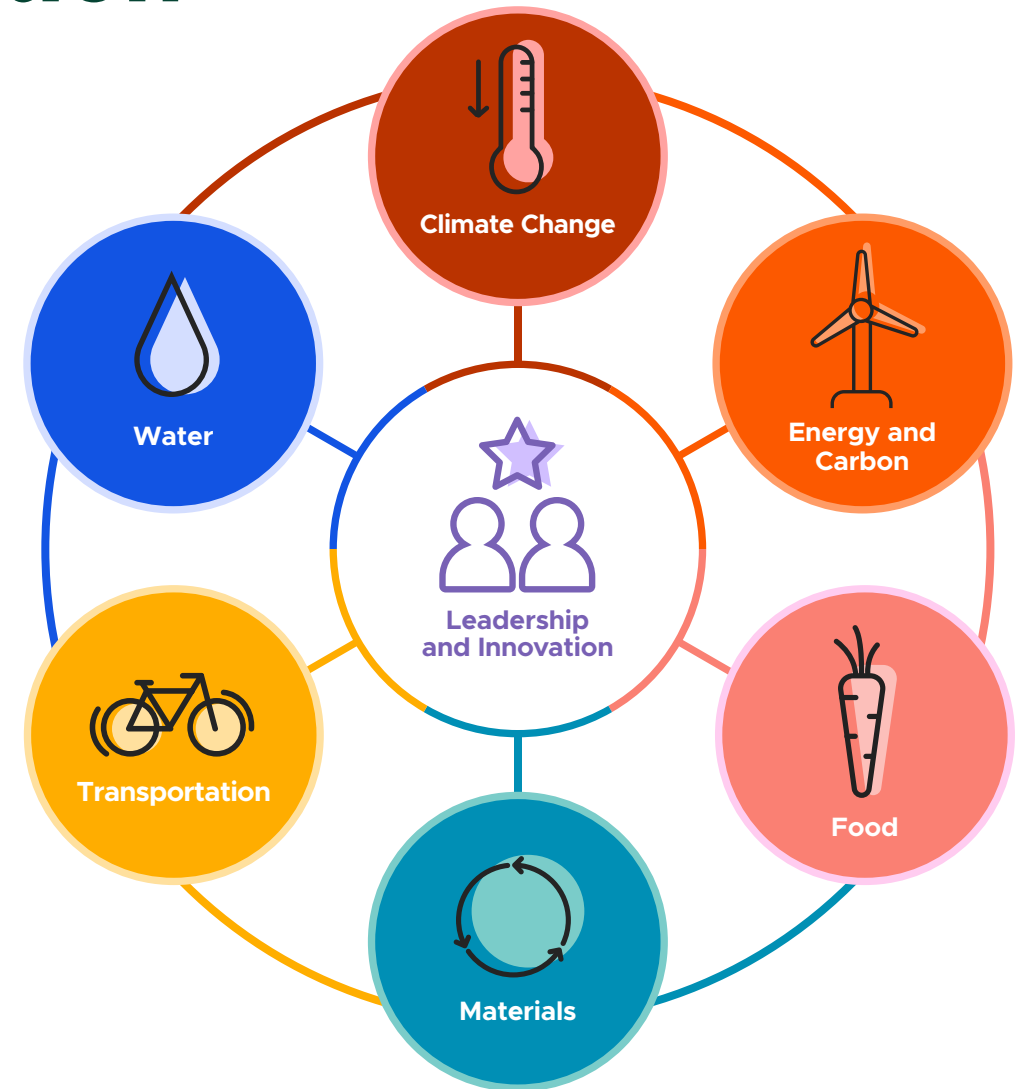
4.1 Collaborative and Integrated Action

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. For a full list of partners working towards planetary health at Providence, see [Appendix A](#).

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



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

▶ Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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



Planning and design

- ▶ Initiated design and construction of three new buildings, aimed to achieve LEED certification:
 - New St. Paul's Hospital upgraded design to LEED Gold
 - New St. Vincent's: Heather long-term care home designing for LEED Gold
 - New St. Paul's Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC) designing for LEED Gold



Leadership and grants

- ▶ New Planetary Health Lead position created under Quality, Safety & Accreditation that will support the development and implementation of an organization-wide Planetary Health Strategy
- ▶ Awarded approximately \$12,000 in grants through the Planetary Health Funding Awards to fund 4 sustainability projects: assessing the environmental impact of digital pathology; reducing the carbon footprint associated with cardiac care; tackling waste associated with multidose inhalers; and finding pathways to safely donate surplus food from food services
- ▶ Launched pilot of the Anticoagulation Stewardship Program (ACSP), a project that cuts unnecessary use of blood thinners at St. Paul's Hospital. The project is estimated to save 15,000 injections per year, with benefits to patient well-being, cost savings and the planet



Education and engagement

- ▶ 53 staff and medical staff were members of the GreenCare Network,^J receiving quarterly environmental-sustainability news, education, resources and engagement opportunities
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 6 new staff members joined the Green+Leaders program,^K for a total of 62
- ▶ 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.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

► Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit team members at St. Paul's Hospital

OUR STORY

Glove smart and green

Ramses Prado Mares, a performance improvement consultant at Providence, led the Glove Smart Quality Improvement Project at the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU) in St. Paul's Hospital. The six-month initiative, aimed at reducing non-surgical glove use and the hospital's waste intensity without compromising the quality of patient care, proved to be a resounding success, with a remarkable 53% reduction compared to the previous year.

[Read more ►](#)

“

We succeeded because we listened to those doing the daily work. They have the best ideas for changes that colleagues will embrace. As leaders, our job is to empower and guide them from ideas to action.

Ramses Prado Mares

Performance Improvement Consultant

Quality and Utilization Improvement, Green+Leader

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

► Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

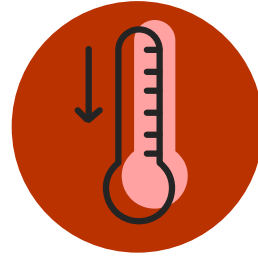
Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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, ensuring alignment with new provincial releases and incorporating valuable lessons learned
- Participated in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) committee to embed climate risk into the CSA Z8000 Canadian Healthcare Standard

Projects and studies

- Screened 9 Providence facilities across the province for climate hazard exposure, identifying areas of vulnerability and prioritizing actions
- Integrated climate resilience principles into ongoing major capital projects, offering guidance and assistance to project teams and consultants, including those for the new St. Paul's Hospital and St. Vincent's: Heather long-term care home
- Developed a resilient design report card to track and communicate climate resilience measures and achievements for new

construction projects, which is being piloted through the St. Vincent's: Heather project

- Installed a solar photovoltaic system on the roof of Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, improving the resilience of the energy system while reducing GHG emissions

Education and engagement

- Coordinated seasonal readiness planning activities for communications and actions before, during and after extreme weather events
- 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 Providence staff and medical staff have to say about the impact of extreme climate events on their job duties?

In the GreenCare Survey,^B 635 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 weather events
- Had to miss work due to personal responsibilities related to the impacts of extreme weather events

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

► Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

Charting the path to resilience

Given the urgent reality of the 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



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

▶ Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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

Target surpassed

- ▶ Achieved a 21% reduction in carbon emissions from buildings, fleet and paper since the 2007 baseline, surpassing our 2025 target. This is a decrease of 2,432 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or the annual emissions from 745 passenger vehicles.^A

Energy and emissions reduction projects

- ▶ Implemented several projects at St. Paul's Hospital, resulting in a reduction of 1,500 tonnes of CO₂e and 30,000 GJ of energy per year; these included the installation of an electric cart washer, 3 electric sterilizers, 2 electric boilers and 3 gas boilers
- ▶ Implemented 4 major projects at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, expected to reduce GHG emission by 1,400 tonnes and save 21,000 GJ of energy per year: the installation of a sterilizer with an electric steam boiler; a lighting retrofit; upgrading the HVAC system; and adding controls to heating and ventilation systems
- ▶ Installed a second solar panel array at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, expected to save 260 GJ of annual energy consumption

- ▶ Upgraded the mechanical and HVAC systems at Youville Residence, resulting in an annual energy saving of 800 GJ and a reduction of 50 tonnes of CO₂e
- ▶ Completed a carbon reduction project at St. Vincent's: Honoria Conway-Heather, expected to reduce energy consumption by 3,000 GJ and GHG emissions by 100 tonnes per year

Studies and engagement

- ▶ Conducted a successful BESS (Battery Energy Storage System for demand response) study at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, which proposed that a 200kW battery package be installed to free up the hospital electrical capacity during times of peak consumption and reduce electricity costs
- ▶ Initiated an innovative Food Waste to Energy study in partnership with UBC, which will be implemented as a pilot project at Holy Family Hospital
- ▶ With support from the BC Hydro Energy Wise Network, launched the Lights Off campaign, Radiator Shut Off campaign and Every Bit Helps campaign, and conducted workshops to inform and influence the behaviour of Facilities Maintenance & Operations and clinical staff

Funding and investments

- ▶ ~\$2 million invested in energy efficiency initiatives from the Green Revolving Fund, including incentives
- ▶ ~\$1 million invested in carbon-reduction projects from Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) funding
- ▶ \$1.9 million received in incentives from utility partners and the province for implemented projects

The Providence Climate Change Accountability Report

Each year, along with all public sector organizations, B.C.'s health organizations submit a Climate Change Accountability Report 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 Providence Climate Change Accountability Report](#)

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

▶ Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

From steam to green

St. Paul's Hospital undertook a critical energy-saving initiative, known as the SPH Steam Conversion Phase 2 project. Spearheaded by the Providence Energy team, this project aims to dramatically decrease the hospital's energy consumption by transitioning from district steam to natural gas. It's a shift that not only greatly lowers emissions but also yields significant financial savings.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
This project embodies technical challenges, financial benefits and sustainability objectives. It was rewarding for everyone involved to contribute to our community's well-being.

Sony Bae
Project Manager
Planning and Projects



New gas boilers at St Paul's Hospital

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

▶ Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

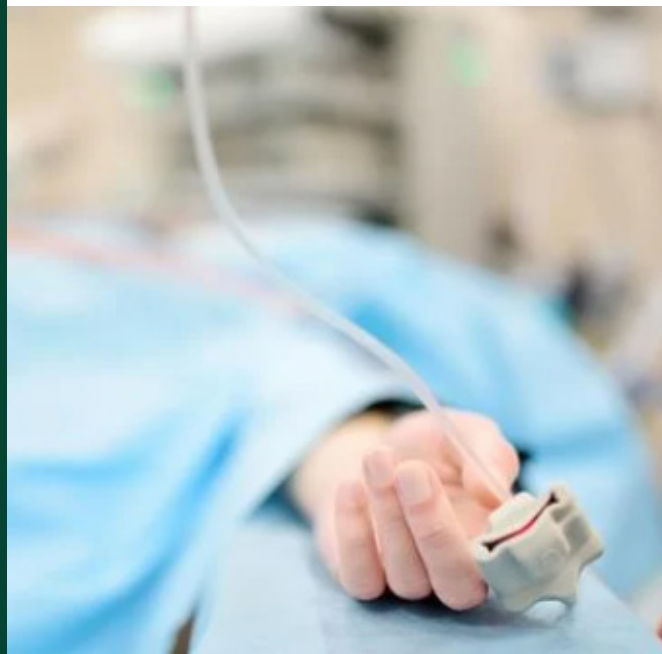
RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

Reducing carbon emissions through collaborative care

While the health-care sector is dedicated to promoting health and well-being, globally it contributes up to 5% 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.](#)



Department of Anesthesiology Environmental Sustainability Team: Dr. Kelli O'Reilly, Dr. Trina Mentemurro, Dr. Christopher Prabhakar

At Providence, one clinical team participating in the LCHQ Collaborative initiative is working to lower the environmental footprint and improve the efficiency of operating rooms by placing green tape around clean, used circuits to indicate they haven't been used. With this simple action, staff can confidently reuse circuits without discarding them unnecessarily, reducing medical waste and saving time and effort for operating room staff. This project involves anesthesiologists, nurses and quality improvement consultants.

Another team is aiming to decrease the carbon footprint of inhalers by researching and implementing processes for cleaning inhalers for redistribution and reusing inhaler canisters in the pulmonary function testing lab and critical

care units. This team comprises pharmacists, infection prevention and control leads, and physicians — all dedicated to sustainable health-care practices.

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, so that this initiative can serve as a blueprint for sustainable clinical practices across Canada and beyond.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

▶ Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

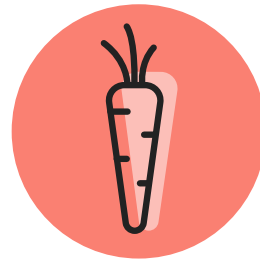
Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



3. Food

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

Select 2023 actions and achievements

Projects

- ▶ Supported a pilot using Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles at Holy Family Hospital with the objective of reducing food waste while offering more sustainable meal alternatives
- ▶ Reduced single-use items by introducing:
 - nylon cutlery for mental health programs in patient food services
 - reusable dishware for dine-in customers
 - reusable cutlery and hot tumblers for purchase as well as discounts for customers who bring their own mug
- ▶ Launched the Rescued Food Project to use excess or unused food in programs that support patients who are facing food insecurity — by reducing food waste, we also reduce CO₂ emissions
- ▶ Engaged in responsible purchasing to ensure that our new vendors prioritize locally sourced foods
- ▶ Tested a one-week rotation of vegetarian meals at Holy Family Hospital to promote a shift towards a more sustainable menu
- ▶ Implemented "Heat on Demand" at St. Paul's Hospital to enhance food temperatures and patient satisfaction and well-being while simultaneously reducing food waste
- ▶ Implemented biannual monitoring of patient and retail satisfaction and waste audits to enhance care quality and minimize food waste
- ▶ Implemented refundable beverage container recycling bins in select areas at St Paul's Hospital, Mount Saint Joseph, and Holy Family Hospital including milk cartons, portioned juice/ milk cups, plastic bottles and aluminum cans
- ▶ Co-created Indigenous recipes with Indigenous Wellness and Reconciliation which were implemented as specials in patient food

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

- ▶ Organized Celebrating Plant Power events across 6 Providence facilities, where 250 staff members, patients, long-term care residents and their families learned about how an increase in plant-powered meals in our diets can benefit our health and the planet's health
- ▶ 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](#).

The GreenCare Survey^B results show that

58% of 337 staff surveyed are "extremely willing" or "very willing" to try sustainable plant-based food at health-care cafeterias.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

▶ Food

Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

Plant powered

Providence's Food Working Group aims to raise awareness about the benefits of plant-based food, including better health and a lower carbon footprint. This past year, the Food Working Group partnered with Food Services, and Nutritional Services to organize "Plant Powered" food events at Vancouver's Holy Family Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital, and wrote articles on a range of related topics, which they shared with Providence staff.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
As someone passionate about food and sustainability, I see every meal as a chance to heal both patients and the planet. For that reason, a diet rich in veggies is the future of how we eat.

Sisi Tian

Manager, Food Services
Mount Saint Joseph Hospital



Members of the Providence Health Care Environmental Stewardship Team Food Working Group at the Holy Family Hospital Plant Powered Event

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

▶ Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

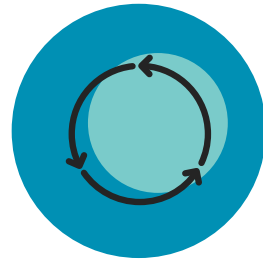
Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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

Environmentally preferable purchasing

- ▶ Initiated efforts to reduce Styrofoam cups in clinical and non-clinical areas across the organization by researching and implementing alternatives that have been evaluated for quality and compostability
- ▶ Participated in a provincial Sustainable Procurement Innovation Group, which aims to identify new opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of B.C. health care and to improve social and reconciliation efforts with Indigenous peoples
- ▶ 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.

Projects

- ▶ Implemented the Glove Smart Pilot in collaboration with the Waste Working Group and the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit, leading to a 53% reduction in non-surgical glove use which equals a reduction of 2,343 CO₂e¹)
- ▶ Trialed a mask recycling program at St. Paul's Hospital, with bins positioned at strategic locations around the hospital to capture this high-volume waste stream

New resources and partnerships

- ▶ Created a new waste coordinator role, responsible for the development and evaluation of waste management programs across Providence, as well as improving environmental awareness and stewardship
- ▶ Formed a partnership with the Binners' Project at St. Paul's Hospital, as part of continuing efforts to build community capacity and drive positive sustainability initiatives. The Binners' Project aims to foster social and economic inclusion and build strong community resilience and networks. The group is a dynamic coalition of waste-pickers, supported by a dedicated team, committed to enhancing their economic prospects and alleviating the stigma associated with their role as informal recyclable collectors.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Collaborative and
Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

▶ Materials

Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

Threads of change

Faced with a critical shortage of disposable surgical gowns at the height of the pandemic, St. Paul's Hospital needed a stable, secure option to source surgical gowns. In collaboration with Ecotex Healthcare Linen Service, Providence introduced reusable surgical gowns, making St. Paul's the first site in B.C. to trial this innovative approach. To ensure quality, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) made sure that the program complied with national standards and verified gown sterility. With this pilot, Providence initiated an improvement that has provided a stable solution and significantly reduced environmental impact.

[Read more ▶](#)

“
**A stable foundation comes
from reusable products.**

Don Wills

Director

Logistics & Facilities Services



Stack of reusable gowns at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. Credit: Rana Garelnabi

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

▶ Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



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

Target surpassed

- ▶ 49% of staff reported that they use hybrid and electric vehicles, public transit, carshare, carpool and hospital shuttle to commute (a 7% increase from 2022);^B Providence continues to exceed the 2025 target of 40% of staff using clean transportation

Awards and incentives

- ▶ Launched a 50% transit incentive for staff using TransLink, and, on average, 608 staff participated in the incentive monthly
- ▶ Awarded a Transit Friendly Employer Certificate in recognition of making employee travel easy, affordable and climate friendly

Commuting

- ▶ Staff took 21,503 shuttle rides between health-care sites in 2023, a 19% increase from 2022

Education and resources

- ▶ Hosted GoByBike Celebration stations at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital that engaged 172 visitors

- ▶ Updated bike infrastructure guidelines for new and existing health-care facilities to increase support for e-bikes
- ▶ Collaborated on a regional electric vehicle framework to support everything from requests for electric vehicles to feasibility studies, infrastructure specifications and operations

What do Providence staff surveyed have to say about EVs?

Based on GreenCare Survey^B results:

- ▶ **13%** of 556 staff surveyed currently own an EV.
- ▶ **32%** of 481 staff surveyed plan to own an EV in the next five years.



EV charging station

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

▶ Transportation

Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

Ticket to ride

Providence launched a Transit Discount Program to make it more appealing for employees to commute sustainably via TransLink. For staff enrolled in the program, leaving their cars at home has several benefits, including saving on fuel and parking expenses and reducing stress. In the first five months of the program, over 2,000 employees enrolled. By increasing the transit subsidy, Providence qualified as a TransLink “Transit Friendly Employer”.

[Read more ▶](#)

“**This new designation is a magnet for talent, demonstrating Providence’s foundational commitment to sustainability and employee wellness.**”

Debbie Pratt

Wellness Manager
Providence

Maricar Ibarrientos, Transit Discount Subsidy Office Administrator, at the Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Sustainability Fair



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

▶ Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report



6. Water

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

Select 2023 actions and achievements

- ▶ Switched all long-term care facilities to ozone laundry, a water treatment system based on a naturally occurring oxidizing agent that saves water, chemicals and energy by eliminating the need for multiple washings for heavily soiled items and extends fabric life
- ▶ Introduced new electrical sterilizer technology at Mount Saint Joseph's Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital to replace traditional steam sterilizers. This technology not only reduces GHG emission significantly, but also contributes to water saving by saving more than 200 Gal/cycle.
- ▶ 2 sites worked towards a five-year Pollution Prevention Plan



Cleaning medical instruments with a cleaning system that does not require water

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Collaborative and Integrated Action

Leadership and Innovation

Climate Change

Energy and Carbon

Food

Materials

Transportation

▶ Water

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

OUR STORY

Ozone systems for hospital laundry

After a pilot of an ozone laundry system at St. Vincent's: Langara, the health, economic and environmental benefits of ozone became obvious, particularly in terms of increasing quality (cleaner, softer laundry) and improving sustainability (less energy and water use). Providence has now made the switch to ozone at all long-term care facilities, and added an ozone machine to launder mops and rags at St. Paul's Hospital.

[Read more ▶](#)

“**While we may not give it a lot of thought, clean, sanitized laundry is an essential part of delivering effective patient and resident care every day at Providence Health Care. Ozone laundry is one more step that we are taking to reduce health care's footprint on the environment, while saving costs and improving the quality of services we deliver.**

Erick Nguyen

Contract Manager
Support Services



Shiho Ikegami, Linen and Laundry Attendant, and Patrick Hill, Coordinator, Logistics, Mount Saint Joseph, Holy Family and Long-Term Care Sites

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

► **Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future**

Appendices

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

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. If we are to continue to offer staff, volunteers and patients the very best quality of life and care possible, and support the health and well-being of our families and communities, we must all take responsibility for the environment.

As the many achievements at Providence demonstrate, much is already being done by so many. But as this report also shows, much more remains to be done. Providence 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](#).



Ramses Prado Mares, Performance Improvement Consultant and Green+Leader, Quality and Utilization Improvement

**2023
Environmental
Performance
Accountability
Report (EPAR)**

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

► Appendices

Appendix A: Our Partners

Appendix B: Graphs of Our
Progress

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

Appendix A: Our Partners



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

► Appendix A: Our Partners

Appendix B: Graphs of Our
Progress

References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

B

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 Ministry of Health Capital Services Branch

BC Patient Safety & Quality Council

Binners Project

Business Initiatives & Support Services

C

Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care

CASCADES Canada

Clinical and non-clinical direct-care staff
and leadership

Clinical dietitians

Communications

E

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environmental Services

F

Facilities Maintenance & Operations

Facilities Management Procurement

Finance

First Nations Health Authority

Food Services

FortisBC

G

GFL Environmental

H

Health Canada

Health Emergency Management BC

Health Quality BC

I

Indigenous Wellness and Reconciliation

Infection Prevention and Control

Innovation, Planning and Transformation

Integrated Protection Services, Commuter Services

L

Local and regional governments

N

National Research Council of Canada

Northern Health

Nourish Leadership

P

Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

People & Health Informatics

PHSA Procurement

PHSA Supply Chain

Projects & Planning teams

Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee

Q

Quality, Safety & Accreditation

S

Simon Fraser University

Strategic Planning & Management

U

University of British Columbia

W

Waste Management

Workplace Health & Safety

**2023
Environmental
Performance
Accountability
Report (EPAR)**

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting
Targets and Measuring
Results

Our Actions: Finding
Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want,
Now and in the Future

Appendices

Appendix A: Our Partners

▶ Appendix B: Graphs of Our
Progress

References

RELATED REPORTS

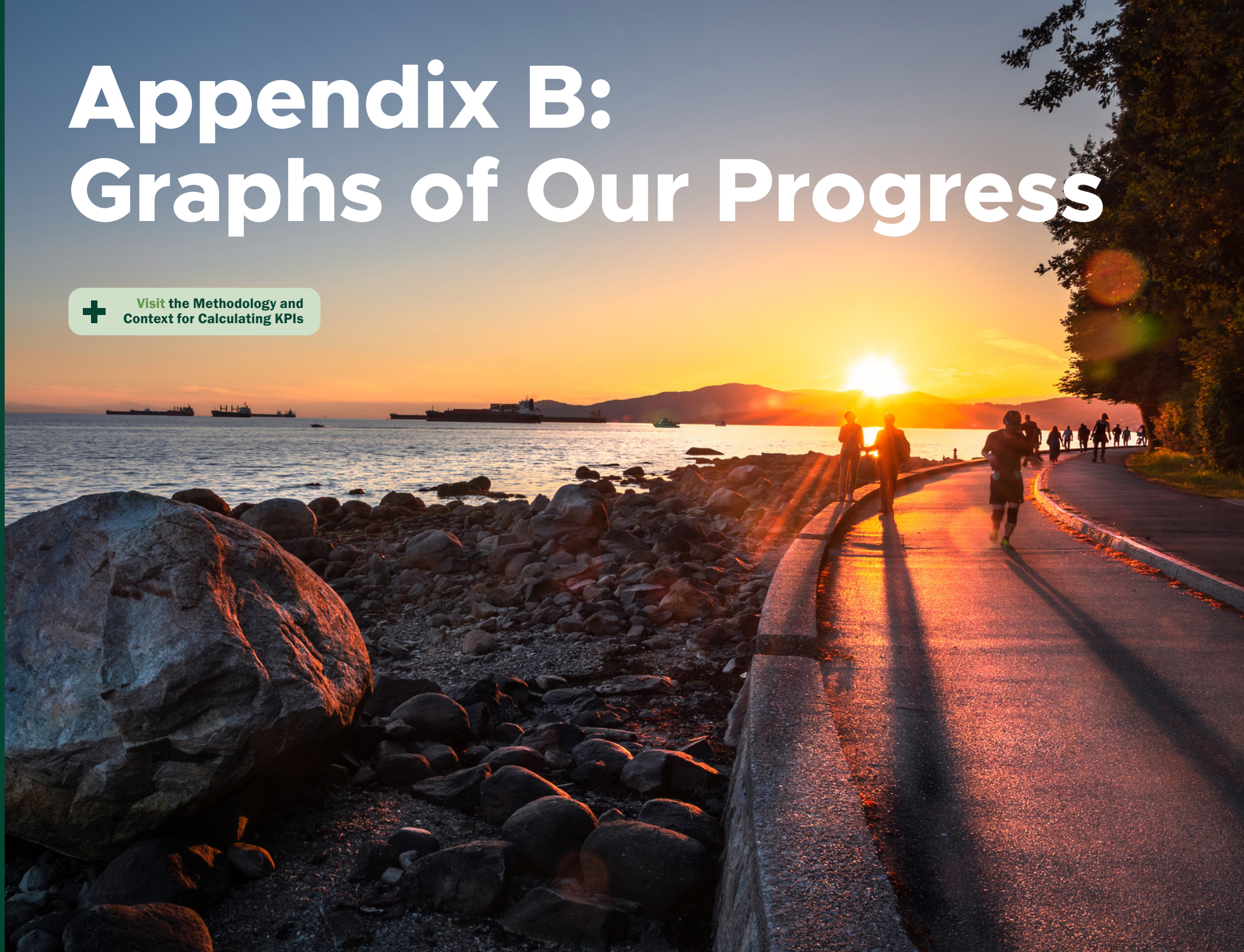
PHC Climate Change
Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress



Visit the Methodology and
Context for Calculating KPIs



2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

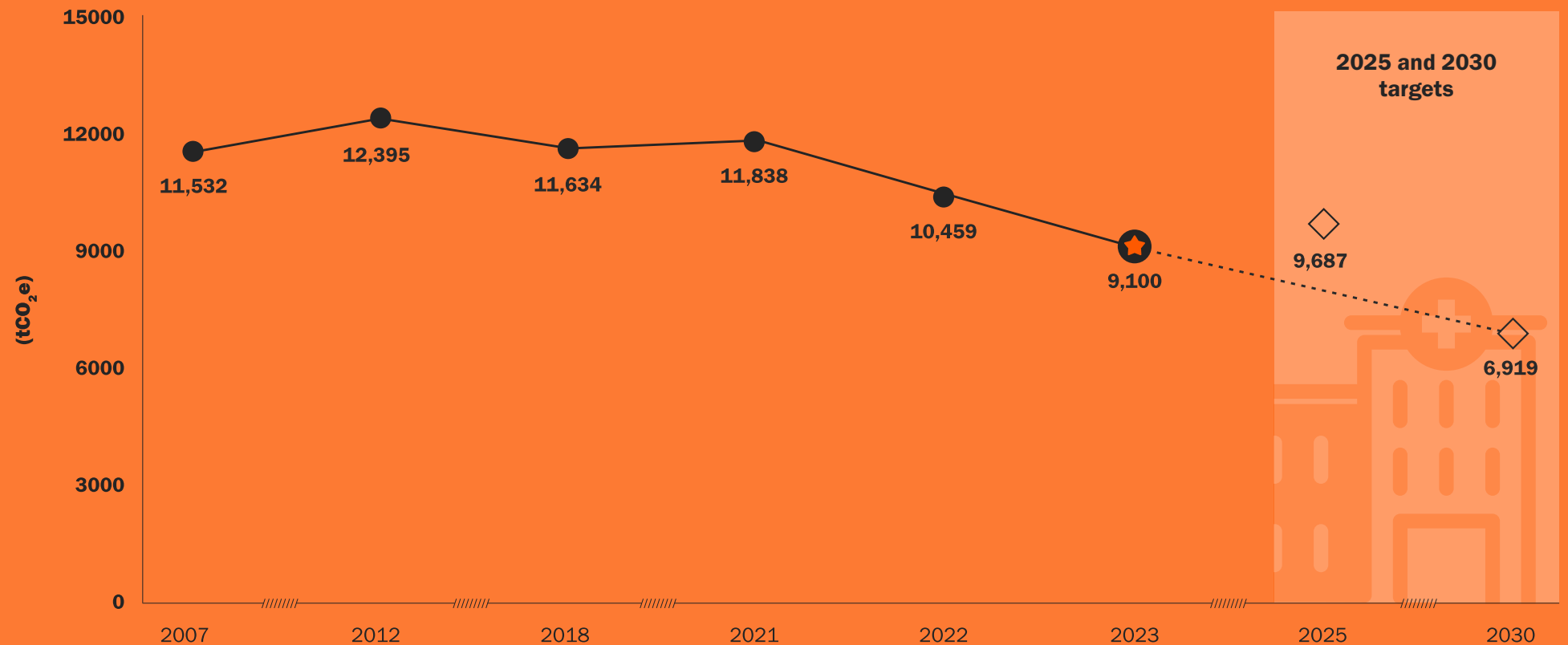
RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

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



GHG emissions have **decreased by 21%** since 2007, surpassing our **2025 target**.



NEXT GRAPH

GO BACK TO DASHBOARD

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

Appendix A: Our Partners

Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress

References

RELATED REPORTS

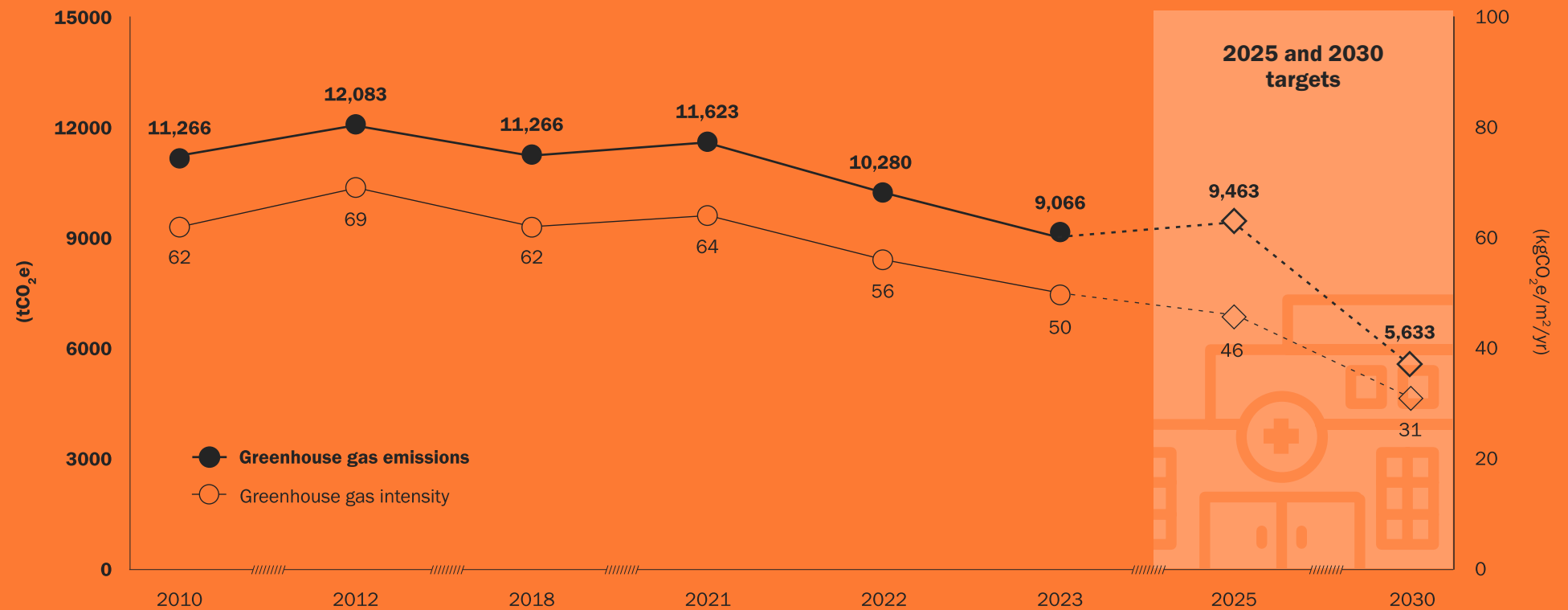
PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

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

GHG emissions from buildings have **decreased by 20%** since 2010.

GHG emissions generated per floor area have **decreased by 19%** since 2010.



[NEXT GRAPH](#)

[GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

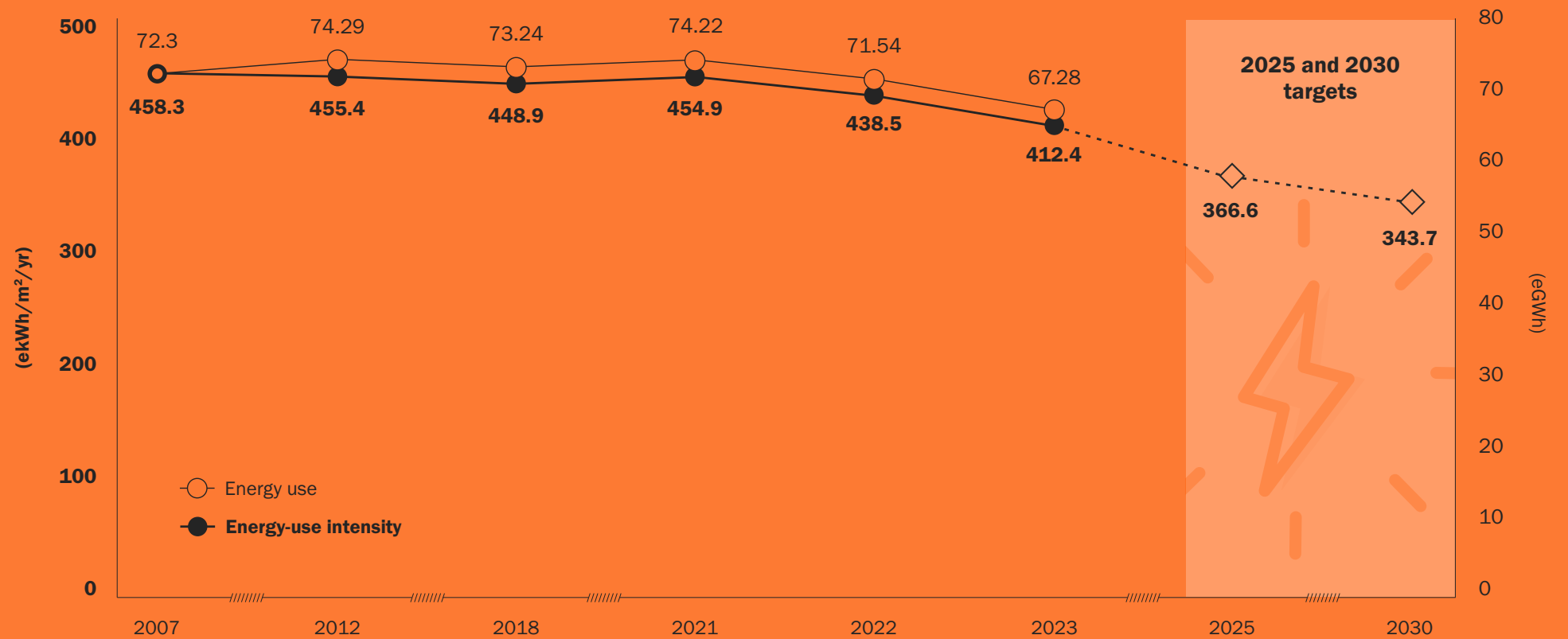
RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Energy Use and Intensity

Energy use has **decreased by 7%** since 2007.

Energy-use intensity per floor area has **decreased by 10%** since 2007.



[+ GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

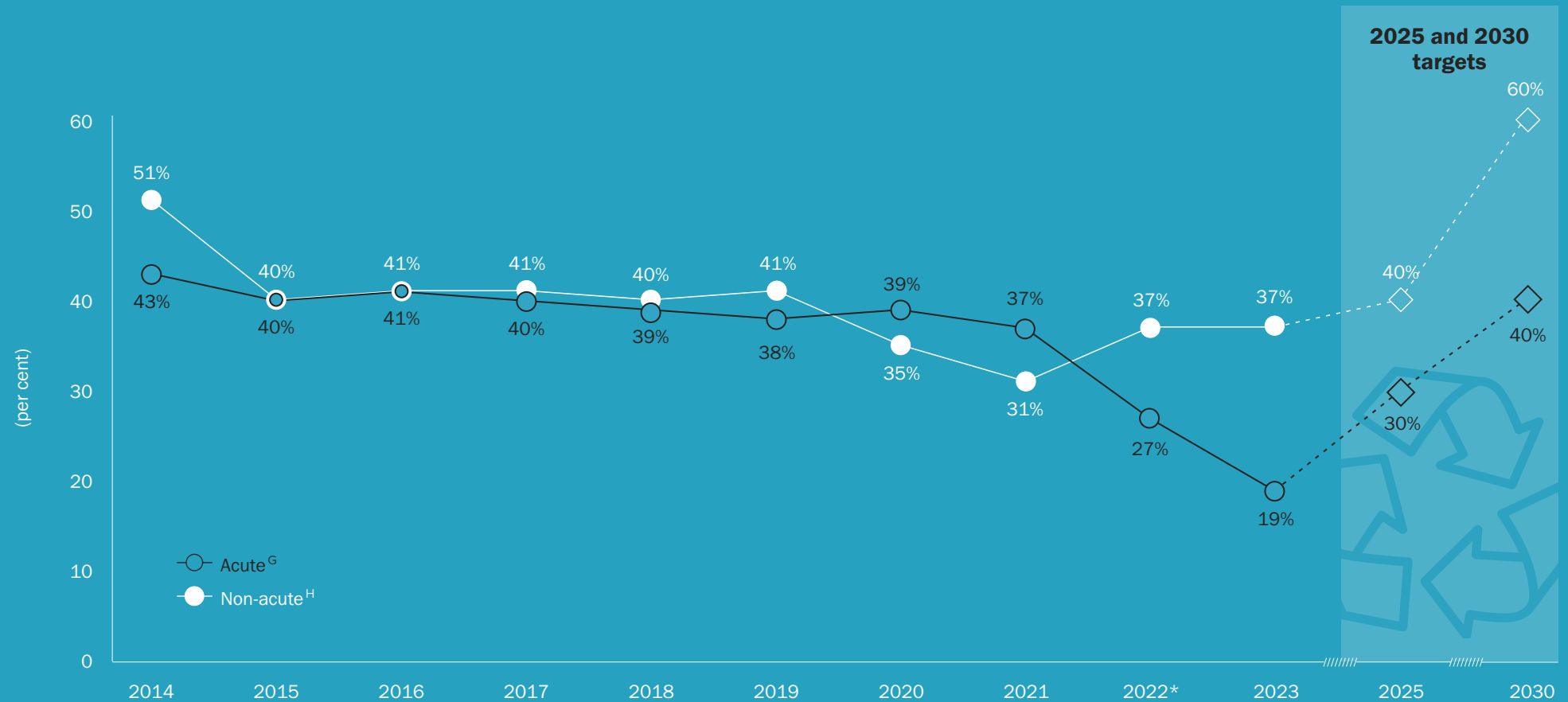
RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Recycling Rates

At **acute** care sites, we are **21%** away from our **2030 target**.

At **non-acute** sites, we are **23%** away from our **2030 target**.



[NEXT GRAPH](#)

[GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

* 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.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

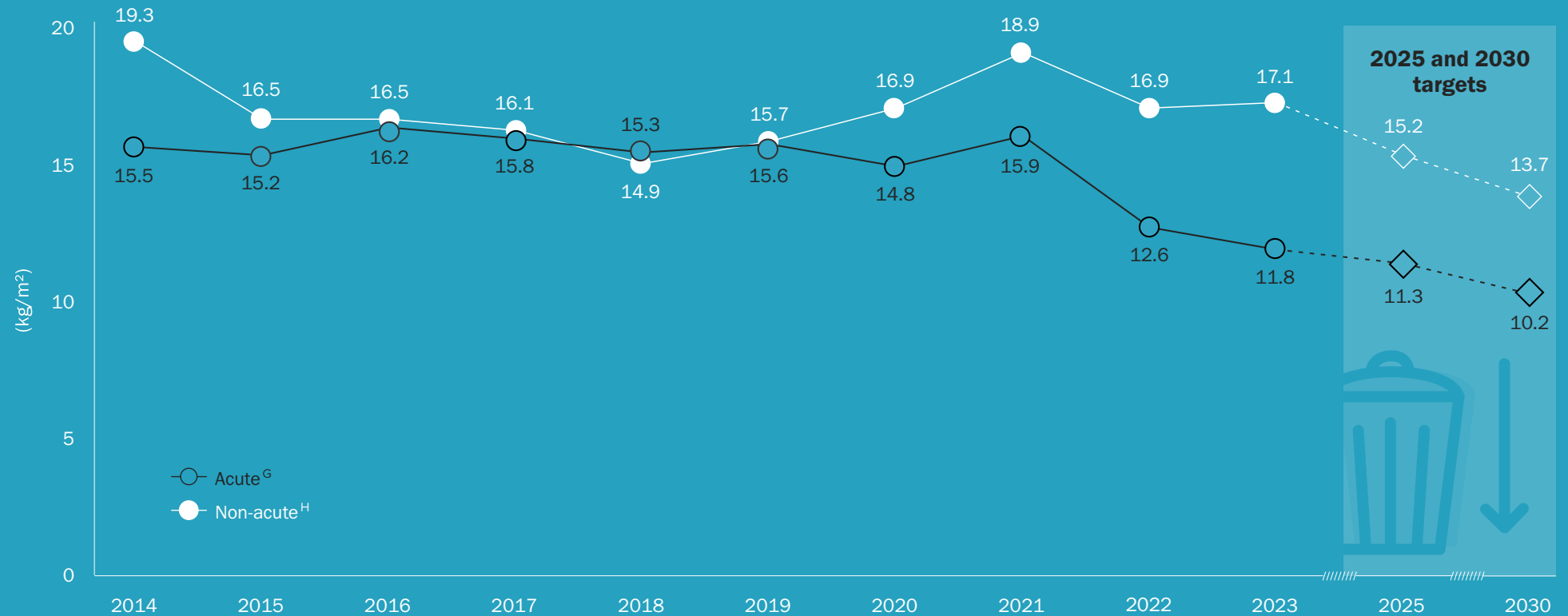
RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Waste Generation Per Floor Area

At **acute** care sites, we are **14%** away from our **2030 target**.

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



[+ GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Staff Commuting

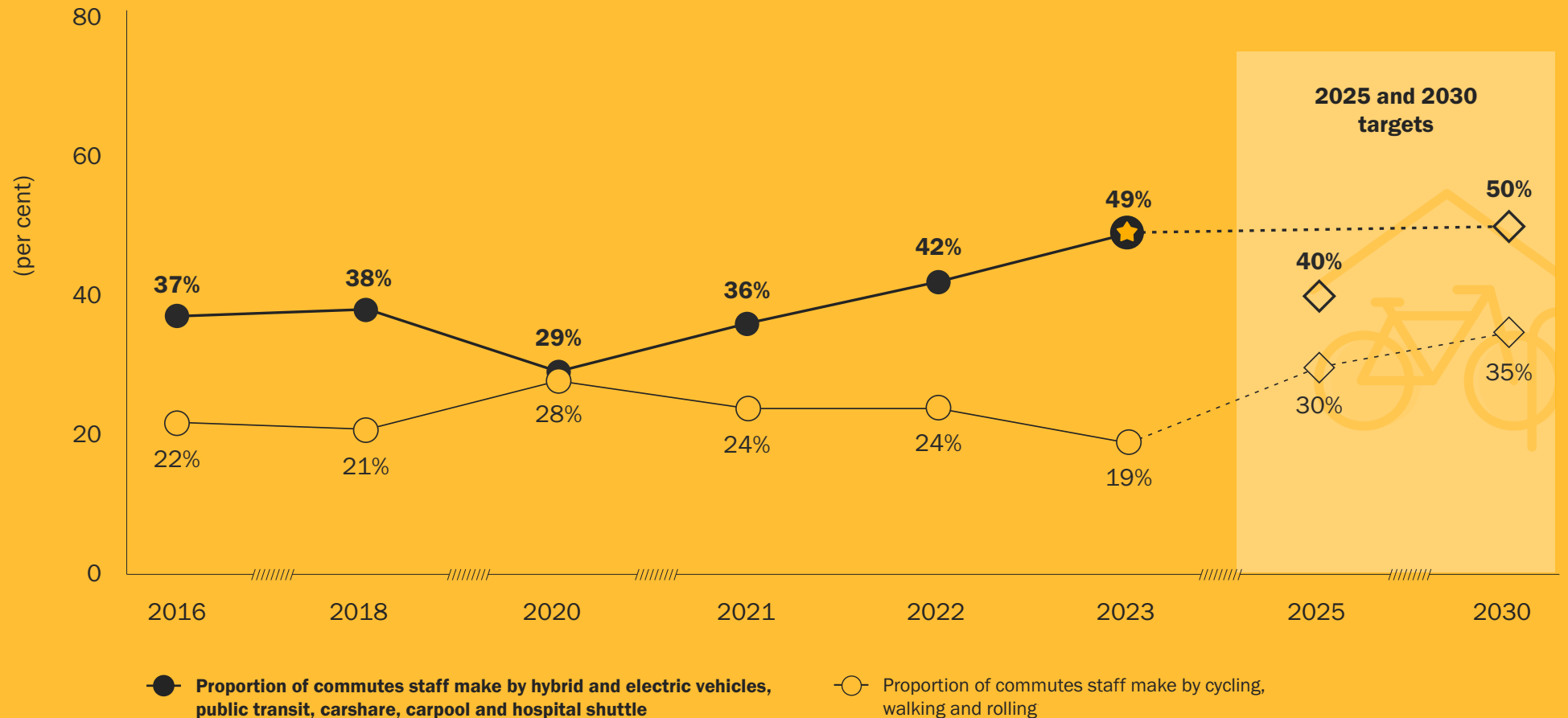
Staff commuting by cycling, walking and rolling is

16% away from the **2030 target**.



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

1% away from the **2030 target**, and has surpassed our **2025 target**.



[+ GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story
- Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results
- Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together
- Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Our Partners
 - Appendix B: Graphs of Our Progress
- References

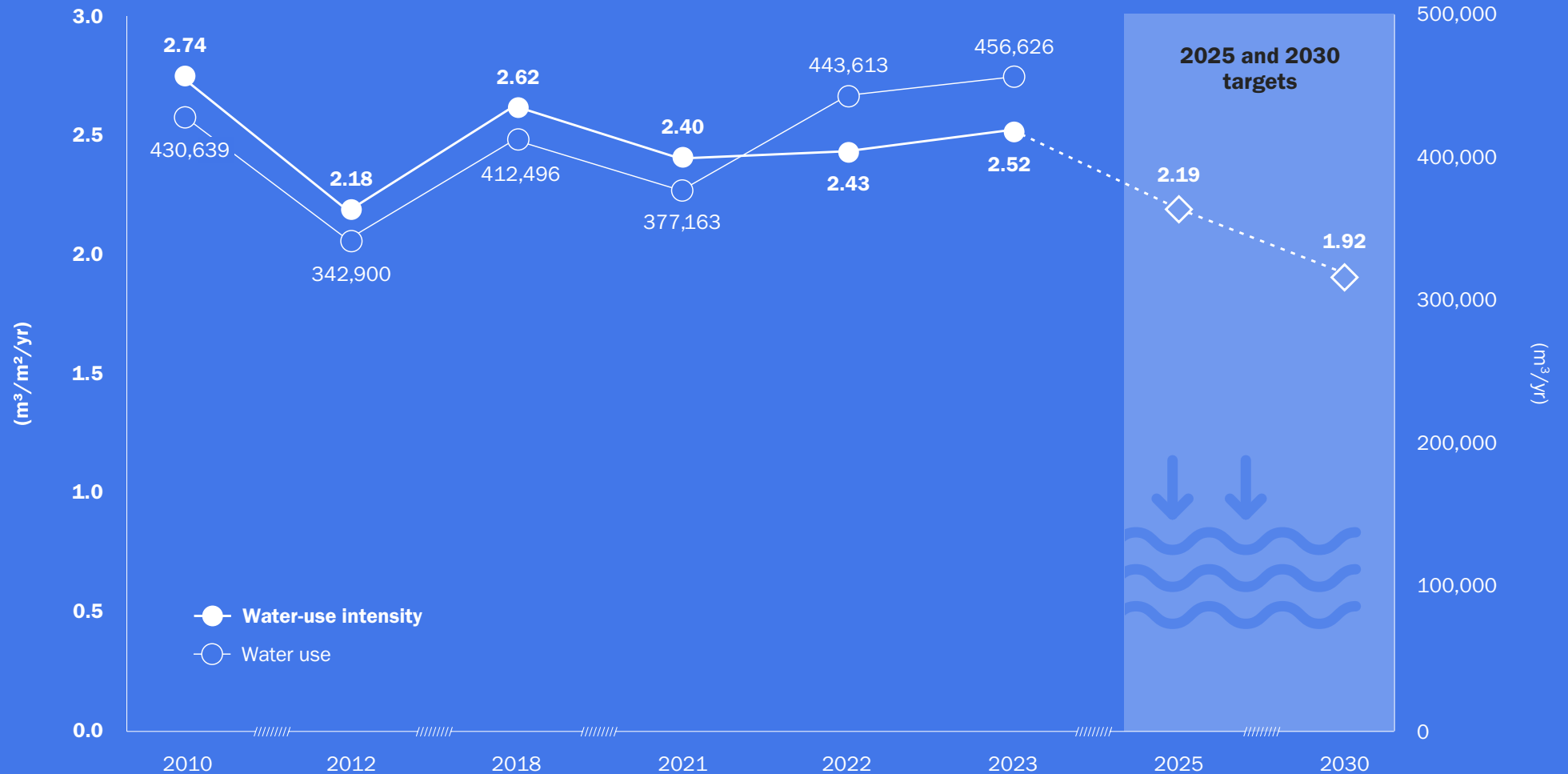
RELATED REPORTS

- PHC Climate Change Accountability Report
- Green+Leaders Annual Report

Water Use and Intensity

Water use has increased by **6%** since 2010.

Water-use intensity has increased by **6%** since 2010.*



[GO BACK TO DASHBOARD](#)

* 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.

2023 Environmental Performance Accountability Report (EPAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story

Our Progress: Setting Targets and Measuring Results

Our Actions: Finding Solutions Together

Writing the Story We Want, Now and in the Future

Appendices

► References

RELATED REPORTS

PHC Climate Change Accountability Report

Green+Leaders Annual Report

References

- A** Natural Resources Canada - Office of Energy Efficiency - Demand Policy and Analysis Division. Greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator [Internet]. Government of Canada; 2017 [cited 2024 June 8]. Available from: <https://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/corporate/statistics/neud/dpa/calculator/ghg-calculator.cfm#results>
- B** The GreenCare survey is an annual survey (biennial prior to 2020) for all staff working within Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health. The survey collects information on 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 needs.
- C** Information sources for buildings: ARCHIBUS and Providence Real Estate Team
- D** Full-time equivalent 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)
- E** Canadian Green Building Council
- F** In 2023, Providence-owned facilities included in energy metering were:
- Holy Family Hospital
 - Mount Saint Joseph's Hospital
 - St. Paul's Hospital
- G** Providence acute care included in waste-related key performance indicators are:
- Mount Saint Joseph Hospital
 - St. Paul's Hospital
- H** Providence non-acute sites included in waste-related key performance indicators are:
- Holy Family Hospital
 - St. Vincent's: Brock Fahrni
 - St. Vincent's: Honoria Conway - Heather
 - St. Vincent's: Langara
 - Youville Residence
- I** In 2023, Providence-owned facilities included in water metering were:
- Holy Family Hospital
 - Mount Saint Joseph's Hospital
 - St. Paul's Hospital
 - St. Vincent's: Brock Fahrni
 - St. Vincent's: Heather
 - St. Vincent's: Langara
 - Youville Residence
- J** 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.
- St. Vincent's: Brock Fahrni
 - St. Vincent's: Heather
 - St. Vincent's: Langara
 - Youville Residence

- K** 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.
- L** Environmental impact of personal protective equipment distributed for use by health and social care services in England in the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chantelle Rizan, Malcolm Reed, and Mahmood F Bhutta. Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine 2021 114:5, 250-263

2024 GreenCare. All rights reserved.

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

Unless otherwise noted, all materials may be freely reproduced in part or in full, provided that the source is acknowledged.

Suggested citation:

Providence Health Care Environmental Performance Accountability Report 2023 (2024). Energy and Environmental Sustainability, British Columbia, Canada.

For further information contact:

Sonja Janousek
Environmental Sustainability Manager
sonja.janousek@vch.ca



**Providence
Health Care**



GreenCare™