

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report



Carbon Neutral





**DECLARATION STATEMENT**

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This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2024 to minimize our GHG emissions and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2025 and beyond.

**AUTHORS**

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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 Vancouver Coastal Health.

**COLLABORATORS**

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In particular, we'd like to acknowledge the contributions of the Healthy Environments and Climate Change team, the Sustainable Clinical Services team, Communications, Transformation team, Food Services, the Contracts Management office, Facilities Management, PHSA Procurement and Supply Chain, Transportation Services, Green+Leaders and many others named throughout this report.

**2025 Energy and Environmental Sustainability team.  
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# Recognizing Indigenous Nations and Communities

We respectfully acknowledge that Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) facilities are located on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. VCH is committed to delivering exceptional care to the people we serve, including the First Nations, Métis and Inuit within the traditional territories of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv and Xa'xtsa.

Indigenous Peoples have served as the original stewards of the land since time immemorial, protecting land and water as sources of sustainable food systems, traditional medicines and community identity.

Today, Indigenous Peoples in B.C. are often uniquely and disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. Destruction of the land can affect personal and community identity, disrupt cultural practices and ceremony, and affect food sovereignty and security; all of which are integral to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health and well-being.

We know there is much to be learned about environmental stewardship from these nations and communities, and VCH is committed to being collaborative partners in stewardship to build a better future for our patients, residents and clients, and for our planet.



2024 Vancouver  
Coastal Health  
Climate Change  
Accountability  
Report (CCAR)

NAVIGATION

- Table of Contents
- Executive Message
- Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health
- Our Progress: Tracking the Journey
- Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action
- Our Partners
- 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table
- References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

Table of Contents

Executive Message	3
Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health	4
Our Progress: Tracking the Journey	5
Energy and Carbon	7
Transportation	11
Waste	13
Water	16
Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action	18
Buildings	19
Fleet Vehicles and Transportation	20
Paper	21
Refrigerants	21
Climate Risk Management	22
Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health	23
Our Partners	25
2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table	27
References	28



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**. **References are also linked for easy access.**

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

► Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



## Executive Message

I am pleased to present the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) 2024 Climate Change Accountability Report.

The health of our people, communities, and planet are deeply interconnected, and VCH remains committed to embedding planetary health principles into everything we do—from business practices and facility management, to care delivery and supporting climate mitigation initiatives in the communities we serve.

In 2024, we introduced our first five-year [Planetary Health Strategy 2024–2029](#), a critical roadmap guiding how we will reduce emissions, build resilient infrastructure, and improve health outcomes through sustainable care.

A key component of our planetary health efforts is reducing emissions. In 2024, our greenhouse gas emission offsets from buildings, vehicles, paper and refrigerants totalled 41,912 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a 3.6 per cent decrease in offsets from the previous year. To balance these emissions and meet our Carbon Neutral Government Regulation,

we will invest \$1,104,548 in carbon offsets. While these reported emissions meet British Columbia’s requirements, we recognize they represent only a fraction of health care’s total environmental impact. We are actively partnering with other health and community organizations and experts to address broader climate challenges and advance system-wide solutions.

We are also working to ensure our facilities and communities are prepared for the impacts of a changing climate. This year, we expanded our climate vulnerability assessments, completing detailed reviews for two long-term care facilities in Sechelt and six buildings in Richmond. These assessments informed a new resilience framework for all VCH sites, which we have started implementing to guide future planning and investments.

Building on lessons learned from past climate events, we have strengthened our emergency supports for extreme heat events by expanding organizational readiness and developing innovative

ways to reach and protect vulnerable populations. This includes advancing low-carbon cooling strategies to future-proof our infrastructure and creating proactive check-in systems using phone calls, texts and other technologies to support at-risk individuals during climate emergencies.

Together, we are reducing our environmental impact and delivering resilient, sustainable care that supports the health of people and the planet. In the year ahead, we will continue to lead by example, strengthening our partnerships and accelerating our climate actions for a healthier, more resilient future.



**Vivian Eliopoulos**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

► Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORTS

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

VCH is committed to embedding planetary health principles of environmental sustainability and climate resilience in all we do, from changing business practices and how we manage our facilities, to moving toward reusable medical supplies and low carbon care delivery, to supporting opportunities for staff and medical staff to improve sustainability in their own units.

Our four pillars—Indigenous Cultural Safety; Anti-Racism; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and Planetary Health—uphold our commitment to delivering safe, quality care and guide our focus on taking an equity-led, intersectional approach to caring for our people and our planet.

Incorporating these pillars across VCH requires both organizational policy and process changes to change the system, and strong leadership and support to help staff and medical staff take action and make individual-level behaviour change.

Our work must incorporate equity and justice lenses, and we are committed to leading our planetary health work in an equity-informed way, and working closely with the teams who lead our anti-racism; equity, diversity and inclusion; and Indigenous cultural safety work to integrate these perspectives into all planetary health initiatives.

Together, we are all committed to transforming our systems and services to decrease our environmental footprint and build sustainable, low carbon and resilient health systems that support the health of people and the planet.

VCH IS WORKING TOWARDS THREE GOALS:



Reduce health-care emissions and achieve zero unnecessary waste.



Create a climate-resilient system able to withstand acute shocks and chronic stressors.



Support communities in both mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts.





NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver  
Coastal Health's  
Commitment  
to Planetary Health

► Our Progress: Tracking  
the Journey

Energy and Carbon

Transportation

Waste

Water

Our Leadership:  
Collaborative and  
Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and  
Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Vancouver Coastal Health's commitment to sustainability goes beyond our regulatory requirements, as we look for opportunities to improve across our operations. We are taking steps to include other impact areas, developing innovative solutions that position us as leaders in health care and delivering solutions for the communities we serve.



# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

► Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

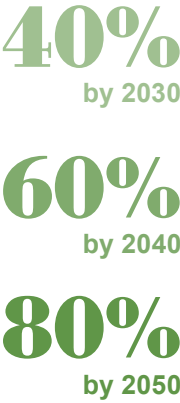
References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

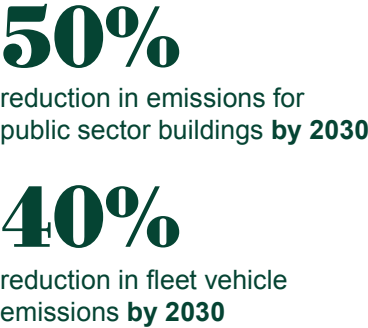
### Regulatory Guidance

B.C. public sector organizations like Vancouver Coastal Health are expected to prepare for the impacts of climate change and do their part to protect the environment by following government requirements and meeting set goals. [The Climate Change Accountability Act](#) sets ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets (from a 2007 baseline) for public sector organizations:



These targets include emissions from owned and leased buildings, the use of fleet vehicles, paper consumption and refrigerants.

The provincial government's [CleanBC Plan and Roadmap](#) sets even more aggressive targets (from a 2010 baseline):

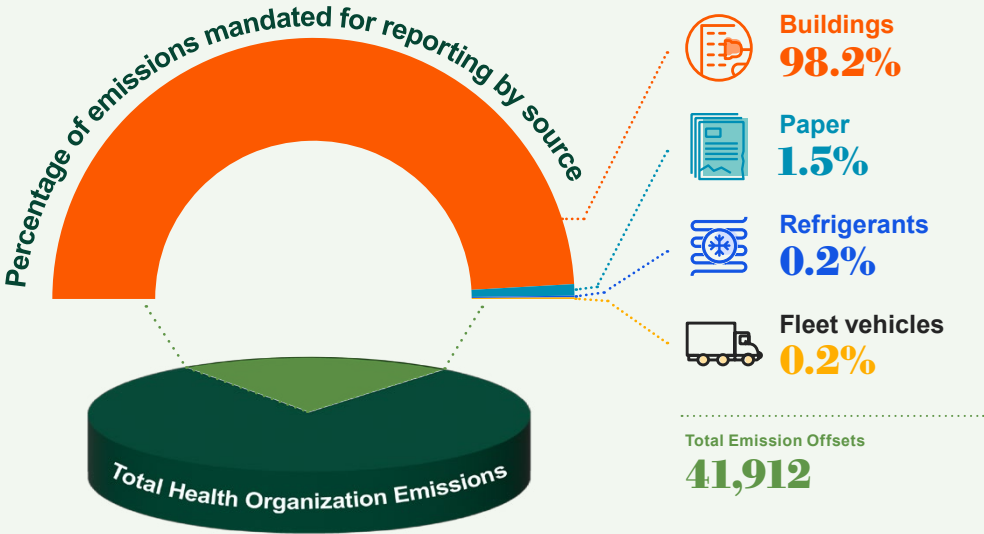


## Health Care Opportunities to Increase Impact

As a leader in environmentally sustainable and high-quality, low carbon, resilient care, Vancouver Coastal Health recognizes that meaningful climate action extends beyond in-scope emissions reporting. Our goal is not simply to meet regulatory requirements, but to lead by example within the health care sector. B.C.'s [Climate Change Accountability Act](#) (CCAA) mandates reducing emissions from buildings, fleet vehicles, paper and refrigerants. These sources do not represent health care's total environmental impact.

By [tracking key performance indicators](#) in energy use, GHG emissions, waste, transportation and water, we are developing innovative solutions to understand and reduce our organizational footprint. This year we're enhancing our emissions tracking with a new methodology for reporting fugitive emissions from refrigerant assets, such as heating, cooling, ventilation and medical equipment.

### 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health GHG Emissions



\*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Energy and Carbon

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)		2024 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Regulatory Guidance	To meet the CCAA target, decrease total GHG emissions from owned and leased buildings, fleet vehicles, paper use and refrigerants from 2007 levels (% change of tCO <sub>2</sub> e*/year)	16%	16% 	40% 
	To meet the CleanBC target, decrease total GHG emissions from owned and leased buildings from 2010 levels (% change of tCO <sub>2</sub> e/year)	8%	16% 	50% 
	Decrease the amount of GHG emissions generated per floor area of owned and leased buildings from 2010 levels (% change of tCO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	25%	40% 	50% 
	Decrease the amount of energy used per floor area of owned buildings <sup>A</sup> from 2007 levels (% change of kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	11%	15% 	25% 

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

\* tCO<sub>2</sub>e refers to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.





NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

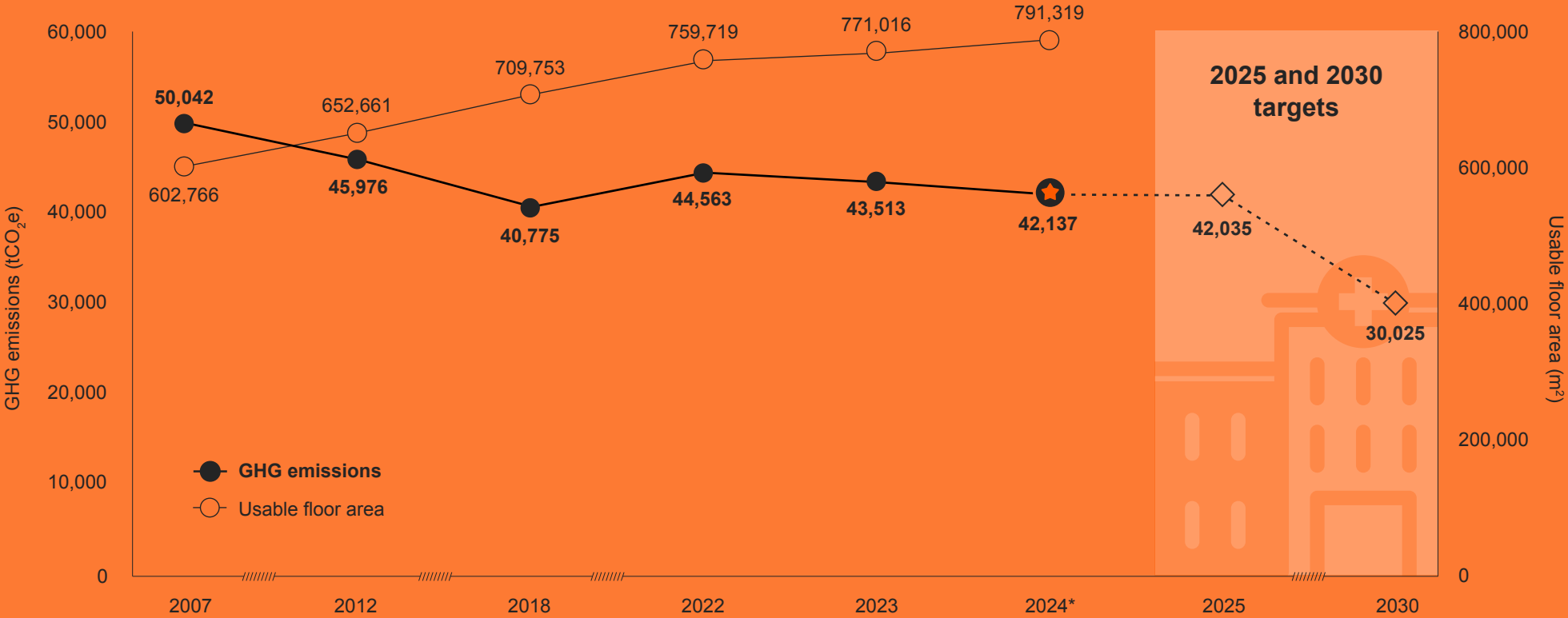
RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

GHG Emissions (Owned and Leased Buildings, Fleet, Paper and Refrigerants) and Usable Floor Area



GHG emissions have decreased by **16%** since 2007, meeting the 2025 target.



\* 2024 is the first year refrigerants are included in reported emissions data.



# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

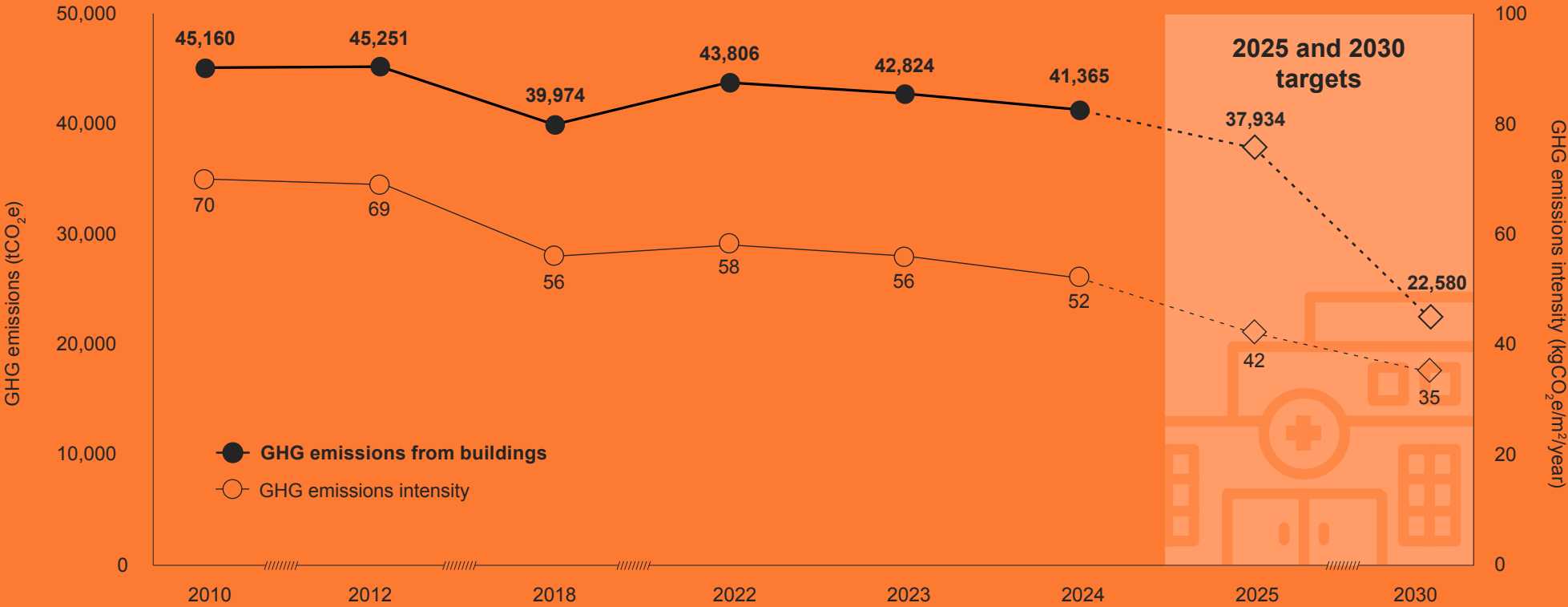
## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# GHG Emissions and Intensity (Buildings Only, Owned and Leased)

GHG emissions from buildings have decreased by **8%** since 2010.

GHG emissions generated per floor area have decreased by **25%** since 2010.





2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

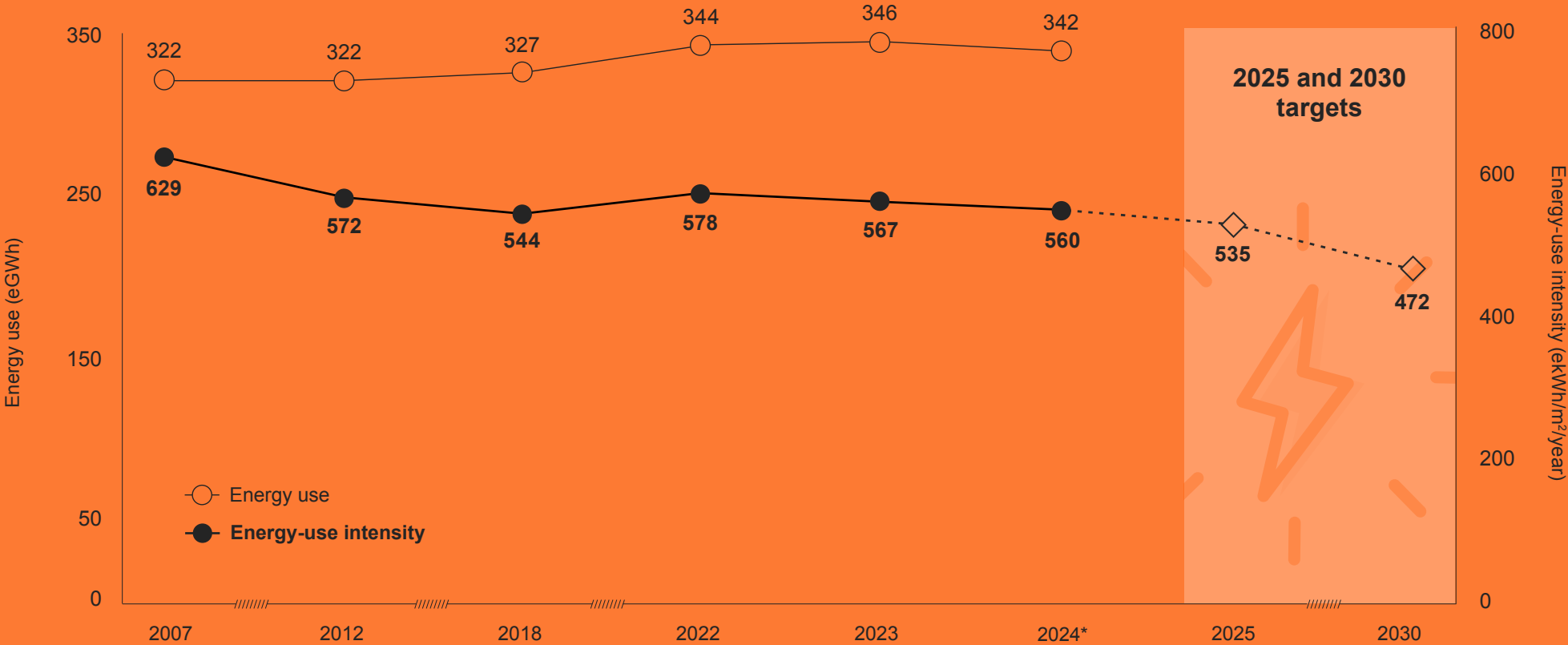
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Green+Leaders Annual Report

Energy Use and Intensity

Energy use has increased by **6%** since 2007.

Energy use per floor area has decreased by **11%** since 2007.



\* In 2024, VCH added three sites, consequently increasing usable floor area and energy use.



2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- ▶ Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



Transportation

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2024 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase staff commuting by cycling, walking, rolling* and all other active transportation (% commutes, annual average)***	20%	25% ◆	30% ◆
Increase staff commuting by public transit, car share, carpool, low-emission vehicles** and hospital shuttle (% commutes, annual average)***	46%	40% ■	45% ■

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

\* E.g. wheelchair, seated electric scooter.  
\*\* E.g. electric and hybrid vehicles.  
\*\*\* Data from the 2025 GreenCare survey.<sup>B</sup>



The Cycling Centre at Vancouver General Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

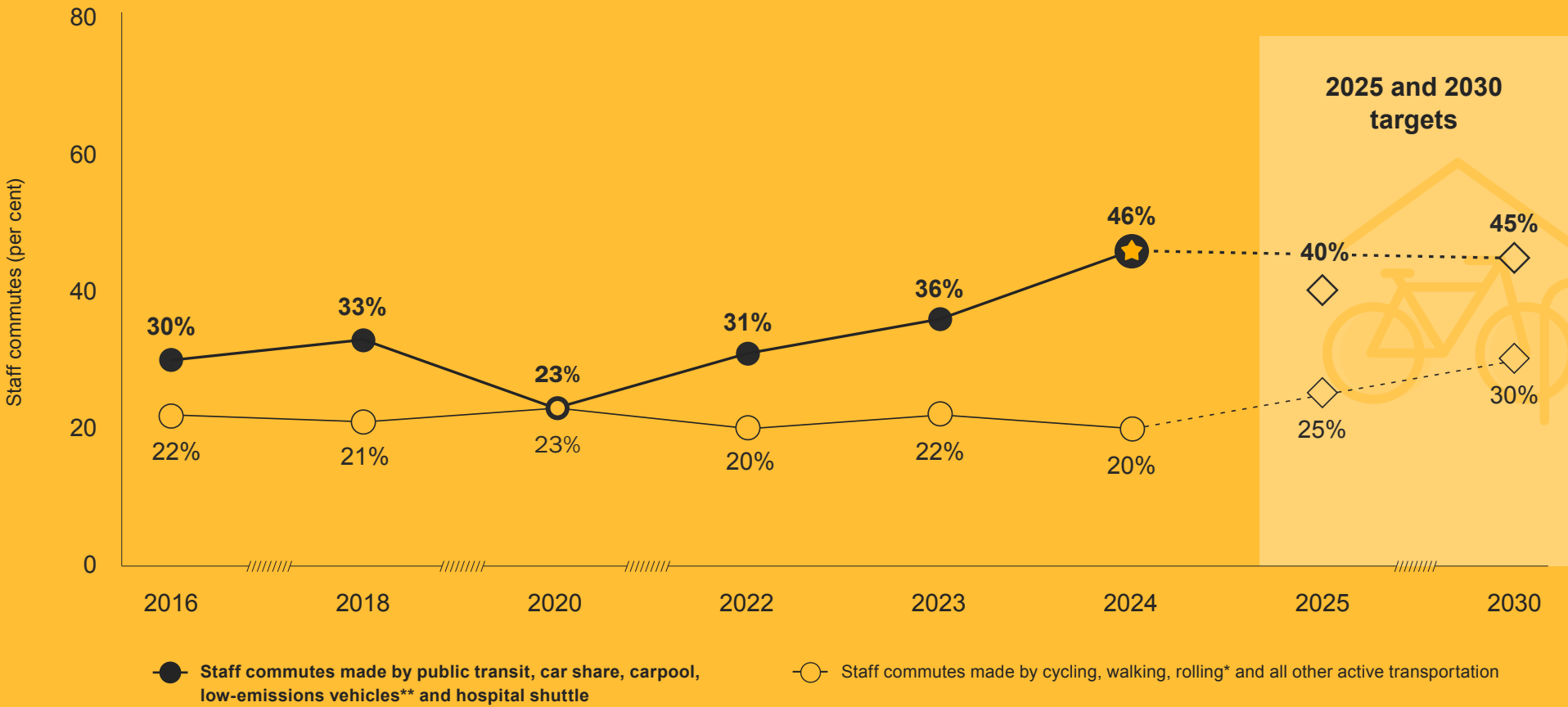
Staff Commuting

Staff commuting by cycling, walking and rolling is

10% away from the 2030 target.



Staff commuting by public transit, car share, carpool, low-emission vehicles and hospital shuttle has surpassed the 2030 target.



\* E.g. wheelchair, seated electric scooter.

\*\* E.g. electric and hybrid vehicles.



# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Energy and Carbon

Transportation

► Waste

Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

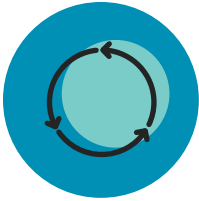
Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



## Waste

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)*	2024 Results**	2025 Target	2030 Target
Increase waste recycled or composted in acute care owned sites <sup>Ⓒ</sup> (% recycled, annual average)	<b>28%</b>	33% ◆	40% ◆
Increase waste recycled or composted in non-acute care owned sites <sup>Ⓒ</sup> (% recycled, annual average)	<b>48%</b>	45% ■	60% ◆
Decrease waste generated per floor area in acute care owned sites (kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	<b>14.7</b>	9.3 ●	8.4 ◆
Decrease waste generated per floor area in non-acute care owned sites (kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	<b>12.4</b>	11.9 ■	10.7 ■



Hospital waste at Urban Impact recycling depot

- On track to meet target
- ◆ Minimal or slow progress toward 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 VCH does not have oversight.

\*\* The waste portfolio reported is expanding, which will require our targets to be re-evaluated in 2025. At a provincial level there is work on standardizing waste metrics, which may influence how we report waste moving forward.

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

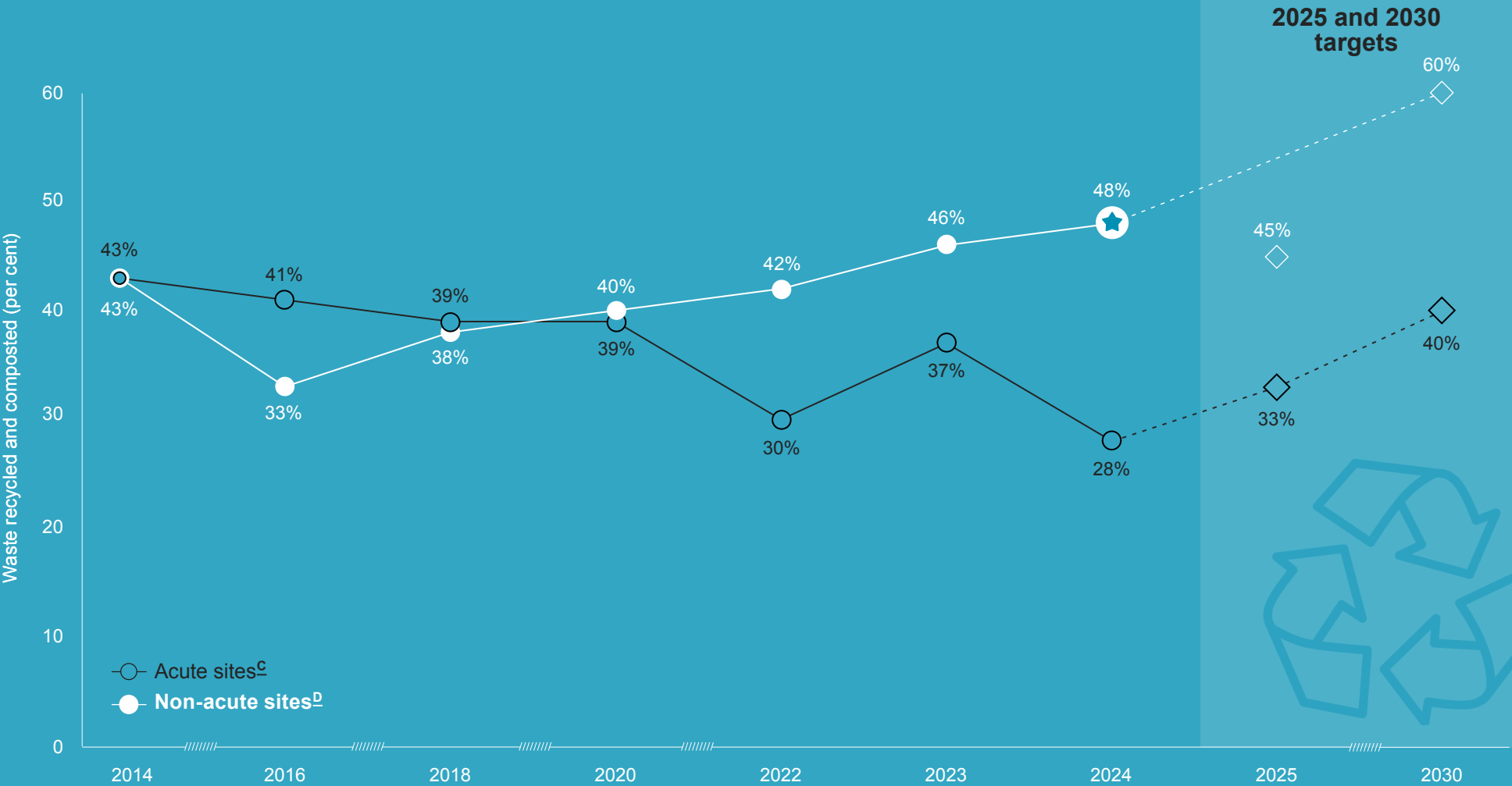
## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Recycling Rates

## Understanding Our Recycling Rates

Some sites still face challenges with local municipalities accepting mixed recycling due to pandemic-related disruptions. Provincial working groups are exploring solutions, with impacted sites listed in [Reference C](#). To address these pauses, innovative recycling streams have been piloted and funded across health authorities. Long-standing programs such as furniture, e-waste and battery recycling continue to contribute positively to our overall diversion rate. More recently, newer streams like PPE and Styrofoam recycling have been introduced to further expand our impact.





NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

Waste Generation Per Floor Area

Explaining Our Waste Data

Targets for waste generation per floor area were historically based on organics, recycling and general waste streams. With new data for biomedical and additional recycling streams available in 2024, these results are not directly comparable to previous years. Adjustments may be made in 2025 to account for the expanded waste portfolio.



# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- ▶ Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table




References




## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



## Water

Key Performance Indicator (Metric)	2024 Results	2025 Target	2030 Target
Decrease the amount of water used per floor area in owned  buildings from 2010 levels (% change of m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> /year)	25%	25% 	35% 

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



Lions Gate Hospital water-saving toilet valve



2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

- Energy and Carbon
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

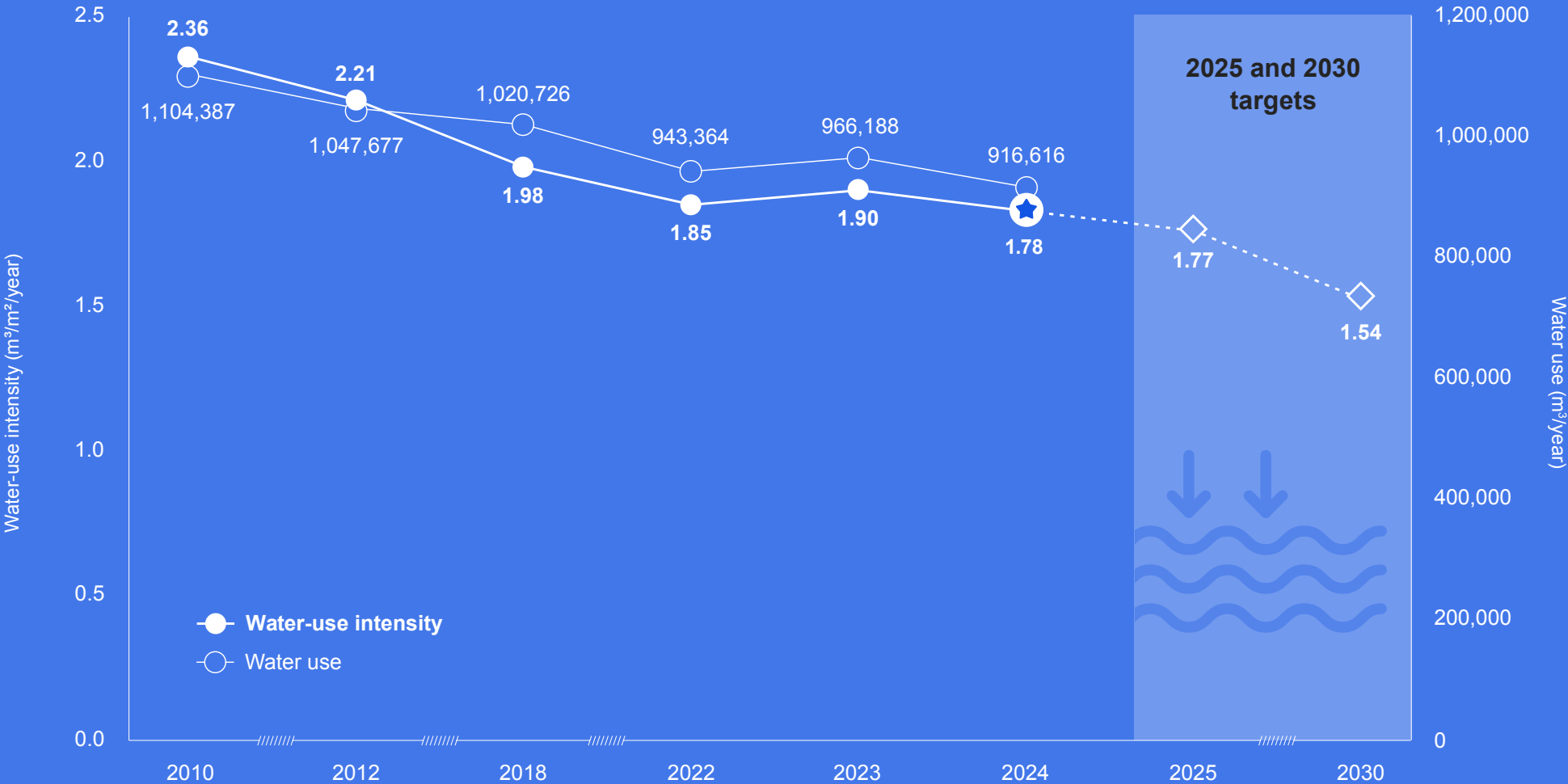
Green+Leaders Annual Report

Water Use and Intensity

Water use has decreased by **14%** since 2010.



Water-use intensity has decreased by **25%** since 2010, and has met the 2025 target.\*



\* Water use is not metered in all areas of facility space, which explains the difference in facility space noted in the energy and carbon metrics.

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver  
Coastal Health's  
Commitment  
to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking  
the Journey

► Our Leadership:  
Collaborative and  
Integrated Action

Buildings

Fleet Vehicles  
and Transportation

Paper

Refrigerants

Climate Risk Management

Transforming Patient Care  
with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and  
Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Vancouver Coastal Health embraces planetary health through initiatives that reduce emissions, enhance climate resilience and improve our operational practices. We're committed to responding to evolving climate challenges while maintaining our exceptional standards for care. These highlights showcase our recent progress.





NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

- ▶ Buildings
  - Fleet Vehicles and Transportation
  - Paper
  - Refrigerants
  - Climate Risk Management
  - Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



# Buildings

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

- ▶ **Emissions reduction projects**  
Initiated four energy and emissions reduction projects across hospital campuses, including Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital. These initiatives are projected to decrease annual natural gas consumption by 33,476 gigajoules and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,679 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- ▶ **Planetary health by design**  
Completed construction on the new Paul Myers Tower at Lions Gate Hospital, which was built with planetary health in mind. Features include anesthetic gas capture, portable nitrous oxide delivery, cycling facilities, heat recovery chiller and a rooftop garden.
- ▶ **LEED portfolio expanded**  
Achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification in 2024 for Dogwood Care Home. Four VCH buildings are now LEED certified, meeting the global green building standard for sustainable design and operations.
- ▶ **Energy efficiency improvements at Minoru Residence**  
Upgraded a building control system and lighting at Minoru Residence for energy efficiency. The control optimization project will deliver electrical savings of 54,924 kilowatt-hours, gas savings of 4,080 gigajoules and an emissions reduction of 202.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually. Additionally, the lighting upgrade project is expected to deliver around 65,000 kilowatt-hours in electrical savings annually.

Spanning **196 buildings—83 per cent owned, 17 per cent leased**<sup>E</sup>—Vancouver Coastal Health ensures that B.C. residents have access to a network of high-quality specialized health-care services, with more than 29,000 staff and medical staff delivering an exceptional care experience for all.

Vancouver Coastal Health has **4 LEED-certified buildings**<sup>G</sup>, demonstrating leadership in environmental design and sustainability. These buildings total **39,978m<sup>2</sup>** of green health care infrastructure.

- ▶ **Richmond Hospital energy projects**  
Optimized building control systems at Richmond Hospital's South Tower, saving 334,374 kilowatt-hours annually in electricity, saving 3,174 gigajoules annually in gas and reducing emissions by 161.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually. The ongoing heat recovery capital project at the site enhances heating, ventilation and cooling performance, increasing cooling capacity and improving temperature control. It will reduce natural gas use by 14,745 gigajoules annually and cut emissions by 723 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.
- ▶ **Low carbon resilience**  
Completed low carbon resilience studies at Totem Lodge and Shorncliffe Intermediate Care Facility to integrate a climate-action lens to the site assessments.

## PLANS MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ Partnering with Facilities Maintenance and Operations teams to identify ways to integrate energy and emissions reduction strategies and support optimization of infrastructure and equipment.
- ▶ Seeking and implementing a combination of low-emission designs for new construction and aggressive energy retrofits to existing facilities, in collaboration with internal and external partners.
- ▶ Making system-level changes and shifting to lower-impact facilities as we renew our energy infrastructure and assets.
- ▶ Developing a low carbon resilience roadmap to inform decision-making processes for lowering carbon emissions while enhancing resilience to climate risks and the quality of indoor environment for staff and patients.

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Buildings

▶ Fleet Vehicles and Transportation

Paper

Refrigerants

Climate Risk Management

Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



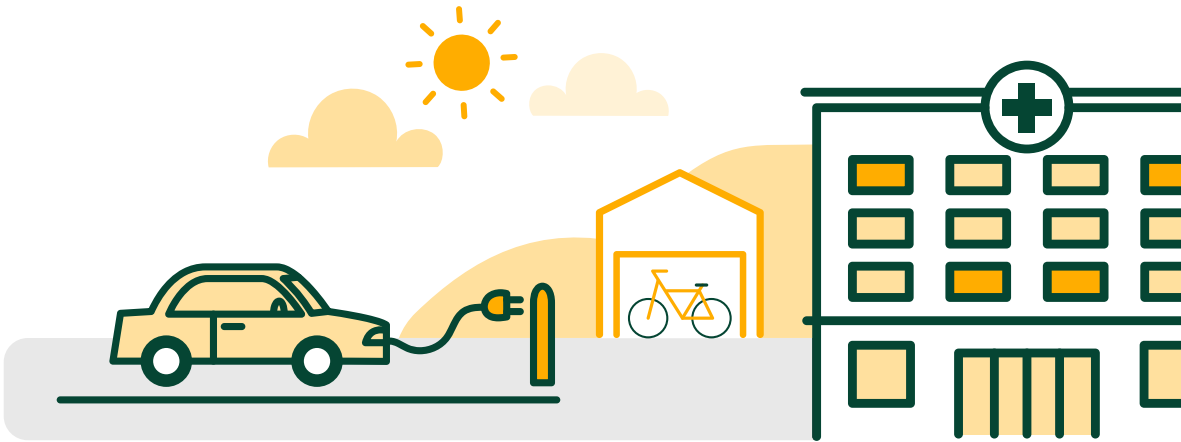
# Fleet Vehicles and Transportation

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

- ▶ **Regional electric vehicle (EV) charging framework**  
Launched the Regional EV Charging Station Framework establishing clear roles, responsibilities and processes for installing EV charging stations across four health organizations, creating a foundation for sustainable transportation infrastructure and supporting emissions reduction goals.
- ▶ **EV charging expansion**  
Completed the EV Charging Station Expansion Project, adding 24 new charging stations and bringing the total to 83 across VCH. The expansion improves staff access to EV charging, particularly along the Sea to Sky corridor and the Sunshine Coast. A partnership with BC Hydro also enabled the installation of a level 3 charging station at Bella Coola General Hospital.
- ▶ **Business travel emissions baseline**  
Collaborated with payroll to measure baseline emissions from staff use of personal vehicles for work. This measurement, not included within fleet emissions, creates a compelling case for targeted emissions reduction strategies.
- ▶ **Transit program growth**  
Increased participation in the transit subsidy program by 29 per cent in 2024 through expanded eligibility criteria and enhanced subsidy offerings.

## PLANS MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ Continuing to expand measurement of transportation emissions beyond fleet to identify and target the most impactful areas for emissions reduction.
- ▶ Continuing to work collaboratively with transportation partners to address gaps and opportunities in access to sustainable transportation across VCH.
- ▶ Using an Active Transportation Accessibility Scan to tailor transportation strategies to VCH sites.
- ▶ Continuing to work collaboratively with municipal and regional organizations to increase access by sustainable transportation to VCH sites.





# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

### Table of Contents

### Executive Message

### Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

### Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

### Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Buildings  
Fleet Vehicles and Transportation

- ▶ Paper
- ▶ Refrigerants
- Climate Risk Management
- Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

### Our Partners

### 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

### References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report



# Paper

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

- ▶ **Switching to Sugar Sheet**  
PHSA Procurement made Sugar Sheet available for purchase across VCH. This high-quality paper stock is produced with sugar cane pulp—a by-product of sugar production—instead of wood from trees. The shift supports emissions reduction efforts, achieving up to 55 per cent lower life cycle GHG emissions and saving 26 trees per tonne of paper produced.<sup>H</sup>
- ▶ **Digital technologies**  
In 2024, VCH implemented the electronic health records system CST Cerner at a further 39 sites, including Richmond Hospital. The transition to digital records significantly reduces paper use, helping to minimize our environmental footprint for printing, physical storage and transportation of paper charts.
- ▶ **Eliminating exam table paper**  
Eliminated the use of exam table paper at Raven Song Community Health Centre and Northeast Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

## PLANS MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ Launching a “Think Before You Print” campaign in 2025 in departments with the highest paper usage.
- ▶ Promoting paperless invoicing within departments where operationally feasible.



# Refrigerants

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

- ▶ **Leaked refrigerant baseline**  
Conducted assessment to measure refrigerant emissions from large equipment such as chillers.
- ▶ **Large equipment refrigerant monitoring**  
Integrated refrigerant data into regional chiller asset management databases. This ensures data capture on large equipment refrigerant volumes is occurring for all new equipment and establishes a standardized approach to collecting this data.

## PLANS MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ Expanding the refrigerant database by including smaller equipment units to create more complete and accurate inventory for our owned sites, and working with operators of our leased sites to capture relevant data.
- ▶ Collecting more detailed technical data—such as refrigerant type, full charge amount and applicable leak rate standards—to better track equipment performance and inform maintenance or upgrade decisions.
- ▶ Reviewing refrigerant phase-out plans and their impact on equipment performance and the environment.

NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

- Buildings
- Fleet Vehicles and Transportation
- Paper
- Refrigerants

► Climate Risk Management  
Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Climate Risk Management

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

### ► Building for the future

Integrated climate considerations into the planning of the Áuxválásúilas Heiltsuk Hospital, the Richmond Hospital redevelopment and several long-term care facilities to improve cooling, indoor air quality and extreme weather preparedness.

### ► Climate vulnerability assessments

Conducted detailed vulnerability assessments for two Sechelt long-term care sites and six buildings in Richmond, with plans to expand assessments to additional facilities in 2025.

### ► Improving cooling

Advanced cooling strategies at Vancouver General Hospital and Richmond Hospital, including a chiller overhaul and exploration of long-term solutions for heat rejection and system redundancy. In addition, VCH secured \$31.6M in provincial funding to support the BC Hydro portable air conditioner program, updated guidance on tenant-installed air conditioners and facilitated air conditioning installations in 15 Indigenous housing units.

### ► Regional readiness

Launched Air Quality Health Index resources for patients and staff.

### ► Inter- and Intra-Health Authority Relocation (IIHAR) Toolkit

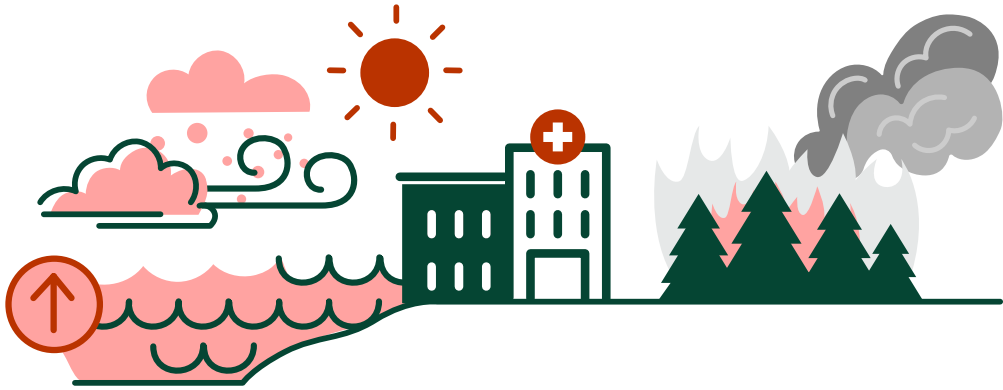
Refined and expanded the IIHAR toolkit developed with Health Emergency Management BC, B.C. health authorities, and Indigenous partners providing 21 standardized tools for patient-centred, culturally safe facility evacuations during climate emergencies. This innovative approach earned the **2025 BC Quality Award for Strengthening Health & Wellness**.

### ► Indigenous health and community collaborations

Strengthened partnerships with Indigenous communities by co-developing public health messaging with First Nations Health Authority on extreme heat and smoke preparedness. VCH supported Indigenous-led climate adaptation initiatives, including securing funding for the shíshálh Nation's \$117M water resilience project.

### ► Municipal and regional government collaborations

Collaborated on climate adaptation initiatives, including wildfire preparedness planning, heat resilience strategies and flood risk mitigation. Provided input in the City of Vancouver's Healthy Waters Plan and Metro Vancouver's Liquid Waste Management Plan, both of which seek to reduce the extent and impacts of flood events.





# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

- Buildings
- Fleet Vehicles and Transportation
- Paper
- Refrigerants
- Climate Risk Management
- Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Vancouver Coastal Health staff across diverse disciplines and departments are taking a holistic approach to advancing planetary health. Our strategy extends beyond compliance with emissions targets and climate resilience, and looks at health care's broader impacts. Here are some examples of how we are reducing the impact of our services on the planet and creating a climate resilient health system.

## Select 2024 actions and achievements

### Water



- Provided a letter of support from a VCH Medical Health Officer for the Sunshine Coast Regional District and shíshálh Nation's successful application to the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The \$117M grant will be used to upgrade water treatment facilities and build two large-scale reservoirs in the Chapman Creek watershed, decreasing the risk of municipal water shortages that impact hospitals and care centres.
- Updated VCH's Healthy Environments and Climate Change website to include content on [storms and flooding](#) and [drought](#) to help communities better prepare for such events.

### Energy and Carbon



Implemented an anesthetic gas capturing system in operating rooms at Vancouver General Hospital—the first such system in the province. After each patient's procedure, gases are collected in the building's ventilation network and filtered, allowing clean air to be released back into the environment and significantly reducing the hospital's carbon footprint.

### Food



Piloted 19 sustainable, low carbon inpatient menu options at two hospital sites, furthering VCH Food Services' [CoolFood Pledge](#) commitment to reduce the GHG emissions of the regional menu by 25 per cent by 2030.

### Materials



- Introduced glass recycling for contrast media bottles at all acute care sites with medical imaging units. Contrast media bottles are used in medical imaging procedures to help highlight internal structures in the body.

- The Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer of Vancouver Coastal Health responded to a Ministry of Environment and Climate Change discussion paper, "[Preventing Non-Residential Packaging Waste, Including Plastic and Paper.](#)" The submission outlined the health considerations of plastic waste in health care from a food safety and single-use plastic consumable perspective. A regional health organization response was also submitted.

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

- Buildings
- Fleet Vehicles and Transportation
- Paper
- Refrigerants
- Climate Risk Management
- Transforming Patient Care with Planetary Health

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Impact Stories



Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed, Regional Medical Director, SPIRES, and Dr. Rosanne Thalakada, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, SPIRES.

## A Win for Patients and the Planet

A study by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program: Innovation, Research, Education & Safety team (SPIRES) at Vancouver General Hospital examined the unnecessary use of IV antibiotics, which contributes to medical waste and higher carbon emissions. The researchers found that 62 per cent of patients could receive oral antibiotics and potentially be discharged earlier.

[Read more ►](#)



VCH Property and Asset Management team: Gurbinder Heer, Jay Vidler, Jennifer Jarvis, Wendy Ma

## Pilot Tackles Extreme Weather Risks in Leased Health Facilities

In Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, VCH is preparing two sites for future climate challenges by evaluating each building's mechanical, electrical and structural systems to withstand heat domes, atmospheric rivers and wildfire smoke. This proactive, system-level approach applies VCH's climate adaptation strategy to its leased buildings, where facility control is often limited. Based on the findings, the team has already implemented impactful changes, including stronger cooling systems, improved air filtration and targeted flood mitigation.

[Read more ►](#)



Members of the VCH Hospital at Home team

## How Using Car Share Is Improving Health-Care Delivery While Lightening Its Carbon Footprint

Efficient, flexible, sustainable and cost-effective, Evo's private fleet vehicle and car share programs enable VCH's Hospital at Home teams to bring hospital-level care directly to patients' homes while reducing emissions by 3.45 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually. "We're not just driving to patients—we're driving change, with a private fleet that cares for both the patient and the planet," says Alexia Simeoni, clinical operations manager for Hospital at Home.

[Read more ►](#)



## Embedding Low Carbon Resilience into Cooling Systems

To ensure comfort and safety for patients and staff as global temperatures rise, VCH developed and is implementing a long-term cooling infrastructure strategy, to meet up to 40 per cent more cooling capacity by 2050. Learnings from the Vancouver General Hospital strategy are being applied in Richmond and VCH's coastal and rural sites.

[Read more ►](#)





# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

[Table of Contents](#)

[Executive Message](#)

[Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health](#)

[Our Progress: Tracking the Journey](#)

[Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action](#)

► [Our Partners](#)

[2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table](#)

[References](#)

## RELATED REPORT

[Green+Leaders Annual Report](#)



# Our Partners

We are grateful to the organizations listed below, which are key external partners and collaborators who have been crucial in advancing our ongoing planetary health initiatives. This list is not a comprehensive representation of all the valuable relationships and efforts that drive our collective impact.

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

► Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# Our Partners

## B

- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Emergency Health Services
- BC Housing
- BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
- BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
- BC Ministry of Environment and Parks
- BC Ministry of Health
- BC Ministry of Infrastructure
- BC Hydro

## C

- Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care
- CASCADES Canada
- Climate Action Secretariat
- Climate Data Canada

## E

- Environment and Climate Change Canada

## F

- First Nations Health Authority
- FortisBC
- Fraser Health Authority

## H

- Health Canada
- Health Emergency Management BC
- Health Quality BC

## I

- Interior Health
- Island Health

## L

- Local and regional governments

## N

- National Research Council of Canada
- Northern Health
- Nourish Leadership

## P

- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
- Providence Health Care
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee

## S

- Simon Fraser University

## U

- University of British Columbia



NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health’s Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

► 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

References

RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

Vancouver Coastal Health 2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1–December 31, 2024	
Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>	224
Total emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	42,137
Total offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	41,912
Adjustments to offset required GHG emissions reported in prior years	
Total offsets adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	166
Grand total offsets for the 2024 reporting year	
Grand total offsets to be retired for the 2024 reporting year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	42,078
Offset investment (\$)	\$1,051,950
Offset investment (\$) including GST	\$ 1,104,548

- i BioCO<sub>2</sub> is included in total emissions but not total offsets.
- ii Emissions and offset investment amounts will be validated by the Climate Action Secretariat prior to distributing invoices.
- iii “Grand total offsets to be retired” are rounded to a whole number before multiplying by \$25 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

RETIREMENT OF OFFSETS

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Vancouver Coastal Health (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2024 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization’s behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

# 2024 Vancouver Coastal Health Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR)

## NAVIGATION

Table of Contents

Executive Message

Our Story: Vancouver Coastal Health's Commitment to Planetary Health

Our Progress: Tracking the Journey

Our Leadership: Collaborative and Integrated Action

Our Partners

2024 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

► References

## RELATED REPORT

Green+Leaders Annual Report

# References

**A** In 2024, VCH-owned facilities included in energy-related key performance indicators were (\* denote facilities that are leased but included in energy metering):

- Adanac Park Lodge
- Berkley Care Centre
- Cedarview Lodge
- Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health\*
- Dogwood Care Home
- G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre
- Lions Gate Hospital
- Little Mountain Court
- Little Mountain Place
- Minoru Residence
- Oak Care Centre\*
- Pemberton Health Centre
- qathet General Hospital
- Richmond Hospital
- Sechelt | shíshálh Hospital
- Shorncliffe Intermediate Care Facility
- Squamish General Hospital
- UBC Hospital\*
- Vancouver General Hospital
- Whistler Health Care Centre

**B** The GreenCare survey is an annual survey distributed to staff and medical staff within Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health. The survey is used to assess perspectives, experiences and behaviours related to the environment and to planetary health, through which the EES and Planetary Health teams can monitor progress and identify opportunities to build a sustainable, climate resilient health system. The survey captures behavioural data from the previous calendar year (i.e. the 2025 GreenCare survey is used to collect 2024 data).

**C** VCH acute care sites included in waste-related key performance indicators were (\* denotes facilities that are still working on returning to pre-2020 recycling service levels):

- Lions Gate Hospital\*
- Richmond Hospital\*
- Squamish General Hospital
- UBC Hospital\*
- Vancouver General Hospital\*

**D** VCH non-acute care sites included in waste-related key performance indicators are:

- 6100 Bowling Green Road
- Berkley Care Centre
- Cedarview Lodge
- Dogwood Lodge
- G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- Oak Care Centre
- Hilltop House
- Margaret Fulton Centre
- Minoru Residence
- Richmond Lions Manor Bridgeport

**E** In 2024, VCH facilities included in water metering were (\* denotes a leased site):

- Cedarview Lodge
- Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health\*
- Dogwood Care Home
- G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- Lions Gate Hospital
- Minoru Residence
- Oak Care Centre\*
- Richmond Hospital
- Sechelt | shíshálh Hospital
- UBC Hospital\*
- Vancouver General Hospital

**F** Information sources for buildings: ARCHIBUS and VCH Real Estate Team.

**G** Information source for LEED: [Canadian Green Building Council project database](#).

**H** Trucost. Environmental Performance from Sugar Sheet Paper. Social Print Paper, 2017. Available from: <https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/SocialPrintPaper-Trucost-SugarSheet-2017.pdf>.





**Carbon Neutral**

