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| Sustainability in healthcare update |
| Edition # 35, March 2022 |
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# Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan released

The *Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan* 2022-2026, along with six other sector-based Adaptation Action Plans, was publicly released in February.

The plan sets clear actions to help our community stay healthy and well in a changing climate by improving access to climate and health-related information, improving climate resilience of our health infrastructure and build on improving our community and sector knowledge and engagement on important climate and health issues.

From the public consultation process last year, there were 47 written submissions and 53 survey responses, each playing a vital role in informing how the health and human services system can support the sector to adapt to climate change.

These contributions will continue to provide valuable information for consideration during planning and implementation of projects or programs for individual actions.

The departments are committed to involving the community and peak bodies in setting policy direction, priorities, and co-designing solutions to deal with the impacts of climate change on the health and human services system, and we look forward to working with you on this over the next five years.

The final Health and Human Services Adaptation Action Plan is available on the [department’s website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/climate-change-strategy) <[health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/climate-change-and-health/climate-change-strategy](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/climate-change-strategy)>.

The seven AAPs and *Building Victoria’s Climate Resilience* are also available on the [DELWP website](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change) available here <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change>.

Please contact [climate.change@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:climate.change@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you would like to know more about the AAPs and opportunities to engage in work to build climate resilience. If your query is specific to the Health and Human Services AAP then please email them to [environment](mailto:environment@health.vic.gov.au) <[environment@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@health.vic.gov.au)>.

Weekly clinical waste survey – giving key information for management in Victoria

Victoria has seen significant changes in waste generation associated with the pandemic, including increased volumes of clinical waste. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has developed a survey to inform government about the management of clinical waste volumes, including impacts of recent disruptions to waste processing facilities.

This is an ongoing and important survey which we encourage you to complete each week. The information you provide is helping to inform the government of clinical waste volumes and waste management constraints across the state to enable appropriate action.

We highly encourage you to complete this [survey](https://arcg.is/eCXvG) weekly by visiting <https://arcg.is/eCXvG> to assist in the ongoing response to the pandemic.

For more information or assistance in completing this survey please email [waste emergency](mailto:waste.emergency@delwp.vic.gov.au) <waste.emergency@delwp.vic.gov.au>.

# Unaccounted for Gas Usage (UAFG)

VHBA has been progressing the 2020/2021 NABERS ratings for Hospitals. Some health facilities on Health Share Victoria (HSV) contracts have noticed that the gas quantities reported on their bills do not match the data reported on the Environmental Data Management System (EDMS). This is due to the Unaccounted-for Gas Usage (UAFG) factor that is applied to the bills by some retailers.

Billing charges include an Unaccounted-for-Gas (UAFG) factor which is a % applied to metered quantity under commercial contracts. UAFG factors are used in commercial wholesale contracts to ensure that the quantities injected by producers at supply points into the gas networks and, the quantities delivered to customers, match. HealthShare Victoria (HSV) (for large sites) report gas energy volumes *excluding* UAFG. The energy excluding UAFG is the basis for the Scope 1 GHG emissions calculations.

For more information, please visit the [Essential Services Commission website](https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/tariffs-and-benchmarks/unaccounted-gas-benchmarks) <https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/tariffs-and-benchmarks/unaccounted-gas-benchmarks>.

# Zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) program update

The ZEV program is led by the Department of Treasury and Finance and aims to add 400 electric vehicles to the Victorian government fleet within 2 years. The program is tracking well and is on target to exceed the first milestone of 75 ZEVs by June 2022. A delivery of over 100 ZEVs is expected by June which is a great start, considering global supply is very tight.

The first delivery will be the Hyundai Kona Electric. The Kona Electric is Australia’s first 100% electric small SUV and will replace smaller passenger Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles in the fleet such as Corollas and Hyundai i30s. The Kona is able to provide data including carbon savings for each trip as well as identify locations of public charging stations.

A detailed site analysis by electrical engineers has been completed for 12 health service locations, to ensure the sites are suitable to accommodate charging stations. A significant program of education and training will be delivered. Further updates will be provided in the Sustainability Updates as the project progresses including associated materials.

Victoria also signed up to 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) declaration on accelerating the transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans in 2021. Further information is available on the [UK.Gov website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-declaration-zero-emission-cars-and-vans/cop26-declaration-on-accelerating-the-transition-to-100-zero-emission-cars-and-vans) < <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-declaration-zero-emission-cars-and-vans/cop26-declaration-on-accelerating-the-transition-to-100-zero-emission-cars-and-vans>>. For further information email [sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au](file:///C:\Users\vidw8bq\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\9X0XUPW7\sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au).

# Expansion of government environmental reporting

As advised in the December edition # 34, as part of Victoria’s *Climate Change* Strategy and the *Whole of Victorian Emissions Reduction Government* Pledge available on Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy website <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change>, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is leading a program to uplift environmental reporting across the Victorian government. This includes expanding the scope and application of Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 24 – Government environmental reporting on what environmental metrics are reported and which public sector entities are required to report.

Two health service consultation sessions were held in early March. If you wish to review the materials and provide a written response to the consultation questions please email [sustainability](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au) <[sustainability@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au)>. The official deadline for written responses is March 25 but please contact [sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au) if you are unable to submit by this deadline and wish to provide feedback. Further information and advice will be provided by DELWP/DH once the changes are finalised for roll out.

# Infrastructure Division changes

Regular readers of the *Sustainability in Healthcare update* may notice a change from Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) branding to the Department of Health. This reflects several internal changes within the department.

With Australia’s fastest-growing population to care for, the Infrastructure Policy Team and VHBA (both within the Infrastructure Division of Department of Health), are working to deliver world-class health, mental health and aged care infrastructure across Victoria. Over recent years there has been a significant growth in the volume and diversity of projects VHBA is responsible for delivering which has led to internal changes to streamline the delivery of the program of works.

VHBA’s focus will be mainly on delivery with the Infrastructure Policy Team’s focus on setting policy, strategic direction and reform planning.

As a result of the changes, the focused operational sustainability work will move to the Environment and Climate Change team which sits within the Infrastructure Policy area headed up by Heidi Matkovich. The team will coordinate environment and climate change related policy uptake, including driving emissions reduction policy; health service engagement and reporting across the department; and will continue as lead for the Health and Human Services Adaptation Action Plan.

The capital focused sustainability roles will remain in VHBA and the teams will work closely together, with this newsletter containing content from both areas. Contact details are provided below and the [sustainability](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au) inbox <[sustainability@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au)> will continue to be active.

# Upcoming events

Safer Care Victoria Giants conference – this year’s safety and quality conference includes sustainability themes sessions. 26-27 May 2022 <https://giantsteps.safercare.vic.gov.au>.

The Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Victorian branch is holding the following events:

* Nursing for the Environment Intensive – 16 June 2022 (CPD points for those eligible)
* Annual Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference – 13 May 2022

National Health Day 7 April 2022- this year theme is ‘Our Planet, our health – Clean our air, water and food’ #HeathierTomorrow <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/world-health-day-2022m

# Key contacts

Enquiries can be emailed to [sustainability](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au) <[sustainability@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au)>, or alternatively please see the contacts below.

#### Infrastructure Policy – Environment and climate change team

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#### VHBA – For capital projects, EDMS

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