

The Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) produces the quarterly Sustainability in Healthcare Update to inform health services on sustainability initiatives being implemented across the healthcare sector, as well as key sustainability issues of interest.

Sustainability performance report

The Environmental sustainability strategy 2018-19 to 2022-23 was launched in 2018 and sets out a five-year commitment to improve the Victorian health system's environmental performance and to ensure it is resilient to climate change. At the halfway point of the strategy, we've released our Sustainability performance report. The report also includes, for the first time, data on Victoria's National Australian Built Environment Rating Scheme (NABERS) hospital ratings. As of 30 June 2020, we have identified and progressed 35 actions. Of these:

- 54 per cent are complete
- 32 per cent are ongoing
- 14 percent have been delayed, primarily as a result of COVID-19.

The [Sustainability performance report](#) compares the health system's environmental performance over 2018-19 and 2019-20 to the most up to date 2017-18 data.

[Sustainability performance report: VHBA Environmental sustainability strategy 2018-19 to 2022-23 | VHBA](#) <<https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/news/sustainability-performance-report-2018-2020>>.

Climate change adaptation action plans released for public comment

The draft Health and Human services climate change Adaptation Action Plan has been released for public comment along with the six other sector plans. The Government is seeking input from the community to shape the plans which will set a solid foundation for a climate-resilient Victoria.

In addition to the public engagement phase, as advised in the March edition of the Sustainability in healthcare update, a small workshop was held with health services in May prior to the public release of the document, and further engagement is planned with specific stakeholder groups in relation to the draft health and human services AAP.

The sector plans focus on seven sectors regarded as vulnerable to climate change or having an important role in adapting to further change:

- Primary Production – agriculture, productive fisheries and plantation forestry
- Built Environment – cities, buildings, urban spaces, and infrastructure
- Education and Training – education, training and workplace skills
- Health and Human Services – disease prevention, physical and mental health care

- Transport – passenger and freight movement, transport networks and vehicles
- Natural Environment – land, water bodies, coastal waters, biodiversity and ecological processes
- Water Cycle – water supply, wastewater, drainage and flood management.

The plans respond to priorities in Victoria's Climate Change Strategy, address current impacts and the systematic changes needed to prepare key sectors for the future climate.

Each plan is different because each sector has its own unique climate change risks and opportunities. They also address common challenges, such as sea-level rise, emergency management and energy resilience.

The plans are due to be completed by the end of 2021 and will guide adaptation efforts over the next five years, laying the foundations for dealing with climate change.

A stakeholder workshop for health peak bodies is being held online on 26 July 2021 by invitation. An online (Zoom) health sector consultation session is being held in conjunction with the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) and the department. The session will be from 9.30 - 11.30am on Wednesday 28 July. Registration is via: <https://vhaaus.wildapricot.org/event-4409784>.

Health services and individuals can also provide feedback on the whole system or individual plans by completing a survey or via a submission through the [Engage Vic website](https://engage.vic.gov.au/aaps) <<https://engage.vic.gov.au/aaps>>.

Climate Change Strategy and interim targets

The Victorian Government has unveiled its ambitious Climate Change Strategy and interim targets, including to reduce emissions by 28-33 percent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030.

Greenhouse gas emissions from Victorian Government operations, including hospitals, amounted to approximately 3.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e) in 2018–19. Almost three quarters of these emissions were from electricity used in hospitals, schools and offices, and to power the metropolitan train network and Victoria's water corporations.

The Victorian Government has made a pledge to reduce annual government emissions by an estimated 2.7 Mt CO₂-e by 2025 compared to 2018–19 levels through:

- a major focus on reducing emissions from electricity consumption through the transition to renewable energy
- improving the energy efficiency of government operations including government buildings and infrastructure
- steps to reduce emissions from public transport operations and the Government's vehicle fleet.

As part of this, government operations, including hospitals, will be matched with 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2025 – an Australian first.

What does 100 per cent renewable power mean for our hospitals?

The second Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET2) auction will target at least 600 megawatts (MW) of new renewable energy capacity in Victoria to match the Victorian Government's electricity consumption. VRET2 will link zero emissions electricity to Victoria's public hospitals, reducing our energy related carbon emissions by around 80 per cent.

More information on VRET2 including a Frequently asked question (FAQ) which provides an overview of the strategy, and the processes and timelines planned for the VRET2 and a factsheet is available on the [DELWP VRET2 website](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/vret2) <<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/vret2>>.

You can also learn more at [Victoria's Climate Change Strategy website](#) and download the Victorian Government emissions reduction pledge < <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/>>.

Electric vehicles

The Victorian Government has released its Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap, supported by a \$100 million-dollar package of policies and programs that will ensure Victoria is a leader in the adoption of ZEVs in Australia. By 2030, half of all light vehicle sales in Victoria will be Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs).

As part of the roadmap, 400 vehicles in Vic Fleet will be switched for electric vehicles by 2023. Initial work to identify potential sites, including at health services is currently being undertaken by DTF in conjunction with VHBA. Further information will be provided as the project develops. Information on the roadmap and Zero emissions vehicle is available on the [energy.vic site](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/zero-emissions-vehicles) <<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/zero-emissions-vehicles>>.

A factsheet developed in September 2019 on Planning for electric vehicles is available at the [Sustainability in healthcare website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/transport) – transport section <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/transport>>.

This section also contains information on fleet management, with new materials on sustainable transport to be loaded as advised in the March edition in the upcoming months.

Environmental reporting

Public environmental reporting

Each year as part of the environmental requirements under the policy and funding guidelines, health services are required to report their environmental performance. This year the department's *Health Services Annual Report for 2020-21: Guidelines for the preparation for the Report of Operations* requires environmental performance to be included in the annual report. The specific text is as follows:

Environmental performance

FRD 22H section 5.18 (h) requires agencies to provide a summary of their environmental performance for the year. The department requires health services to report publicly on their environmental performance in accordance with the department's Environmental reporting guidelines.

The department's Environmental Data Management System generates a standard public environment report that meets the mandatory and voluntary reporting requirements. Commentary on achievements and/or changes in trends should be included to support the underlying data.

Queries relating to the EDMS can be directed to edms@health.vic.gov.au

This change was due to take place last year but was delayed as a result of COVID-19. For many health services who are already reporting in their annual reports there will be no change, but for others this will be a change.

The department's latest environmental reporting guidelines were published in 2017, and while the mechanism and timing of how environmental performance is reported has been superseded by the requirement above, the guidance on what needs to be reported is largely current. The guidelines are available on the [Health.vic website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting>>.

Environmental data management contract extension

An extension of the Eden Suite, environmental data management system (EDMS) has been agreed for the reporting year 2021-22. A request for quote procurement exercise will be carried out during 2021-22 to

determine if the management of environmental reporting should change. Progress and updates of the procurement exercise will be shared in the Sustainability updates during the year.

Environmental data management – annual reporting data

Health service staff responsible for maintaining the environmental data management system (EDMS) are encouraged to review data in the system to ensure it is ready for annual reporting. Specific focus should be given to reviewing pending data and sourcing missing data. This is particularly important where data is entered manually, such as LPG or specialist recycling streams. The Victorian Health Building Authority should be informed if utility providers have changed, or new assets have been commissioned and not yet set-up on the system.

VHBA is aiming to have environmental data for 2020-21 from HealthShare Victoria, cogeneration and VicFleet contracts uploaded into the EDMS prior to the 19 August, when the final draft of the report of operations component of the annual report (excluding financial statements) is due to be provided departmental health service leads, or regional contacts.

Further details are available at the [Edensuite website](http://training.edensuite.com.au) <<http://training.edensuite.com.au>> or you can [contact \[edms@health.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:contact_edms@health.vic.gov.au\)](mailto:contact_edms@health.vic.gov.au) with any data queries.

Victoria's new environment protection laws

Victoria's New Environmental Protection Laws and proposed final subordinate legislation came into effect on the 1 July 2021.

The general environmental duty (GED) is a centrepiece of the new laws and applies to all Victorians. Entities that conduct activities that pose a risk to human health and the environment, must understand their risks and take reasonably practicable steps to eliminate or minimise them. In an Australian first, the GED is criminally enforceable. The focus on the new laws is on preventative actions and the action an organisation takes to prevent harm.

As long as health services continue to manage key environmental risks, such as waste management, and emissions to land and air, the changes are unlikely to have any significant impact on operations. However, if an environmental incident occurs, the health service will need to provide evidence that it took all reasonably practicable steps to eliminate or minimise the incident from occurring.

EPA has produced a number of resources including a recording of a webinar they ran in February. The link to the recording, and other resources including frequently asked questions is available on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/newlaws) <<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/newlaws>>.

The Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN) in partnership with EPA Victoria, have available, via the AEBN website, FREE training webinars on the Victorian environment protection laws. The webinars are designed to assist with understanding of new obligations to implement changes within business operations. Information is available on the [AEBN website](https://aebn.com.au/aebn-events/event/training-webinars-on-the-new-victorian-environmental-protection-laws/) at <<https://aebn.com.au/aebn-events/event/training-webinars-on-the-new-victorian-environmental-protection-laws/>>

The free webinars will be available, via the AEBN website, until **5.00pm on 30 September 2021** and you and your staff are strongly encouraged to undertake the training. Should you have any queries, please contact the Amanda Ross or Tina Khoury, Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN) National Office on 03 9397 2511 or email newviclaws@aebn.com.au

2021 Premier's sustainability awards

The 2021 Premier's Sustainability Awards are open for entries. The award categories have been revamped to reflect the current focus of sustainability activity in Victoria and align with global best practice.

This year's awards link to the globally-accepted United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which the Environmental Management plan template and action plan templates also are linked to. Entries for the 2021 Premier's Sustainability Awards close on Friday 30 July. For further information visit <<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/psa>>

Bendigo Health was the health category winner in the 2020 Premiers Sustainability Awards for their work on recycling disposable curtains. This project was supported by VHBA's 2019 innovation grants program. Further information on the project is available in the short video prepared by Bendigo Health, <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tDyOwu5UCWM>.

Gas substitution roadmap consultation paper released

The Victorian Government is exploring sustainable alternatives and pathways for the gas sector to transition to net zero emissions and is developing a Gas Substitution Roadmap throughout 2021 to provide a strategic framework for decarbonising natural gas in Victoria.

The Gas Substitution Roadmap will detail the transition pathways and identify policy mechanisms to achieve Victoria's emissions reduction targets through reduced fugitive emissions, more efficient use of gas, electrification and increased use of alternative gases such as hydrogen and biogas.

A consultation paper has been prepared to seek the views of the Victorian community and industry to help us better understand the opportunities and challenges that this transition will bring. The paper discusses potential transition pathways to achieve net zero emissions in the gas sector in Victoria and the key issues that must be considered during the transition. The paper is available through the [Engage Victoria website](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-build-victorias-gas-substitution-roadmap) <www.engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-build-victorias-gas-substitution-roadmap>.

A public forum will be held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 between 12.00pm - 1.10pm. Registration is through the Engage Victoria weblink above.

Increases to the landfill levy from 1 July 2021

On 1 July 2021 the EPA's Landfill Levy increased by \$40 from \$65.90 per tonne to \$105.90 per tonne. The levy is used by EPA Victoria to fund initiatives to improve waste management throughout Victoria.

In the HPVC2014-085 Waste Management Services Agreement, any adjustments to EPA Waste Levies relevant to the services automatically take effect at the time of the adjustment. HealthShare Victoria can assist in providing impact reporting by contacting helpdesk@healthsharevic.org.au.

From 1 July 2022 the Landfill Levy will increase by a further \$20 from \$105.90 per tonne to \$125.90 per tonne.

Energy efficiency at West Gippsland Healthcare Group

In 2014 the department entered into a loan agreement with the West Gippsland Healthcare Group to implement an energy performance contract (EPC). This project resulted in annual cost savings of \$0.63 million. This represents a 30 per cent reduction in electricity use, a 15 per cent reduction in gas use, a 10 per cent reduction in water use, as well as operational and maintenance savings from the upgrade of laundry equipment in its linen service

VHBA has secured additional loan funding to expand the EPC to remove central steam from the hospital, installation of a new steam boiler and new steam pipework, installation of 185 kWp solar on the laundry building, installation of LED lighting and other minor works. The project will reduce carbon emissions by 1,115 tonnes and deliver annual utility savings of \$0.34 million.

Public hospital LED and solar program

VHBA received \$40 million of loan funding in the 2020-21 State budget to upgrade hospital lighting to LEDs and install solar arrays. Following a call for expression of interests, VHBA is supporting the installation of 2.4 megawatt-peak of solar across 32 health facilities and LED upgrades at 30 health facilities. Successful health services have been notified.

As part of the program VHBA prepared standard specifications for the installation of solar and LED upgrades. Health services can request a copy of the specifications by e-mailing sustainability@health.vic.gov.au.

Public hospitals and health services who are interested in an interest free loan for solar (metropolitan and regional) and LED upgrades (regional) should contact tiernan.humphrys@health.vic.gov.au.

VMIA climate change risk resources and training

The Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) has developed a suite of resources to assist public sector entities manage climate risk. The VMIA is running an online Climate Change Risk Foundations course for VMIA clients on 25 August 2021 from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

The resources and further details on the course are available at <https://www.vmia.vic.gov.au/tools-and-insights/climate-change>.

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network

VHBA encourages public health services to join the [Healthy Hospitals Network](https://www.greenhospitals.net/) <<https://www.greenhospitals.net/>> and access the many benefits provided through the network which include networking and support from a community of sustainable healthcare colleagues across Australia, New Zealand and globally. There are resources available which have been developed specifically for healthcare sustainability as well as opportunities for international recognition for environmental achievements.

VHBA welcomes the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre as the latest Victorian public health service member.

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of the GGHH, please contact [Carol Behne](mailto:carol.behne@caha.org.au) <carol.behne@caha.org.au> CAHA Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager and GGHH Pacific Region Coordinator. Access the [GGHH Pacific region website](https://www.caha.org.au/globalgreen_healthyhospitals) for more information <https://www.caha.org.au/globalgreen_healthyhospitals>.

Summary of resources online

The Department of Health (DH) - [Sustainability in Healthcare website](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability) <www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability> and [Victorian Health Building Authority website](http://www.vhba.vic.gov.au) <www.vhba.vic.gov.au> contain a wealth of the latest resources on sustainability in healthcare including:

- quarterly Sustainability Updates (dating back to March 2014)
- videos outlining the importance of sustainability in the healthcare system
- case studies and factsheets on sustainability initiatives to assist health services
- guidelines and guidance notes around sustainability issues relevant to the healthcare sector, and
- templates including relating to environmental management planning
- topics: capital works, carbon management, data management tools, dialysis services, environmental compliance, energy, procurement, transport, waste and water.

Does your health service have anything to share?

We are always keen to get updates on any sustainability initiatives you are undertaking that you may wish to share with other health services. These do not need to be full case studies, though we and GGHH are always keen to receive these as well. Please email sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au if you have something you wish to include in a future update.

Key contacts

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To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 9595 2898 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [<sustainability@health.vic.gov.au>](mailto:sustainability@health.vic.gov.au)

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