

Sustainability Update

Update No.16, December 2015

Health recognised in Premier's Sustainability Awards

Four health services were recognised in this year's 2015 Premier's Sustainability Awards held in October which is a great achievement. Barwon Health won the Premier's Regional Recognition Award for organics recycling in their central production kitchen. The initiative, part funded by the department, resulted in 100 per cent diversion of organics from landfill from the 3,000+ meals they produce every day.

Monash Health won the inaugural health category for their green cleaning initiative which resulted in a 90 per cent reduction in water use, savings of \$250k per annum, elimination of 709 litres of hypochlorite and 6,154 litres of detergent annually and an overall five per cent increase in cleaning standards. Other benefits include a healthier working environment for cleaning staff. The department is preparing a factsheet on this with a view to encouraging other health services to adopt similar cleaning regimes.

Austin Health and Melbourne Health were finalists. Austin Health was recognised for a range of initiatives including the establishment of the Victorian Green Health Round Table Group, being the first to employ a dedicated sustainability officer and developing green spaces for patients and staff. Melbourne Health was recognised for a range of initiatives outlined in its Think Green Strategy 2011-2015 promoting its vision to be recognised as an industry leader in environmental sustainability, and, for fostering a precinct approach with its partners.

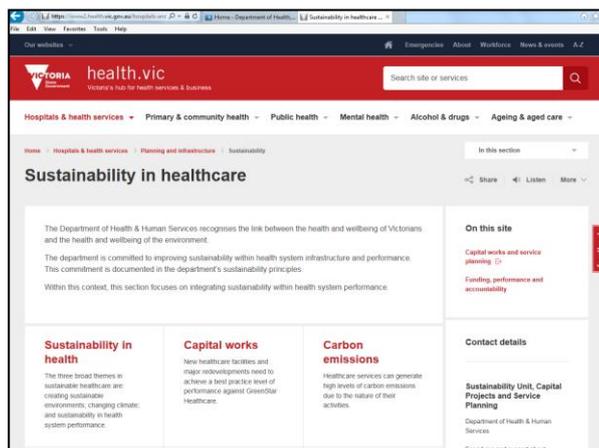


Figure 1: Back: Tiernan Humphrys (Department of Health & Human Services). Front (from left): Cheyne Chalmers, Sharon McNulty, Elizabeth Gillespie, Lyndsey Bowdler (Monash Health) and Bronwyn Aylmer, Sue Born, Adrian Sharp (Barwon Health).

New sustainability website

Following the move to a new departmental website the sustainability content has been updated. The majority of the previous content has remained, with new content including materials on data management, details of renewable energy in hospitals and 2013-14 energy data. Further material will be added over the next six months. The website link www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability still works.

You are encouraged to visit the new website and feedback and suggestions on content are always welcome. For further information please contact sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.



Audit of environmental management plans

Work is underway on a representative audit of selected environmental management plans which will commence in early 2016. The audit will assist the department in evaluating the current quality and currency of plans and identify opportunities for system-wide improvements. Health services are encouraged to ensure that their environmental management plans are up to date. For further information please contact sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Environmental data management system update

In August 2014 the department initiated the implementation of the environmental data management system for public health services. The system has been rolled out in the Metropolitan, Gippsland and Hume regions and is currently being implemented in the Loddon Mallee region. Over half of Victoria's health services are now using the system and a further 14 are in the final stages before going live. Implementation in Phase 5 (Grampians) and Phase 6 (Barwon-SW) will commence in early 2016.

Two health specific reports are also now available; the public environment report which provides annual organisational environmental data in line with the department's public reporting guidelines and a combined view report which allows health services to download detailed data for further analysis. Both reports are available in 3.0 under Reports>More Reports. For further information please contact tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Energy and water performance reports

The department will be sending out annual 2014-15 energy and water performance reports, for the last time, in early 2016. From early 2016 health services will be able to run these reports through the environmental data management. For further information please contact tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Sustainability Unit staff changes

Spira Stojanovik, who many of you have had contact with, has decided to move from the department, though he has only moved across the road and continues to work within the health system!

Spira has taken a role in the St Vincent's Hospital Decision Support Unit as a Business Intelligence Developer, which involves "basically a lot more data analysis". Spira would like to thank everyone that he had the pleasure to work with, and for their support, stories and assistance over the last five years.

Further information

For further information on sustainability in health care please visit www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability/. The environmental sustainability team in the department can be contacted at:

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