

# SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE UPDATE

Update No. 23, April 2018

The Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (VHHSBA) produces quarterly sustainability updates to inform health services on sustainability initiatives being implemented across the health care sector, as well as key sustainability issues of interest. We welcome items of interest from health services.

## Learnings from the National Health Service UK, Dr David Pencheon (OBE), 23 May 2018

The authority, in conjunction with Western Health, is organising a forum with Dr David Pencheon (OBE), founding Director of the Sustainable Development Unit, National Health Service (NHS) UK. It will provide an opportunity to learn from David's experience in embedding sustainability within the NHS. A number of executives from the public health system, including Rob Fiske, CEO of VHHSBA, will sit on a panel to discuss what sustainability means to their roles and organisations. The sessions will be recorded for those unable to attend. For further information, see the events section.

## Regional health solar projects

As at December 2017 there were around 2.5 megawatts of photovoltaic panels installed on Victorian public health facilities. This generates an estimated 0.5 per cent of the total annual electrical load for Victoria's public hospitals.

To expand the level of renewable energy within the Victorian public health system, VHHSBA is investing significantly in solar panels. Health services in the Gippsland region now have access to around \$4 million of no-interest loans to install solar panels.

Health Purchasing Victoria is in the process of collectively procuring solar panels for a number of regional hospitals. If regional health services are interested in participating in this process please discuss with your HPV Customer Relationship Manager. For more information contact:

[tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au).



Figure 1: Solar photovoltaics at Warragul Hospital and linen service

## Peninsula Health and Northern Health energy performance contracts

VHHSBA is progressing with energy performance contracts in two metropolitan health services. The \$7 million project at Peninsula Health has reached design completion and final negotiations to commence implementation are underway.

On 9 March 2018 a tender was released for an energy performance contract at Northern Health. A loan allocation of \$5 million is available for this project and it is expected that detailed design will commence later in 2018.

## Improving waste management in the health sector

VHHSBA is working in collaboration with Sustainability Victoria, Health Purchasing Victoria and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian branch) to progress a hospital waste management project to assess the current levels and types of waste produced by public sector health services and identify interventions to improve waste management. The project will focus on particular clinical areas and representative health services.

A survey will soon be available on the Sustainability in healthcare online forum, via the ANMF, and will be emailed to nominated waste officers. If you wish to participate in the survey please email [sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au) for more information.

## Waste education officer

Rachel McConville has been appointed as Waste Education Officer within the Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority. The position is funded for two years by Sustainability Victoria through the Waste Education Strategy. Rachel joins us from the Loddon Mallee Regional Waste Management Group where she delivered waste management programs across the region, including transitioning the township of Maldon to being plastic bag free and advising Bendigo Health and Kyneton Health on waste management opportunities. Prior to this Rachel worked with Eco-Buy advising local councils and businesses on sustainable procurement practices.

Rachel has a BA (Hons) in Environmental Management from the University of Leeds and is about to complete a Masters of Environment from the University of Melbourne. She has also completed courses in community-based social marketing, waste auditing and project management.

## Waste and recycling update

### Recycling industry changes

The Chinese Government has applied importation restrictions on particular waste materials from 1 January 2018. The main recyclable wastes directly affected by the import ban are:

- mixed plastics
- mixed paper
- mixed textile waste.

The owners of sorting facilities in Victoria (Visy Recycling, SKM Recycling and Polytrade Recycling) will most likely continue to take commingled recycling for sorting and resale.

These market changes are likely to impact commercial charges for commingled recycling. At the time of writing Health Purchasing Victoria's (HPV) waste contractors have not applied for any price variation under HPV Agreements.

While there is stockpiling of recyclable material, there are still end markets for sorted paper and plastics both in Australia and overseas. Therefore recycling collections at hospitals should continue.

On 12 February 2018 Sustainability Victoria urged Victorians to continue recycling to maintain momentum and build on our strengths to meet the current challenge. On 23 February 2018 the Victorian Government announced a \$13 million package for councils and industry to support kerbside recycling. The Government is also establishing a recycling industry taskforce to develop a strategic plan for industry transition.

For more information: <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Latest-News/2018/02/08/23/56/Victorians-encouraged-to-keep-recycling> and <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/stepping-in-to-support-industry-and-councils-with-recycling/>.

## Waste agreements update

HPV Agreements under HPVC2014-085 Waste Management Services commenced on 1 December 2014 for a three-year principal term, with 2 x one-year extension options. The Agreements are currently in the first extension period until 30 November 2018.

HPV and its Services Reference Group will soon convene to discuss exercising the last remaining one-year extension option.

Health services stakeholders who are not current nominees to the Services Reference Group but who wish to participate should discuss their nomination with their managers and the nomination coordinator.

Further information is available from HPV at [www.hpv.org.au](http://www.hpv.org.au) or email [healthservices@hpv.zendesk.com](mailto:healthservices@hpv.zendesk.com).

## Annual review of health service environmental requirements

Following the introduction of environmental requirements into the policy and funding guidelines, a compliance survey and an audit of environmental management plans has been conducted in alternate years.

This year VHHSBA will review environmental management plans of a number of health services to seek a greater understanding of how health services are managing their requirements in practice. The process will also seek feedback to assist health services in meeting their environmental management requirements.

Please ensure that your environmental management plan is current and that you are correctly publically reporting. Further information is available from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/resources/sustainability-updates> or contact [Sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Annual reporting for EDMS users – reminder and guide

Health service staff with EDMS data management responsibilities are reminded to inspect the completeness of energy, water and waste data for 2017-18. This will assist in meeting end of year public reporting requirements.

If you have pending data records – data received but not accepted – it is recommended you run the “Bulk Accept / Reject Pending Data” process and review the data.

Running the “Portfolio Find Data Gaps” report between the dates 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2018 will confirm data completeness for electricity, natural gas and water. Data gaps should be filled in by sourcing data from the supplier, or estimating data using the seasonal adjustment method.

LPG and relevant waste data needs to be manually entered from supplier records.

Information and tips to all of the listed processes are available in the EDMS Key Activity Checklist available in the sustainability online forum or via [edms@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:edms@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Nephrology and environmental sustainability Green Nephrology Action Team (GNAT)

Nephrology practice (particularly dialysis) is very resource intensive and has high environmental impact. Recognising this and the need for change, the Australian New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), in partnership with the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA) and Kidney Health Australia (KHA), convened a working group. The Green Nephrology Action Team (GNAT) will promote and support a transformation to environmentally sustainable care in Australia and New Zealand.

GNAT has developed a draft Position Statement entitled Environmental Sustainability and Renal Care. In addition, GNAT has developed two environmental research prizes to encourage research into green practice in nephrology and dialysis services. These will be awarded for the first time at the 2018 ANZSN and RSA annual meetings.

Details about the prizes can be found on the ANZSN and RSA websites: <http://www.renalsociety.org/> and <https://www.nephrology.edu.au/awardsfellowshipsandgrants/anzsnawards.asp>.

## Premier's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Awards open for entries

The most prestigious awards program of its kind, the Premier's Sustainability Awards is now inviting entries. A number of Victorian Public Health Services have been finalists and winners in previous awards and health services are encouraged to apply under the health category.

Entries close on 7 June 2018 and further information, including previous years' finalists and winners, can be found of the following site: <http://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/>.

## Australian Health Week 2018

Tiernan recently attended Australian Health Week 2018 in Sydney, where he presented on the work the authority is doing on energy efficiency, solar and waste management. The key themes presented during the event on facility management were the role of the 'Internet of Things', the need for good quality data and the importance of maintaining effective stakeholder relations both within hospitals and with external suppliers.

There were numerous case studies of best practice presented by UnitingCare Queensland, the Climate and Health Alliance, the Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Western Health, South Western Sydney Local Health District and CRGH Concord Repatriation General Hospital. The Sydney Children's Hospital Network spoke about their [Sustainability Plan 2017-2022](#) which sets out clear objectives and targets on energy, water, waste, transport, environmental awareness and participation, responsible procurement and enhancing open spaces for the benefit of the community and natural environment.

## Departmental climate change strategy

The department is developing a climate change strategy for the health and human services sector, including health prevention, public housing, and sport and recreation.

The Adaptation Action Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan are also being developed to prepare the department to meet its statutory requirements under the *Climate Change Act*, which commence from 2020. The development of the Adaptation Action Plan involves engaging with stakeholders across the department, and within health and human services system. The first pilot workshop was held with Melbourne Health, with additional workshops taking place in April 2018 with Castlemaine Health, NorthEast Health Wangaratta, East Grampians Health Service, Western Health and Eastern Health.

One of the outputs of the Adaptation Action Plan will be an approach to climate change adaptation that is applicable to all Victorian public hospitals. For more information contact: [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

For further information on the last climate change strategy and Emissions Reduction Plan please see the previous Sustainability Update # 22, January 2018: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/resources/sustainability-updates>.

## Upcoming events

### **ANMF (Vic Branch) Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference, 27 April 2018**

Attend the 2018 conference and learn new ways to reduce waste, promote sustainability and improve your community. Speakers include: Craig Reucassel (ABC TV's Chaser and the War on Waste) discussing waste and the environment; Planet Ark exploring why we need to continue recycling, and; Mark Rumble OAM on donations in kind. Speakers will also discuss community health initiatives currently operating in hospitals and beyond that will encourage ongoing conversations about the future of health and environmental sustainability practices. To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-anmf-health-and-environmental-sustainability-conference-registration-40295282274>.

## Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Planet Forum, 21-22 May 2018

The *Healthy Hospitals; Healthy Planet Forum* will be held in collaboration with the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and Institute of Hospital Engineers Australia (IHEA) on 21 and 22 May 2018. This forum continues to develop the dialogue on healthcare environmental sustainability from many aspects. Dr David Pencheon OBE, founding Director of the Sustainable Development Unit, National Health Service (NHS) UK will provide a keynote on pathways to success within the NHS. Other presentations cover building design, energy efficiency solutions and environmental research. There will be opportunities for collaboration, networking and information exchanges with likeminded colleagues. David's visit to Australia is supported by the University of Sydney.

For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-hospitals-healthy-planet-forum-may-21-and-22-2018-tickets-43584871524>.

## Learnings from the National Health Service UK, Dr David Pencheon OBE, 23 May 2018

Following on from the *Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Planet Forum*, the authority in conjunction with Western Health is organising a two hour forum with Dr David Pencheon OBE. The forum will be on Friday 23 May from 9-11am and provide an opportunity to learn from David's experience in embedding sustainability within the NHS.

An agenda will be circulated over coming weeks. For more information contact: [sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Green Nephrology Action Team (GNAT), 21-23 June 2018 and 8-12 September 2018

GNAT is working to incorporate environmental teachings into the Australian New Zealand Society of Nephrology and Renal Society of Australasia meetings. Specifically, a Green Symposium will be held as part of the ANZSN ASM in September, while the RSA meeting in June will include a Green Nephrology workshop. These aim to raise awareness about the need for, benefits of, and means of achieving environmentally sustainable renal care.

For more information: <http://www.renalsociety.org/education/2018-annual-conference/program/> and <http://www.anzsnasm.com/program>.

## Further information

The Sustainability in healthcare website is available at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability)

To join the Sustainability in healthcare online forum (open to public health service staff) please email [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au) or [sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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