

# Sustainability Update

Update No.15, September 2015

## Environmental management planning in health services

In April 2015 the department surveyed health services to track progress in implementing environmental management requirements in accordance with the Policy and Funding Guidelines. Responses were received from 97 per cent of health services.

The results indicate that 91 per cent of health service respondents have an environmental management plan in place and 80 per cent of health services have publicly reported. Half of those reporting did so through their annual report, while 13 per cent produced a stand-alone sustainability report. The department will repeat this survey biennially, commencing in 2016-17 to track progress and assist with the development of sustainability programs. In addition, to better understand the quality and extent of environmental management plans and public reports, a representative audit of selected plans and reports will be conducted over 2015-16.

A stand-alone template for public reporting of environmental data is available on the Sustainability Online Forum and the template is also available within the environmental management plan template on the sustainability website. The Sustainability Unit is happy to provide feedback of draft plans and environmental reports. For further information please contact [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Lancet Report on Health and Climate Change

On Tuesday 23 June 2015 the Lancet Journal released the “2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change: Policy Responses to Protect Public Health”. The report maps out the impacts of climate change, and policy responses, to ensure the highest attainable standards of health for populations worldwide. The central finding is that tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.

The report notes the direct effects of climate change are increased storms, drought, floods and heatwaves, with indirect effects on water quality, air pollution, land use change and ecological change. In turn these can affect the social dynamics of age and gender, health status, socioeconomic status, social capital, public health infrastructure and mobility and conflict status. Health and wellbeing can be impacted by the changes in social dynamics, as well as the direct and indirect effects of climate change. Health impacts identified include mental illness, under-nutrition, allergies, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, injuries, respiratory diseases and poisoning.

A range of materials have been produced by the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change which are available at <http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/climate-change-2015>. For further information please contact [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Energy efficiency & productivity statement

In June, the Minister for Energy & Resources released Victoria's energy efficiency and productivity statement which sets out the Government's plan to reduce energy use, grow jobs and protect the environment. The two priority actions directly relevant to the department are to provide active support to relieve energy cost pressures on the most vulnerable and to provide Government leadership and best practice in energy efficiency.

As part of the statement implementation the department is attending the Energy Efficiency & Productivity Summit on 25 August and a subsequent forum on government leadership.

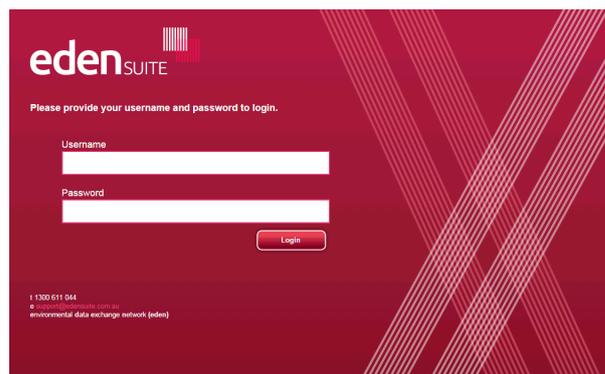
The statement is available from the following site: <http://www.energyandresources.vic.gov.au/energy/environment-and-community/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-and-productivity-statement>

## Environmental Data Management System

In August 2014 the department initiated the implementation of the new environmental data management system (EDMS) for public health services.

The system has been rolled out in the Metropolitan and Gippsland regions, and is currently being implemented in the Hume Region. Implementation in the Loddon Mallee will commence in October 2015. So far, the system has been, or is about to be, switched on in 30 health services.

Further information is available on the department's website and factsheet at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability/data-management.htm>. Further information is available from [spira.stojanovik@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:spira.stojanovik@dhhs.vic.gov.au).



## Sustainability in Healthcare Online Forum

Health services are encouraged to contribute to discussions and share information on the sustainability in healthcare online forum, for example: sharing health services' environmental public reports, promoting initiatives and/or using your peers' knowledge and expertise to solve common problems.

Current discussion threads include data management, sustainable procurement, water, waste management, environmental reporting and environmental management planning. The forum library also contains examples of performance reports, communication strategies to reduce printing and copying and carbon emission factors.

Resources relating to the environmental data management system are available on the forum and as more resources are prepared they will be made available through the forum library.

All health service staff with a health service email address are welcome to join. If you are not currently registered, or for further assistance, please email [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Upcoming case studies

The department is preparing a number of case studies to showcase sustainability projects being implemented by health services and the department. These will be released in due course and are:

- results of a longitudinal study at Alexandra District Hospital to better understand the linkages between building a healthier hospital and patient outcomes,
- engaging with Frankston Hospital staff, patients and visitors on environmental sustainability, and
- chemical free cleaning being rolled out by Monash Health which has resulted in significant financial and environmental savings.

If your health service has a project or initiative it would like written up as a case study, please email [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Further information

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

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