

SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE UPDATE

Update No. 22, January 2018

The Department of Health and Human Services produces the 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.

The Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority

The Sustainability Unit spoke to the Chief Executive Officer Robert Fiske about the Building Authority and his views on environmental sustainability and the health system.

Who are the Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority?

The Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (the Authority) is a new Government Authority established by the Andrews Government in June 2017 to bring together the department's capital programs, service planning, design, project delivery and asset management. Initially with a focus in health, but eventually encompassing large programs within housing and sport and recreation.

What is the Authority's purpose?

The Authority is responsible for delivering entity wide planning, development and delivery of building and infrastructure projects to support the Department of Health and Human Services. We are also responsible for building related policies and standards which ultimately guide on how we plan and develop our infrastructure.

How will this effect working with the Department?

It's business as usual under the new Authority. Our specialist teams are still located at the Department's central office on Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, and is focussed on planning and delivery of an ambitious program across the department.

What do you see as the key directions and opportunities that come with the Building Authority for improving environmental sustainability in healthcare?

We believe the Authority must provide strong leadership and advocacy for sustainability in

healthcare. Increasingly sustainability will be more important in terms of the broader infrastructure strategies of government into the future. Our role will assist in realising efficiencies through greater coordination of asset planning, delivery and management.

Next year will see the release of a new *Sustainability in Healthcare Strategy* and the department's *Climate change strategy*, which comprises an *Emissions reduction plan* and *Adaptation action plan*. Our role in delivering these plans will be integral to Government delivering its commitments in such an important area. Improving our communication in terms of our sustainability achievements will also be vital in demonstrating our leadership position.



Figure 1: Robert Fiske, CEO – Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority

Regional health solar projects

As of December 2017 there was around 2.5 megawatts of photovoltaic panels installed on Victorian public health facilities. It is estimated that this generates 0.5 per cent of Victoria's public hospitals' total annual electrical load.

To expand the level of renewable energy within the Victorian public health system, the Authority is investing significantly in solar panels. Access to \$3.5 million of no interest loans has been made available to health services in the Gippsland region to install solar panels. The department is assessing applications, with funding decisions expected to be announced in early 2018.

A further \$10 million is available for installing solar in regional hospitals and ambulance stations through the Greener Government Buildings program. The Authority is assessing consultant recommendations on where solar could be best located, with shortlisted sites likely to be communicated to health services in the first quarter of 2018.

Health Purchasing Victoria will be procuring solar panels collectively to maximise the benefits of bulk procurement. It is likely procurement will commence in the second quarter of 2018. If regional health services are interested in contributing to the Health Purchasing Victoria project Reference Group please discuss with your HPV Customer Relationship Manager. For more information: tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Health system recognised for sustainability achievements

Premier's Sustainability Awards – Health category: Western Health (Single Use Metal Instruments Recycling Program)

Congratulations to Western Health for winning the health category in this year's Premier's Sustainability Awards. This program recycles single-use metal instruments (SUMIs) which are an obvious waste of high-quality metals. The program recovered around 500 kilograms of recycled steel, representing approximately 80 per cent of all SUMIs purchased. This project can be implemented in any hospital. For more information: www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/western-health-2.



Figure 2: Catherine O'Shea – Environmental Sustainability Officer, Western Health. Photo: Sustainability Victoria

Premier's Sustainability Awards - Large Business and Premier's Regional Recognition Award category: Exemplary Health (NBH) Partnership

Congratulations also go to Exemplar Health (NBH) Partnership for winning both the Large Business and Premier's Regional Recognition Awards.

The new Bendigo Hospital is a state-of-the-art regional facility incorporating the latest design and technology solutions in a tranquil and caring environment. The Exemplar Health consortium is responsible for designing and building the hospital and will provide facilities management services to the building for 25 years.

Exemplar Health's balanced design response addressed Environmentally Sustainability Development solutions with pragmatic and cost effective initiatives, resilient infrastructure, significant energy efficiency in operation and ease of maintenance. The facility has considered all aspects of sustainability such as temperature, daylight and airflow, to material selection, external views and courtyards, and energy consumption and collection.

Environmental sustainability was one of the eight components Exemplar Health used to guide the project to become a world-class facility, with the aim to provide a healthier environment within the building to patients and staff, and a healthier physical environment externally to the broader community and region.

Bendigo Hospital has also won the Best of Asia Pacific Design Award from the International Interior Design Association in the healthcare category. For more information:

<http://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/exemplar-health-nbh-partnership>.

City of Melbourne - City Switch Awards

Congratulations to Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Vic Branch) who won a CitySwitch award for leadership in improving environmental sustainability, both in their new headquarters and the nursing profession.

The ANMF (Vic Branch) was awarded the CitySwitch 'Victorian Signatory of the Year' award for demonstrating significant environmental performance improvements and energy savings. CitySwitch is a service supported by the City of Melbourne and other local governments around the country to assist businesses with reducing their carbon footprint. In addition, ANMF (Vic Branch) has a dedicated environment officer, runs an annual Health & Environmental Sustainability Conference and has introduced Continuing Professional Development (CPD) focusing on how nurses can establish sustainability programs at work. For more information:

<http://www.anmfvic.asn.au/news-and-publications/news/2017/11/22/branch-wins-environmental-award>.

Improving waste management in the health sector

The Authority is progressing with Sustainability Victoria, Health Purchasing Victoria and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation a project on hospital 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. Thank you to health services which have submitted waste audits and the Authority is still keen to receive further audits that have been conducted in the last two years closing. Audit reports can be e-mailed to: sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

A waste education officer role will be advertised in early January. Further information will be available on www.careers.vic.gov.au once the position is open, and those with relevant experience are encouraged to apply, or send to those in your network. For more information: tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Victoria's energy efficiency and productivity statement has been released

On 20 November 2017 the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change released the *Energy efficiency and productivity strategy*. The strategy outlines Victoria's largest commitment – \$55 million – for energy efficiency initiatives and programs, some of which are already well underway. It is a detailed plan of action that follows the release of the 2015 *Energy efficiency and productivity statement*. The Authority is contributing to implementation of the strategy through its Greener Government Buildings programs. For more information: www.energy.vic.gov.au.

Energy data management system (EDMS)

The environmental data management system has a range of reporting functionalities, including energy, carbon and water benchmarking reports and a waste performance report. The report extract below benchmarks performance against similar facilities across a range of metrics, including occupied bed-days, floor area and utility cost.

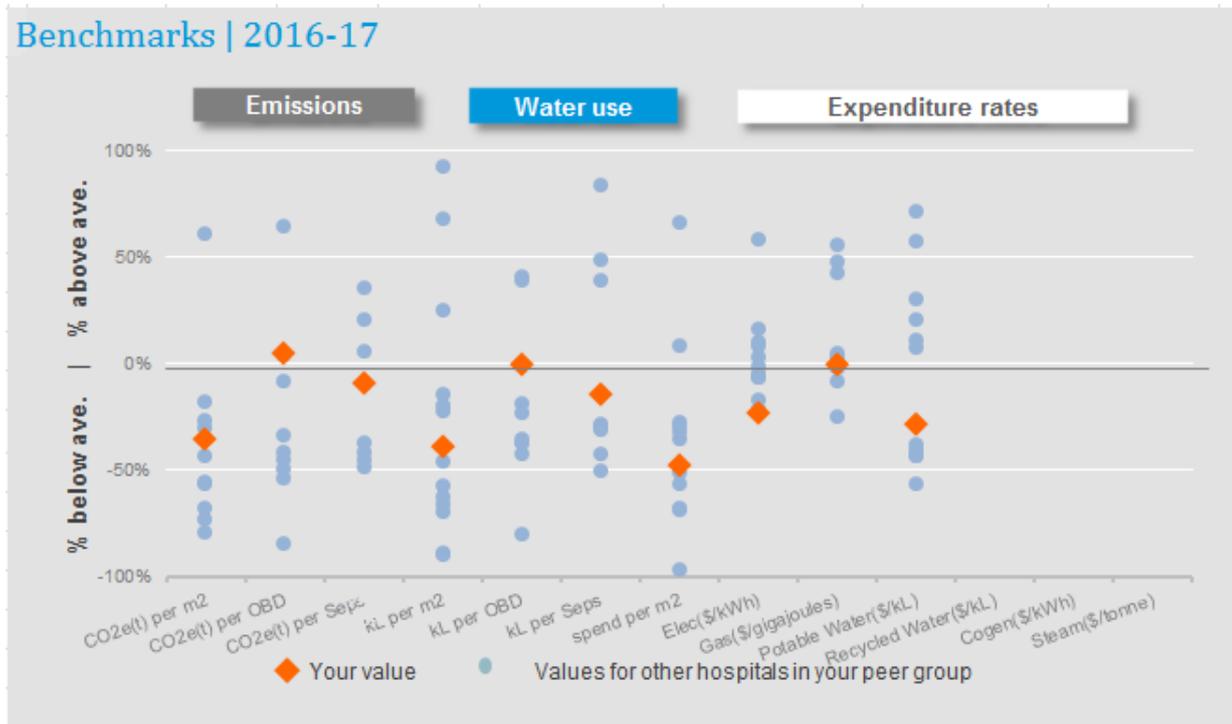


Figure 3: Energy Data Management System – Extract of benchmark chart from water and energy facility report

Health services are reminded that from 1 July 2017 waste data is to be reported into the environmental data management system. For further information or to find out who in your health service has access to the system please contact: julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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 being developed to prepare the department to meet its statutory requirements under the *Climate Change Act*, which commence from 2020.

Development of the Adaptation Action Plan involves engaging with stakeholders across the department, and health and human services system. A pilot workshop was recently held with Melbourne Health, and further workshops are being planned for other health services. 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: sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

The Emissions Reduction Plan will provide greater clarity on the emissions profile of the health and human services sector and how the sector can reduce its carbon emissions. The development of the plan includes high-level input to a whole-of-government Marginal Abatement Cost Curve to identify high return abatement opportunities, as well as detailed engagement on specific opportunities with the Institute of Hospital Engineering Australia. For more information: julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Departmental environmental sustainability report published

The Department of Health and Human Services 2016-17 annual report was published on 26 October 2017, including the environmental sustainability report (pp. 113-125). The department's reported carbon emissions increased by 7 per cent. This was mainly due to three new hospitals being built – the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the New Bendigo Hospital Stage 1, and the Monash Children's Hospital – and the inclusion of emissions from Ambulance Victoria transport for the first time.

Hospital water use continued to decline, reducing by 115 million litres, or close to 3 per cent compared to 2015-16. Over the same period water use per bed-day reduced by 5 per cent to 600 litres and by 7.5 per cent per metre squared to 1,210 litres.

The Authority has committed to a range of sustainability actions in 2017-18 including:

- reporting waste data from public hospitals and health services
- generating National Australian Built Environment Rating Scheme (NABERS) ratings for Victoria's public hospitals
- reviewing the department's guidelines for sustainability in healthcare capital works.

The annual report is available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/annual-report-department-health-and-human-services. Energy, carbon and water performance data will be updated on the department's sustainability website in the new year and will be available at: www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/water/water-consumption and www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/energy/energy-use.

Further information

The Sustainability in healthcare website is available at: www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability. To join the Sustainability in healthcare online forum (open to public health service staff) email sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au or sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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