

Sustainability in healthcare update

Update No.13, January 2015

Environmental management plans and public reporting

Under the Policy and Funding Guidelines, all health services are required to have an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and to publically report on environmental performance by the end of each year

A survey has been sent to metro and large regional health services and will be shortly sent out to remaining health services to assess compliance with the Policy and Funding Guidelines requirements. Results from the survey of metro and large regional health services indicated that all health services were complying with the requirements. Examples of public reports are available from metro and large regional health service websites and will also be available from within the Sustainability Healthcare Online forum for registered users.

All other health services had until 30 June 2014 to prepare their EMPs and were required to publicly report on their environmental performance for the 2013-14 year by the end of December 2014. Further information is available from sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au.

Health system energy & water performance

Over the last eight years the energy use (normalised across all fuel types to gigajoules of energy) of the health portfolio has remained relatively stable despite growth in floor area and activity. The portfolio has reduced its energy use by 8 per cent relative to bed-days, 10 per cent relative to floor area, and 22 per cent relative to separations.

Since 2005-06 the portfolio has reduced absolute water usage by 17 per cent, or around 0.8 million kilolitres. However, in 2013-14 water use increased by 5.2 per cent when compared with the year before. This increase could be attributed to the easing of water restrictions, hotter weather and water leaks. Health services are reminded to continue to monitor and manage water use on an ongoing basis.

Energy & water performance reports

Each year the department develops carbon and water performance reports for each health service. The template for the 2013-14 reports has been improved to provide additional analysis of data, as well as incorporating feedback from health services. The department welcomes any feedback on the new template.

The 2013-14 reports were issued to health service Chief Executive Officers and nominated AIMS contacts in January 2015. If you did not receive a copy of your report please contact spira.stojanovik@health.vic.gov.au.

Onsite organics processing at Parkville Health Precinct project funded

The Department of Health & Human Services has been successful in gaining funding from the Metropolitan Organics Fund for the trialling of precinct-wide on-site organics processing at the Parkville precinct. The fund is managed by the Metropolitan Waste & Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) which is a Victorian State Government Statutory Body responsible for coordinating and facilitating the delivery of municipal solid waste management across metropolitan Melbourne. Further information is available from sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au.

Online sustainability in healthcare forum

The online sustainability in healthcare forum is now live. Passwords and usernames have been sent out to the environmental sustainability contacts. Further invites will be sent out to the waste, energy and water contacts.

Health services are encouraged to contribute to discussions and share information on any sustainability topic. This could include, for example, sharing health services' environmental public reports, promoting initiatives you have implemented and/or using your peers' knowledge and expertise to solve common problems.

Leadership in environmental sustainability in health recognised

Melbourne Health and the department's Sustainability Unit are two of the three finalists in the Environmental Sustainability category in the Institute of Public Administration Australia (Victoria) Leadership in the Public Sector Awards 2014.

The Sustainability Unit was nominated for its leadership on environmental sustainability across the health sector which resulted in significant improvements in the environmental performance of the health portfolio over the past 7 years.

Melbourne Health was nominated for their 'Think Green' Strategy which aims to develop a culture of caring for the environment within Parkville and the State, proven and enhanced by a program of 'Think Green' initiatives and communication and engagement with their people, suppliers and visitors.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony on 19 February 2015. Congratulations to Melbourne Health for its nomination and the department looks forward to seeing more health finalists in 2015.

Environmental data management system (EDMS)

The environmental data management system (EDMS) is a web-based system for the department and health system that provides a standardised platform for the management of environmental and utility data. The EDMS is being progressively rolled out over 2014-15 and 2015-16 to all Victorian public health services, Ambulance Victoria and the department's corporate offices.

The EDMS will ultimately collect and manage use and consumption data for energy, water, waste, paper, vehicle fleet and medical gases. User Acceptance Testing was successfully completed in December 2014 and the five pilot health services are moving to the live system. The department is in the process of rolling-out the EDMS to metropolitan and major regional health services. It is anticipated the roll-out to health services in the Gippsland region would commence in April 2015. Further information and a factsheet have been developed and are available on the department's website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability/data-management.htm>.

Departmental news

On 1 January 2015, the Victorian Government established the Department of Health & Human Services, bringing together the former Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Sport and Recreation Victoria. The Sustainability Unit will continue to provide leadership on environmental sustainability within the public health care system. The existing sustainability website will continue to be maintained and provide resources on sustainability in health and contact details remain unchanged.

Further information

For further information on sustainability in health care please visit www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability/. Alternatively you can contact a member of the environmental sustainability team in the department:

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