

# Sustainability in healthcare update

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September 2017

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.

## Environmental sustainability strategy for the health system - update

The department is preparing a five year environmental sustainability strategy for the Victorian public health system. A stakeholder workshop was held on 1 August, with over 40 participants comprising peak bodies, representative groups and a range of health service staff.

The workshop involved vision setting, identifying key barriers and opportunities and identifying priority areas. A discussion paper was distributed and submissions are invited until 12 September 2017.

Feedback from the workshop, written submissions and a recent health service survey will feed into the draft strategy which is being developed over the next quarter. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the discussion paper, please contact [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Increasing energy prices

The department recognises that electricity prices have increased as a result of changes in market pricing and the end of a contract with favourable pricing. The department is actively working with Health Purchasing Victoria and other government partners to seek means for health services to manage these costs. Since the start of the Greener Government Building program the department has secured over \$30 million in no interest loans for energy efficiency and solar in public hospitals. For further information please contact [tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Solar power in public hospitals

There is around 2.5 megawatts of solar power installed in public hospitals. Capacity from 2011 to 2013 largely comprised the solar thermal cooling plant at Echuca Regional Hospital. Over the period 2014 to 2015 growth primarily comprised two projects over 200 kilowatts at Bendigo and Warragul hospitals and five installations less than 100 kilowatts. In the last eighteen months – 2016 and 2017 – an additional 1.1 megawatts was installed over 12 individual projects. Projects have been funded directly by health services, capital redevelopment and through the Greener Government Building program.

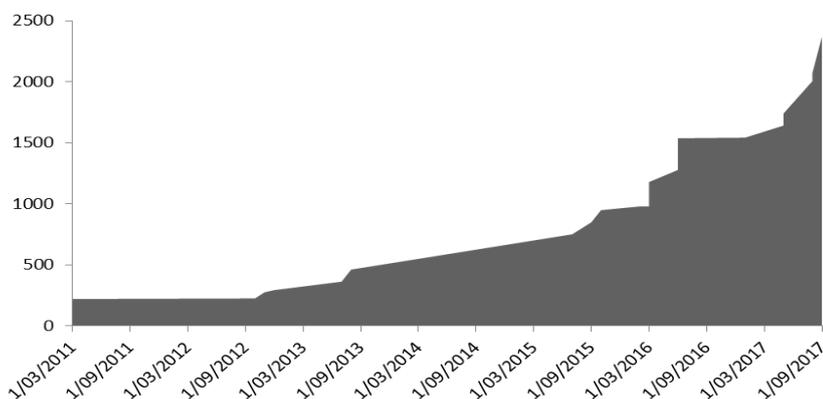


Figure 2: Growth in installed kilowatts solar in Victorian public hospitals

## Energy Data Management System (EDMS)

The environmental data management system has been expanded to include waste functionality, including an annual waste performance report. The department requires the reporting of waste data by public health services to the department from 1 July 2017. Waste data will be used to identify resource efficiency opportunities and investigate the feasibility of resource efficiency programs. Further guidance, as well as an updated waste reporting tool is available on the Sustainability Website (see the New Resources Section over page).

Electricity data from Stanwell under the new Health Purchasing Victoria contract will be automatically uploaded into the EDMS. Data from Momentum Energy for smaller sites will continue to be uploaded as previously. For further information please contact [julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:julian.freeland@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Waste research project

The department is progressing with Sustainability Victoria, Health Purchasing Victoria and the Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation a research project on hospital waste management to assess the current levels and types of waste produced by public sector health services, focusing on particular clinical areas and different sized health services. The research will showcase examples of innovation already being implemented in the public health sector to reduce waste generation and increase recovery. The project has a number of phases, the first being to collect and analyse data to identify opportunities. For further information please contact [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Climate change adaptation strategy

The department is developing a sector-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan and an Emissions Reduction Plan. It is expected consultation will commence on these processes by early 2018. If you are interested in contributing to these plans, please email [sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.bending@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## New resources available on the department's website

**Waste Reporting Tool:** A new version of the waste reporting tool (version 2.01) is available. Please update if you are still using the older version. Version 2.01 is available as a download from the Sustainability in healthcare website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/waste/tools-for-waste-data>

**PVC Recycling:** a factsheet on implementing a PVC recycling program in health services, prepared in collaboration with the Vinyl Council of Australia: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/waste/pvc>

**Public Environmental Reporting Guidelines:** Health services are encouraged to review the new environmental reporting guidelines available on the department's website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting>

## 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) 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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