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| Sustainability in healthcare updateEdition #34, December 2021 |

## The Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) produces the quarterly Sustainability in Healthcare Update to inform health services on sustainability initiatives being implemented across the healthcare sector, as well as key sustainability issues of interest.

# New sustainability staff and Merry Christmas

Tamara Fisher has joined the Victorian Health Building Authority in the new role of Director, Technical Advisory Services. The role has oversight of the engineering, environmental sustainability, design services and property teams. Commencing in the private property development sector almost 20 years ago, Tamara has worked across various government agencies and has a background in land acquisitions as well as delivery of complex government capital programs. Tamara led the creation and instalment of the Green Building Council of Australia Green Star Rating tool for fire stations (design and built form) as well as leading social procurement programs for government-built infrastructure focusing on women’s equality and safety, opportunities for indigenous Victorians and climate change policy objectives.

Aaron Hoare has joined the environmental sustainability team in a new role of Sustainability Project Officer. Aaron brings technical skills from both his studies as a qualified mechanical engineer, several industry based qualifications and from working as a building refrigeration mechanic. Aaron is keen to be part of our growth and transition to a more sustainable health care sector.

The VHBA sustainability team wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. Some useful tips on having a sustainable Christmas are available from [Clean Up Australia](https://www.cleanup.org.au/ecofriendlychristmasguide) <https://www.cleanup.org.au/ecofriendlychristmasguide>.

# 2020-21 environmental data published

The [Department of Health 2020-21 annual report](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-annual-report) has been tabled in Parliament and is available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-annual-report>. The report contains environmental performance data for the public health system. Highlights for 2020-21 include:

* 1 per cent reduction in reported greenhouse gas emissions within the public health sector (equivalent to 8,599 tonnes of carbon-dioxide CO2-e),
* generation of some 9.8 gigawatt-hours of electricity from solar arrays on Victorian public hospitals through 2020-21, equating to some 11,000 tonnes of CO2-e reductions,
* continued implementation of the Regional Health Solar Program, with 7.4 megawatt-peak installed to date out of the 8.7 megawatt-peak supported through the program;
* facilitating Southwest Healthcare’s hot water upgrades and installation of solar and variable speed drives, saving around 180 tonnes of CO2-e, and
* facilitating Ambulance Victoria’s installation of LED lighting at its Air Ambulance branch in Essendon Fields and a 16 kilowatt-hour battery at the Sebastopol brand, saving around 150 tonnes of CO2-e.

The department has also published its action plan for 2021-22 against the Environmental sustainability strategy 2018–19 to 2022–23. The strategic implementation plan and 2019-20 action plan, progress report and sustainability performance report on implementing our agreed actions are available from the [sustainability in healthcare webpages](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability>.

# Expansion of government environmental reporting

As part of Victoria’s [Climate Change Strategy](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy) <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy> and the [Whole of Victorian Emissions Reduction Government Pledge](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change) <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change>, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is leading a program to uplift environmental reporting across the Victorian government. This includes expanding the scope and application of Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 24 – Government environmental reporting on what environmental metrics are reported and which public sector entities are required to report.

The Department of Health and the Victorian Health Building Authority are working with DELWP on the update and consultation with portfolio entities that may be affected by the proposed changes. Health services interested in being involved in the consultation, that may include online sessions and/or surveys, should e-mail their contact details to sustainability@health.vic.gov.au.

# Environmental data management system

The whole-of-health-system environmental data management system, Eden Suite, has been successfully rolled-out and used across all of Victoria’s hospitals since 2014-15. The contract has been extended to 30 June 2022, with a one year option to 30 June 2023.

Since its adoption by the health sector, other data management systems have become available on the market. To ensure the health system continues to have cost effective and best practice environmental data management, VHBA will commence a procurement exercise in early 2022 for a system that will commence at the end of the current contract. Further information will be provided as the project progresses.

# Revised guidelines for sustainability in capital works

VHBA’s guidelines for sustainability in capital works provide advice and guidance to all stakeholders involved in the design, construction, and refurbishment of healthcare facilities on how to build sustainable, healthy and resilient buildings.

In October 2021, VHBA released an updated guideline. The key structure and principles of the guidelines have not changed and the sustainability allowance of 2.5 per cent remains. Updates in the revised guidelines include:

* replacement of carbon and water design targets with requirement to use [NABERS reverse calculator](https://www.nabers.gov.au/reverse-calculators) <https://www.nabers.gov.au/reverse-calculators>,
* greater clarity on responsibilities for meeting Section J in the building Code of Australia,
* additional requirements to map projected operational waste flows to inform the space allocation for waste infrastructure,
* additional requirements to prepare a draft Climate Adaptation Plan for sites with significant climate risk, and
* addition of sustainability control points in VHBA’s Project Management Framework.

The revised guidelines, and a summary of the revisions, can be downloaded from the [guidelines for sustainability in capital works resources page](https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/guidelines-sustainability-capital-works) <https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/guidelines-sustainability-capital-works>.

The VHBA sustainability team plays a key role in reviewing sustainability initiatives in the health capital works program. In the first half of 2021-22 the team has provided sustainability advice on around 25 capital projects, across over 50 individual sites. If you would like sustainability advice on a health capital project, please e-mail julian.freeland@health.vic.gov.au.

# Premiers Sustainability awards

The Premier’s Sustainability Awards recognise and celebrate Victorians who are leading the way to a sustainable future. In 2021, the calibre of entries reached a new high as new award categories were introduced to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). The winners were announced in an awards ceremony on November 23, 2021.

Congratulations to the Community Champion, Jo Algie from Ambulance Victoria, for her efforts in Waste reduction and the circular economy - Uniform Recycling Program to recycle old AV uniforms.

Further information about the award winners and finalists can be found on the [Premiers Sustainability website](https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/psa) <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/psa>.

# Best practice for energy management in government operations

The Energy Efficiency Council, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, Green Building Council of Australia and Property Council of Australia have launched a new report that sets out the steps governments can take to reduce emissions and reduce costs through smart energy management.

The guide showcases government entities that are leading the charge, including the Victorian Government, Department of Health and Peninsula Health, and provides guidance for all public sector entities on how they can put in place the policies and programs that will drive systematic energy performance improvements in their own operations.

The guide and webinar recording are available on the [Energy Efficiency Council website](https://www.eec.org.au/policy-advocacy/projects/government-operations-December-2021) <https://www.eec.org.au/policy-advocacy/projects/government-operations-December-2021>.

# Energy efficiency and solar projects

## West Gippsland Healthcare Group energy performance contract

In 2014 West Gippsland Healthcare Group implemented an energy performance contract (EPC), with support from the department. This project has recently been varied to remove central steam from the hospital, installation of a new steam boiler and new steam pipework to the kitchen and Level 4 plantroom, 185 kilowatt-peak of solar, LED lighting and other minor works. The project will reduce carbon emissions by 1,115 tonnes and deliver annual utility savings of $0.34 million. The project is being funded through a grant by the Victorian Health Building Authority, savings from the original EPC and a $1.679 million no-interest loan through the Greener Government Buildings program.

## Installation of solar

Through the Greener Government Buildings, the Victorian Health Building Authority is supporting the installation of 1,019 kilowatt-peak of solar at Eastern Health, Monash Health, Hesse Rural Health Services and Ballarat Health Services. The projects are estimated to save 1,198 tonnes of carbon emissions and $0.25 million in utility costs a year.

Following a call for expression of interests for its $40 million solar and LED program, the Victorian Health Building Authority is supporting the installation of 1,182 kilowatt-peak of solar Albury Wodonga Health, Alfred Health, Boort District Health, Castlemaine Health, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health, Mildura Base Public Hospital, Tallangatta Health Service and West Wimmera Health Service, with Albury Wodonga Health and Boort District Health also doing LED lighting upgrades. The projects are estimated to save 2,034 tonnes of carbon emissions and $0.3 million in utility costs a year.

Public hospitals and health services who are interested in an interest free loan for solar (metropolitan and regional) and LED upgrades (regional) should contact tiernan.humphrys@health.vic.gov.au.

# Electric vehicles

The Victorian Government has released its Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap, supported by a $100 million-dollar package of policies and programs that will ensure Victoria is a leader in the adoption of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) in Australia. By 2030, half of all light vehicle sales in Victoria will be ZEVs.

As part of the roadmap, 400 vehicles in Victorian public sector entities, including public health services, will be switched for electric vehicles by 2023. Initial work to identify potential sites, including at public hospitals, is being undertaking by the Department of Treasury and Finance in conjunction with VHBA. Further information will be provided as the project develops. Information on the roadmap and Zero emissions vehicle is available on the [energy.vic](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-%20energy/zero-emissions-vehicles) site <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable- energy/zero-emissions-vehicles>.

The department facilitated a working group with a number of health services to identify information needs and other issues. The feedback from the workshop will inform a number of factsheets that are being prepared on ZEVs. For more information, please e-mail sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au (noting Sarah is on leave until early January 2022).

# Upcoming events

The department’s annual sustainability in healthcare forum is being planned for March 2021 as an online event. Further information will be provided in early 2022. If there are topics of particular interest you would like to see on the program, case studies you would be prepared to present on, or other suggestions regarding the format please email sarah.bending@health.vic.gov.au.

The Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Victorian branch is holding the following events:

* Nursing for the Environment Intensive – 16 June 2022 (CPD points for those eligible)
* Annual Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference – 13 May 2022

# Key contacts

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To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 9595 2898 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email <[sustainability@health.vic.gov.au](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/zero-emissions-vehicles)>

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Available at the department’s [Sustainability in Heathcare website](https://engage.vic.gov.au/aaps) <[www.health.vic.gov.au](https://www.caha.org.au/globalgreen_healthyhospitals)>