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| Health service environmental sustainability requirements |
| Guide for compliance (January 2020) |

# Overview

This guidance provides an overview of key environmental requirements of Victorian public hospitals.[[1]](#footnote-1) Further resources are provided on the [Sustainability in healthcare website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability> and through following the links embedded in this guide.

## Environmental requirements

The *Environmental sustainability strategy 2018–19 to 2022–23* sets out the department’s commitment to further improve the environmental performance of the health system.

This is the primary guiding document for environmental sustainability, with the department’s environmental management plan template providing guidance on how health services can operationalise it.

Include all requirements below, where applicable, in the environmental management plan, which should be reviewed annually to ensure that is up-to-date.

| **Requirement** | **Who it applies to** | **Summary** | **Policy owner/ regulator** | **Further information** |
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| Policy and funding guidelines – environmental management plan | All public hospitals and health services | All health services to have an EMP in place. A template is available. | DHHS | [Environmental Management Planning and Reporting](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting>>  [DHHS policy and funding guidelines](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/policy-and-funding-guidelines-health-and-human-services) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/policy-and-funding-guidelines-health-and-human-services> |
| Policy and funding guidelines – public reporting on environmental performance | All public hospitals and health services | a) All health services must report their environmental data into their annual report, and  b) Health services must collect and report data to the department using EDMS. | DHHS | a) Further information will be included in the *Health services annual report 2019–20: Guidelines for the report of operations* prior to the 2019–20 reporting period  b) [Environmental Management Planning and Reporting](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/planning-reporting>> |
| Statement of priorities – supporting environmental sustainability | All public hospitals and health services | Contribute to improving the environmental sustainability of the health system by identifying and implementing projects and/or processes to reduce carbon emissions. | DHHS | [SoP requirements](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/funding-performance-accountability/statement-of-priorities) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/funding-performance-accountability/statement-of-priorities> |
| Sustainability guidelines for healthcare capital works | DHHS/ health services | All healthcare capital works delivered by the department must meet the guidelines for sustainability in healthcare capital works. | DHHS | [Sustainability guidelines](http://www.capital.health.vic.gov.au/Environmental_sustainability/Sustainability_in_healthcare_capital_works/Sustainability_guideline_2010/)  <http://www.capital.health.vic.gov.au/Environmental\_sustainability/Sustainability\_in\_healthcare\_capital\_works/Sustainability\_guideline\_2010/> |
| National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) | Health services meeting the threshold | Health services meeting certain thresholds. Use the NPI guide to determine whether your facility should report emissions and transfers of substances to the NPI. | EPA | [NPI website](http://www.npi.gov.au/)  <http://www.npi.gov.au/> |
| National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme | Sites required to report under the *NGER Act 2007* | Health services can determine if they are required to report by using the ‘assess potential obligations’ from the guides and factsheet section of the NGERs website. |  | [NGER website](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER)  <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER>  [NGER guides and factsheets](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/Forms-and-resources/Guides-and-factsheets)  <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/Forms-and-resources/Guides-and-factsheets> |
| E-waste to landfill ban | All Victorians, including hospitals | All appliances powered by a battery or electric cord, can no longer be disposed of in landfill and must be recycled. | EPA | [E-waste in Victoria](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/e-waste-in-victoria)  <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/e-waste-in-victoria> |
| Clinical and related waste guidelines | All Victorian hospitals, health facilities | All clinical waste must be disposed of according to the [Clinical and related waste – operational guidance](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2009/september/iwrg612-1) *<*https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2009/september/iwrg612-1>. | EPA | [Clinical waste guidance](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/waste-guidance/clinical-waste-guidance)  <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/waste-guidance/clinical-waste-guidance> |
| PVC recycling | All metropolitan health services | PVC items (oxygen masks, oxygen tubing and Baxter IV bags) generated in theatre, renal and ICU must be recycled. | DHHS | [Recycling in hospitals](http://recyclinginhospitals.com.au/)  <http://recyclinginhospitals.com.au/> |

## Other environmental opportunities

This section contains non-mandatory opportunities, that health services are encouraged to review and adopt.

Some of these may apply to the government or sector as a whole and may become mandatory in the future.

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| Topic | Who it applies to | Summary | Agency/dept | Further information |
| Waste audit guidelines | All public hospitals and health services | All health services are encouraged to use the department’s waste audit guidelines when conducting waste audits | DHHS | [Waste audit guidelines](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/waste/audit-guidelines)  <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/waste/audit-guidelines> |
| Climate change adaptation plan | DHHS | All departments required to develop adaptation action plans under the Climate Health Act. This commences by November 2020, but the department is part of a pilot prior to the commencement of the legislation. Further information will be provided as this part of the departments work. | DELWP | [Climate change and health](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/climate-change-and-health)  <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/climate-change-and-health> |
| Fleet efficiency plan | Victorian public hospitals | All health services are encouraged to develop a fleet efficiency plan | DHHS | [Fleet management](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/transport)  <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/sustainability/transport> |

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1. While best efforts are made to keep this information up to date, health services are responsible for meeting legislative requirements. If there are any requirements that are not included, please email the [Sustainability team](http://sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)