

# SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE UPDATE

Update No. 30, August 2020

The Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (VHHSBA) 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 starter – Jacqueline Shields

Jacqueline Shields has joined VHHSBA as Environmental Programs Adviser while Sarah Bending is on secondment to the department's Environmental Health Unit. Jacqueline is a communications professional with experience in project management. Previously Jacqueline was a Project Manager at the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Corporate and Internal Communications Lead at Sustainability Victoria and managed the internal communications function at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. Jacqueline can be contacted at [Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Waste management updates

### Clinical Waste advice during COVID-19

We are aware that health services are experiencing difficulties with clinical waste collections during the second wave of COVID-19. We are having daily meetings with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and regular catch-up's with Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV) and Cleanaway Daniels, to improve the service being provided to hospitals, pop-up clinics and aged care facilities.

Cleanaway Daniels has requested that health services provide:

- at least 24 hours' notice of additional bin requirements
- at least 48 hours' notice of any additional service requirements (i.e. extra scheduled collections)
- as much information as possible about the actual or anticipated scale of the increase when requesting additional services.

While Cleanaway Daniels appreciates the sensitivity of health service needs at this time and will attempt to accommodate urgent requests, assistance with less than 24 hours' notice may be limited, given the complexity of fleet operations and the high volume of service requests during the current crisis.

When presenting clinical waste bins for collection please ensure:

- bins are at least 50 per cent full, though do not compress the waste
- bags are tied-off with knots facing upwards with bin lids closed
- the outside of bins is disinfected prior to collection.

### What is clinical waste?

Items from patients known to, or suspected of having, COVID-19 must be disposed of as clinical waste.

Waste generated in areas *not* treating COVID-19 patients should only be disposed of as clinical waste if it meets the EPA criteria of clinical waste. This is detailed in the [Clinical and related waste guidance – Supplement for healthcare staff](#).



Recycling should continue during COVID-19 and Cleanaway Daniels has not raised any concerns with collecting recyclables.

If clinical waste is being generated in settings other than hospitals (e.g. aged care, disability services) you should read the EPA's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Disposing clinical waste](#) guidance.

Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) disposal in a non-clinical setting where there has not been a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case can be found in EPA's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Disposing of PPE at home and in the workplace](#) guidelines.

If you are still experiencing issues with collections, supply of bins etc. please contact HPV on (03) 9947 3900 or at [healthservices@hpv.zendesk.com](mailto:healthservices@hpv.zendesk.com) and copy Rachel McConville into the email [rachel.mcconville@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachel.mcconville@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Rachel McConville on 03 8644 5967 or at [rachel.mcconville@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachel.mcconville@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

## 2019-20 annual reporting

Julian Freeland, Resource Efficiency, has once again reviewed all health service environmental data for the department's 2019-20 annual report. The key findings from the analysis will be communicated to the sector once the annual report has been tabled in Parliament. This is a huge task and across the sector there are 4,424 measurement devices collecting environmental data at either the asset, facility or organisational level, including:

- 1,572 NMIs recording electricity data
- 776 MIRNs recording gas data
- 1,552 water meters
- 100 LPG measurement devices
- 205 waste measurement devices
- 87 transport measurement devices
- 132 solar measurement devices.

VHHSBA would like to thank all those health services that entered data into the environmental data management system throughout the year. VHHSBA is working with Elgas for provision of LPG data for 2020-21 onwards and further details will be provided in later updates.

## Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network updates

VHHSBA encourages public health services to join GGHH and access the many benefits provided through the network which include networking and support from a community of sustainable healthcare colleagues across Australia, New Zealand and globally. There are resources available which have been developed specifically for healthcare sustainability and opportunities for international recognition for environmental achievements.

The international [Healthcare Climate Challenge Awards](#) are given to health institutions who are taking impressive action to reduce their carbon footprint, improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change and/or showing leadership in addressing climate change. Submissions for the awards are open until 15 September 2020. A health institution does not need to be a GGHH member to take part.

The Sustainable Healthcare and Climate Health Aotearoa – [2020 Webinar series](#) will focus on sustainable healthcare and climate health. The 30-min programs will air fortnightly on Tuesdays at 4pm NZST / 2pm AEST from June to October 2020. <https://www.otago.ac.nz/news/events/otago738191.html>

The case studies [Developing an Environmental Sustainability Plan](#) and using [Compostable Drug Trays](#) are freely available in the [GGHH Case study library](#).

If you have any questions or would like support becoming a member please contact [Carol Behne](#), CAHA Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager & GGHH Pacific Region Coordinator. Access the website for more information. [GGHH website](#)

## Science in Government: then, now and what next? - #scienceweek podcast

Presented by Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr Amanda Caples and EPA Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist Dr Andrea Hinwood, the [Science in Government podcast series](#) profiles a variety of science professionals working within the Victorian Government, what they studied along the way, what roles they have now and the scientific developments they look forward to in the future.

Vanora Mulvenna, Manager of Climate and Health at the Department of Health and Human Services shares her career path from her earliest interest in science to working in the Victorian Public Service in the field of public health and climate change.

Vanora has a long-standing association with the VHHSBA Environmental Sustainability Unit team having worked closely with Tiernan, Brett Sutton and Daniel Voronoff to publish the article [Acting on climate change and health in Victoria](#) in the Medical Journal of Australia.

## VHHSBA events

### Guidelines for sustainability in capital works webinar, 9 September 2020

In May this year, VHHSBA released the revised [Guidelines for sustainability in capital works](#) which are applicable to all healthcare capital works delivered by VHHSBA and public hospitals and health services - new builds, retrofits and refurbishments. The Guidelines set the sustainability standards and expectations for all public healthcare capital works in Victoria. They outline the requirements and provide practical advice of how to build sustainable and resilient healthcare buildings.

Hear more about the changes as they apply to installation of solar, waste and resource recovery, indoor environment quality, theatre set-backs, climate change adaption and NABERS for Hospitals during the webinar. Have your questions answered during the Q&A session by VHHSBA's Environmental Sustainability Unit and the NABERS team.

- Date: Wednesday 9 September
- Time: 2:00-3:30pm
- Speakers:
  - VHHSBA: Tiernan Humphrys, Manager Environmental Sustainability, Julian Freeland, Resource Efficiency and Rachel McConville, Waste Education Officer
  - NABERS: Monique Alfris, Head of Operations and Standards, Rob Hughes, Ratings Manager
- Registration: [Click the link to register](#) or access the event via EventBrite. Those who register will receive a recording of the webinar post-event.
- Questions are encouraged to be submitted upon registration but can also be posted during the webinar or by emailing [sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

More information is available from Jacqueline Shields, Environmental Programs Adviser on [Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

### Clinical waste webinar - 30 September 2020

On 30 September 2020, Rachel McConville will be hosting a webinar focused on clinical waste. Details about the webinar as well as the registration link will be provided across VHHSBA socials. Contact Jacqueline Shields on [Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au) if you are interested in registering your attendance.

### Sustainability in healthcare forum, 16 October 2020

Planning is underway for the second sustainability in healthcare forum to be held on the 16 October 2020. We are exploring moving to an online event and welcome all suggestions as to topics and speakers you would like included on the program, including presentations from your health service. It is proposed to have a climate change theme but ideas for other topics are welcome as well. Suggestions can be sent to Jacqueline Shields, Environmental Programs Advisor at [jacqueline.shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:jacqueline.shields@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

## Industry events

**Institute of Hospital Engineering Australia (IHEA) Facilities Management Conference 2021.** The IHEA has decided to postpone the 2020 National Conference “21st Century Healthcare Engineering”. **Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Victoria (ANMF Vic): Nursing for the Environment.** The ANMF has announced the cancellation of the 2020 conference to curb transmission of the coronavirus and protect members.

**Energy Efficiency Expo, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, October 2020** has been postponed until 27-28 October 2021.

## Summary of resources online

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (VHHSBA), a branch of DHHS websites contain a wealth of the latest resources on sustainability in healthcare. The websites can be found at:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - Sustainability in Healthcare [www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability)
- Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority (VHHSBA), a branch of DHHS [www.vhhsba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vhhsba.vic.gov.au)

Topics covered across the websites include capital works, carbon management, data management tools, dialysis services, environmental compliance, energy, procurement, transport, waste and water. Specifically, you can access the following materials:

- quarterly Sustainability Updates (dating back to March 2014),
- videos outlining the importance of sustainability in the healthcare system,
- case studies and factsheets on sustainability initiatives to assist health services,
- guidelines and guidance notes around sustainability issues relevant to the healthcare sector, and
- templates including relating to environmental management planning.

## Key contacts

Tiernan Humphrys	Manager Environmental Sustainability	8644 5970	<a href="mailto:tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au">tiernan.humphrys@dhhs.vic.gov.au</a>
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