

Brief: *Sustainability at PHSA*



Prepared by:

Ruth Abramson
Corporate Manager, Environmental Sustainability
RAbramson2@phsa.ca www.phsa.ca/green

Key Achievements

- The BC Cancer Research Centre was Canada's first health facility to earn LEED^{*} Gold status.
- In the past few years, PHSA energy retrofits have saved enough energy to power 400 homes.
- As part of its efforts to reduce vehicle emissions, PHSA pioneered Telehealth, operates a shuttle service between sites, and participates in a discount transit pass program.
- PHSA launched Canada's first Green+Leaders pilot program to foster sustainable behaviours at the unit level.

New Government Requirements

- PHSA mandated to be carbon neutral by 2010
- Currently measuring paper consumption, energy used for buildings, fleet vehicle emissions
- Additional measurables expected
- Projected cost to date: \$1 million annually in carbon taxes and offsets

PHSA's last GLE requires:

- Implementation of staff engagement and education programs
- Energy and greenhouse gas reductions to be integrated into all aspects of operations
- All new buildings to meet LEED Gold standards
- Adherence to the government's carbon measurement tool (SmartTool)
- Preparation of an annual Carbon Neutral Action Report

* LEED is North America's green building rating system.

PHSA Sustainability Highlights 2009

Provincial Requirements

- Submitted first Carbon Neutral Action Report
- Fulfilled SmartTool requirements for reporting greenhouse gas emissions
- LEED Gold achieved for new BCCA Abbotsford building

Behaviour Change

- Launched Green+Leaders, BC Healthcare's first comprehensive program designed to:
 - foster sustainable behaviours
 - reduce material and energy consumption while increasing use of alternative transportation at the unit level
 - meet Engagement Matters/Improve objectives
- The Green+Leaders pilot program, which is based on best practices, now includes 40 staff volunteers from across PHSA. The program is designed to expand to 150 PHSA departments.

Outreach/Communications

- Delivered 20 internal PHSA presentations to a total of more than 430 participants
- Delivered 3 external presentations to 120 participants total:
 - *CleanMed* conference in Chicago
 - *Women in Logistics* event for the Lower Mainland
 - Provincial *Public Sector Organization Workshop*
- 16 articles in PHSA newsletters featured sustainability, including:
 - *Pulse* (5) and *News You Can Use* (3)
 - *C&W's Teamworks* (5)
 - *BCCA's Link* (3)
- Three pieces featured PHSA sustainability initiatives in external media:
 - *Vancouver Courier* mention of the C&W wind turbine
 - Canada-wide *Green Healthcare Listserv*: BC Healthcare service launches its first Green+Leaders program
 - Natural Resources Canada's *Heads Up Energy Efficiency*: BC Healthcare service launches its first Green+Leaders program
- Built PHSA external sustainability website
- Sustainability booth staged at two PHSA Wellness Fairs at BCCA and C&W for hundreds of participants

- Organized transportation fair at C&W

Policies

- Drafted PHSA Sustainability Policy and sent out for review
- Print Strategy sustainability best practices procedures developed and implemented
- Drafted PHSA Facilities and Planning sustainability policy and sent out for review
- PHSA's new Food Policy includes sustainability
- New Printer Acquisition Policy includes sustainability best practices

Supply Chain Initiatives

Conducted a June 2009 follow-up survey of 40 participants who attended PHSA's January Sustainability Purchasing Workshop. Survey results include the following:

- Percentage of survey respondents reporting being comfortable or very comfortable with sustainability rose by 20 percent after the workshop.
- Participant confidence levels with ability to incorporate ecological or social imperatives into decision-making at PHSA rose from 12 to 28 percent.
- Most respondents reported that since the workshop, they now consider the environmental or social implications of their actions "sometimes" or "most of the time" when making decisions at work.

Transportation Initiatives

- Organized a session on winter bike safety for 22 C&W staff members, four bike maintenance workshops for 46 participants at C&W and BCCA, and a bike skills workshop for 10 PHSA staff members
- For Bike to Work Week, organized incentives at C&W for each day including free coffee, t-shirts and bike repairs. Also held free repair days five times from June to September at C&W and BCCA-VC
- Purchased three new bike racks for C&W and launched rebate program to encourage staff to purchase U-bolt locks
- 180 staff members enrolled in Green Commuters incentives program
- Approvals secured to allocate a portion of new employee parking rate increase revenue towards subsidizing employee transit passes

Energy Initiatives

- PSECA II awarded PHSA \$4.5 million for energy efficiency projects.
- BC Hydro provided \$25,000 worth of rebates for projects which will save \$20,000 in energy costs. The projects involved improving efficiency of fans at C&W and completing remaining indoor lighting upgrades at C&W and BCCA Victoria.
- Five new way-finding signs at C&W are now powered by LEDs to save energy.
- Began discussions on the potential for a C&W bio-mass plant which would become part of the city's neighbourhood co-generation scheme.

Waste Management Initiatives

- Purchased 20 lidded recycling bins for BCCH wards to increase beverage recycling and help control ants and fruit flies
- The BCCDC cafeteria implemented a recycling program featuring bins for plastics, glass, and paper. The cafeteria also purchased a dishwasher allowing the return to china and silverware rather than using disposables.
- Identified contractor to recycle redundant pagers at IMIT Service Desk for 601 W Broadway
- Waste audit templates developed for housekeeping and external waste contractors to improve contractor performance monitoring
- Education sessions provided to the C&W Pharmacy and Facilities and Planning Departments on segregation, recycling and packaging of waste