

PHSA launches BC health care's first Green+Leaders program

PHSA's inaugural group of Green+Leaders has hit the ground running to foster sustainable behaviours throughout the organization. This pilot program consists of a group of 20 volunteers who model sustainable behaviours and provide information and tools to co-workers to make their daily tasks more environmentally-friendly. Members come from a variety of sites, departments and levels throughout the organization. Their first task? To help their colleagues reduce PHSA's staggering amount of paper consumption. . . . continued on page 2



The Green+Leaders team at a recent meeting to discuss ways to reduce paper consumption at PHSA.

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"PHSA uses 44 million sheets of office paper annually," said Ruth Abramson, corporate manager, Environmental Sustainability. "That's enough to reach a third of the way around the planet. Not only are we going to be paying for carbon offsets on this amount, that's the equivalent of 5,664 trees." To reduce paper use, the group will be sharing information with colleagues about paperless meetings, how to e-file email, how to set up a shared drive for e-filing, and desktside recycling.

But paper isn't the only reason for Green+Leaders. The pilot program is also designed to inspire staff and build community, reduce materials and energy use and encourage alternative transportation in order to save PHSA money and resources.

"The program capitalizes on the enthusiasm and ideas of staff by offering

volunteer opportunities to those who want to act on their sustainability values in the workplace," said Ruth, noting the goal is to recruit 120 volunteers by the end of year two of the program. Ruth designed the program after extensive consultation at all levels of the organization. "I've spoken to hundreds of PHSA's doctors, nurses, researchers, support staff, administrators and executives about their sustainability priorities," she said. "A behaviour change program topped the list."

The program is currently recruiting volunteers for the second round of Green+Leaders training taking place Jan. 13 and 14, 2010. For more information or to get involved, contact Ruth at Rabramson2@phsa.ca or 604.877.6240, or Andrew Merrill at amerrill@phsa.ca.

Did you know?

Cardiac Services BC has a new logo

Cardiac Services BC recently underwent an image makeover with the development of a new logo. The new logo reflects the unique services provided by the agency with a bold and distinctive graphic. For updated Cardiac Services BC logo and other PHSA agency and service logos, please visit [logos](#) section on POD.

