

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

Through the adoption of this policy, PHSA renews its commitment to sustainability as a common priority.

PHSA is mindful of the importance of developing a triple-bottom-line approach to sustainability, one that balances ecological, societal and economic imperatives and recognizes the link between a healthy environment and a healthy population. As such, PHSA recognizes a duty to minimize its environmental impact.

This policy provides the framework within which supporting protocols and procedures may be developed.

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to all PHSA employees, physicians, volunteers, students, contractors and all others who carry out business for the health authority.

2. Applicability

“Environmental Sustainability” is defined as improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems (Brundtland Report, 1987). Within the context of the healthcare system, environmental sustainability means incorporating ecological, social, and economic criteria into decision-making processes.

3. Policy

PHSA will act as a leader with respect to environmental stewardship while engaging the healthcare community in a collaborative approach towards sustainability.

Sustainable Operations

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- 3.1. PHSA will work to develop and adopt sustainable best practices and processes in all operations and departments. Priority will be given to identifying ways to minimize the consumption of non-renewable energy, water, and solid/organic/hazardous waste products.
- 3.2. PHSA will achieve the legislated green house gas reduction targets contained in relevant provincial legislation (Green House Gas Reductions Targets Act as amended).

Sustainable Facilities

- 3.3. Facilities Management will incorporate environmentally-sound techniques (energy and water conservation, space utilization management) in its decision-making processes.
- 3.4. Financial investments will balance quality, cost and sustainability. In addition, the long-term life cycle costs of capital will be assessed.

Sustainable Partnerships

- 3.5. Progressive partnerships will be sought with health organizations, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and business to expand capacity and integrate sustainability into healthcare operations, initiatives and programs.
- 3.6. Partnerships will be strengthened through a commitment to open and transparent decision-making processes that balance economic, social and ecological imperatives.

4. Accountabilities

Executive Leadership is responsible for:

- 4.1. Leading organizational commitment to environmental sustainability.
- 4.2. Incorporating environmentally sound factors in decision-making processes, while supporting sustainability through appropriate budget and needs-based planning.

Facilities Management (Department of Energy and Environmental Sustainability) is responsible for:

- 4.3. Promoting and developing a sustainability strategy – including Strategic Energy Management Plans – to include measurable targets and action plans.
- 4.4. Facilitate changes in the organization’s operations to enhance sustainability.
- 4.5. Provide expertise and evidence-based advice on best practices in sustainability to the organization.
- 4.6. Engaging with staff to help foster sustainable behaviours across the organization.
- 4.7. Promoting sustainability initiatives such as reducing individual use of materials, conservation of energy and water, recycling of waste and increase the use of alternative transportation
- 4.8. Aligning energy conservation targets to sustainability initiatives.

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Employees are responsible for:

- 4.9. Incorporating sustainable policies and procedures into their individual workplaces and decision-making processes.
- 4.10. Identifying, role modeling and promoting ways of implementing sustainable workplace activities, programs and practices.

5. References

Regulatory

BC Energy Plan (2009). Retrieved from: <http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/>.

Bill 17 – Clean Energy Act (2010). Retrieved from:

http://www.leg.bc.ca/39th2nd/1st_read/gov17-1.htm.

Bill 44 – Green House Gas Reduction Targets Act. Retrieved from:

http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th3rd/1st_read/gov44-1.htm.

Health Authority Related

Health Authority Carbon Neutral Action Reports (CNAR). Retrieved from:

http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/health_authorities.html.

Health Authority Strategic Energy Management Plan SEMP

Health Authority Energy Management Assessment EMA

External

Provincial Health Services Authority Environmental Sustainability Web Resources.

<http://www.phsa.ca/AboutPHSA/Environmental-Sustainability/Resources/default.htm>

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