

Environmental sustainability strategy

Progress report, 28 February 2019



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Available from [the department's website](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability) <www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability>.

Overview

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 and to adapt the health system so it is resilient in the face of climate change.

The strategy contains three strategic directions, with each direction having a series of key objectives and high-level actions from 2018–19 to 2022–23. The strategic directions are:

- provide leadership and engage with the sector
- improve the environmental performance of the health system
- adapt to a changing climate.

This progress report outlines progress to date in implementing the actions identified in the 2018–19 action plan as of 28 February 2019. A full progress report for the 2018–19 year will be published in October 2019, including an assessment against the key reporting metrics identified in the strategy.

Status

The status of projects is expressed in terms of a basic traffic light assessment.

Red indicates a performance that is significantly below target, yellow indicates a performance that is at risk of being below target, and green indicates a performance that is as expected or better than expected.

Projects that are complete are marked green and indicated as 'complete'. There are no projects that are significantly below target (red).

Strategic direction 1: Provide leadership and engage with the sector

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risks	Target completion	Status
Establish a research and innovation program to allow public hospitals and health services to implement local sustainability solutions	Twenty-three submissions were received, and VHHSBA has funded 11 projects including greening external spaces, life cycle assessment of pathology testing, specialist recycling, reducing waste in food services, carbon foot-printing of services, climate adaptation and energy use of medical equipment.	Risk: Projects not delivered Mitigation: Continued engagement with health services	Complete	Complete
Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV) will develop a formal social procurement plan for collective procurement to implement the <i>Social procurement framework</i>	HPV has endorsed an interim <i>Social procurement strategy</i> for 2018–19 that includes actions to implement social procurement measures into HPV collective procurement and provide training and support to health services.	Risk: Resourcing Mitigation: Recruited a project officer to assist specifically with the social procurement framework	Complete	Complete
Join the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network and encourage public hospitals and health services to join	VHHSBA has joined the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services. VHHSBA actively participates in network meetings and presented our Waste Education in Healthcare project to the Australasian members of the network.	Risk: Health services do not join up Mitigation: Continue to encourage health services to join	Complete: VHHSBA has joined Encouraging others to join (ongoing)	Ongoing
Establish an annual professional development and webinar program for public hospitals and health services, and communicate sustainability messages to the sector through sustainability updates and our website	Held a webinar on e-waste in October 2018 and participated in a sustainability in health forum in February 2019. Sustainability updates issued in September and December 2018.	Risk: Availability of appropriate software to deliver webinars Mitigation: Continue to work with the department's IT branch	Ongoing	

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risks	Target completion	Status
Report on the health system's 2018–19 emissions in the department's annual report, including for the first time on transport emissions	A consultant has established the 2017–18 carbon emissions baseline of the metropolitan hospital vehicle fleet. The project team is engaging with health services to identify opportunities, and the project is due for completion in April 2019.	Risk: 2018–19 data not collected in time for reporting Mitigation: Report to FTB reporting year (May to April)	June 2019	
Work with Sustainability Victoria to educate public hospitals and health services on the requirements of the e-waste ban commencing on 1 July 2019	A webinar on the e-waste ban has been made available to all Victorian public health services. To date there has been 125 views of the webinar. As further information becomes available updates will be provided to health services.	Risk: Health services are unsure of what to do with e-waste Mitigation: Continue to liaise with partners and provide updates to health services	Ongoing	
Update the environmental management plan template to align with the strategy	VHHSBA is engaging with health services to understand barriers and opportunities and how they can be addressed through environmental management planning. VHHSBA is working with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to ensure alignment with obligations under proposed climate change regulations for larger health services.	Risk: Health services update EMPs prior to the template being released Mitigation: Allow gradual adoption of the new EMP template	Mid-2019	
Establish a waste mentoring program for public hospitals and health services staff	A facilitator has been engaged to host six workshops to support health service staff to develop a waste management implementation plan for a single waste stream in a ward or department.	Risk: Low interest for workshops Mitigation: Communicate about the benefits of the workshop	September 2019	

Strategic direction 2: Improve the environmental performance of the health system

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risks	Target completion	Status
Pilot methodologies to implement sustainable travel opportunities in two metropolitan hospitals	Discussions are ongoing with selected metropolitan health services on defining the scope and location of the pilot projects.	Risk: Definition of scope and health service engagement Mitigation: Continued collaboration with health services	Late 2019	
HPV will source a food organics recycling service offer for metropolitan hospitals	HPV is working with the existing waste contractor to establish a pilot across a number of metropolitan hospitals.	Risk: Probity with respect to new waste procurement activities Mitigation: Follow probity requirements	Mid-2019	
Prepare guidance for public hospitals and health services to improve the efficiency of their vehicle fleets	A consultant has been engaged to prepare guidance to improve the efficiency of hospital vehicle fleets. The project team is engaging with health services, and the project is due for completion in April 2019.	Risk: Fleet managers do not support efficiency initiatives Mitigation: Early engagement with fleet managers	June 2019	
Deliver the Regional Health Solar Program in the Barwon South Western, Grampians, Loddon Mallee and Hume regions, and progress energy performance contracts at Northern Health and Peninsula Health	A tender has been awarded to install 2.2 megawatt-peak of solar across 15 sites in the Barwon South Western region. A tender for 1.4 megawatt-peak of solar across 19 sites in the Hume region closed on 24 January 2019. Tenders for the Loddon Mallee and Grampians regions closed on 26 February 2019.	Risk: Insufficient funding to deliver all identified opportunities Mitigation: Collect data to build the business case and	Late 2020	

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risks	Target completion	Status
	<p>Practical completion of the Peninsula Health energy performance contract is due in mid-2019.</p> <p>The Northern Health detailed facility study has begun and is due for completion in the first quarter of 2019. Works are expected to start on site in mid–late 2019.</p>	continue to engage with Treasury to secure funding		
Pilot single-use metal recycling and behavioural change programs to improve waste segregation in hospitals	<p>Behaviour Works has been engaged to conduct research into behavioural barriers and potential interventions regarding waste management in theatre departments. Ethics approval for the research is nearing finalisation.</p> <p>An expression of interest document has been released to select a pilot site for single-use metal recycling.</p>	<p>Risk: Delays in securing ethics</p> <p>Mitigation: Original project timeline allows for delays in delivery</p>	October 2019	
Work with the Vinyl Council of Australia to increase PVC recycling in metropolitan public hospitals	A memorandum of understanding between the department and the Vinyl Council of Australia was signed on 22 January 2019. The project seeks to increase the quantity of PVC recovered from 32 public hospitals in Melbourne by establishing PVC collections in theatre, renal and intensive care departments.	<p>Risks: Difficulties in building PVC recycling into departmental practices</p> <p>Mitigation: Collaboration with health services and communication of the benefits</p>	October 2019	
Prepare new sustainability guidelines for capital works delivered by the Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority	A consultant has been engaged to update VHHSBA's sustainability guidelines for capital works. The specification includes requirements to integrate methodologies to assist with delivering carbon-neutral and climate-resilient buildings.	<p>Risks: Delivering desired outcomes within capital project budgets</p> <p>Mitigation: Engage independent quantity surveyor to advise on whole-of-life costs and benefits</p>	Late 2019	

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risks	Target completion	Status
HPV will review opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from anaesthetic gases	Discussions are underway with the pharmaceutical sourcing team on impacts, benefits and evidence and how to engage with hospital pharmacy customers.	Risks: Resourcing	Mid-2019	
Develop waste audit guidelines for public hospitals and health services	Waste audit guidelines have been prepared and are available from the department's website <www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability>.	Risks: Guidelines not used Mitigation: Communicate the benefit of waste audits	March 2019	
Work with the Environment Protection Authority to update the <i>Clinical and related waste operational guidance</i> (EPA publication IWRG612.1)	Recommendations for changes have been submitted to the EPA for consideration. The EPA will assess these recommendations, with an updated document expected to be available in late 2019. A supplementary booklet is being developed, providing step-by-step guidance for clinical staff to establish whether items are clinical waste.	Risk: The EPA does not support recommendations Mitigation: Continued engagement with the EPA on need for changes	Late 2019	

Strategic direction 3: Adapt to a changing climate

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risk	Target completion	Status
Contribute to the Department of Health and Human Services <i>Climate change strategy</i>	The department is considering a draft <i>Adaptation action plan</i> before publication. A draft <i>Emissions reduction plan</i> is in development and will be finalised following release of the state interim targets.	Risk: Delays in finalising the strategy given the scope and extent of stakeholders Mitigation: Governance through the Climate Change Reference Group	Late 2019	
Map the climate risk to health infrastructure including health services, ambulance stations and public hospital helipads	VHHSBA has engaged a consultant to map the climate risk of public health facilities across the state. The study found that heat risk was a factor at all sites, bushfire, flooding and inundation (sea level rise) posed a future risk at some sites, while wind and soil contraction posed a marginal risk across the portfolio. VHHSBA is assessing how best to integrate future climate risks into its planning and capital delivery program.	Risk: Climate risks not considered in infrastructure program Mitigation: Integrate into Asset Management Establishment project and sustainability and engineering guidelines	June 2019	
Collect and analyse data on the energy security of public health facilities	VHHSBA is commissioning an independent emergency generator assessment of the public healthcare system, building on data collected for the 2018 and 2019 summers.	Risk: None identified to date	June 2019	
Integrate climate resilience into guidelines on essential engineering services and sustainability in capital works	Climate resilience was integrated into the request for tenders to update VHHSBA's sustainability guidelines for capital works and the hospital engineering design guidelines.	Risk: Consultants do not have the requisite expertise to integrate climate resilience into guidelines	Late 2019	

2018–19 action	Progress as of 28 February 2019	Risk	Target completion	Status
		Mitigation: Actively consider in tender evaluation		
Prepare guidance on the design and operation of emergency generators in a wider range of climate conditions	<p>The need for a Technical Practice Note on the design and installation of emergency generators will be considered as part of the independent emergency generator assessment.</p> <p>Engineering design guidelines will incorporate fundamental design principles on the design and operation of emergency generators in a wider range of climate conditions.</p>	Risk: None identified to date	Late 2019	