



TITLE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SCOPE

Provincial

DOCUMENT #

1185

APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Executive Leadership Team

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE

August 24, 2020

SPONSOR

Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE

Not applicable

PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE AND NUMBER

Not applicable

SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE

August 24, 2023

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

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OBJECTIVES

- To direct the creation of an Alberta Health Services (AHS) action plan to identify ways to minimize AHS consumption of energy, water, solid/organic/hazardous waste products, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and associated operating costs throughout AHS.
- To establish expectations for the reduction of GHG emissions, and identify associated projects that will result in cost saving and/or increased efficiencies, throughout AHS.

PRINCIPLES

AHS is aware of the environmental impact produced by health care worldwide and the negative effects on human health thereto attributable. In alignment with the framework of the triple bottom line, AHS shall strive for sustainable practices by considering **patient** and population needs, environmental benefits or burdens by and through the delivery of health care, and financial responsibility.

AHS is committed to exercising environmental stewardship by increasing efforts to track and reduce GHG emissions in a manner that results in strategic improvements across AHS. This reflects our commitment to financial stewardship, and accountability to all Albertans as we strive to enable a sustainable healthcare system.

AHS strives to be recognized as a world class leader within the international health care community by continually reducing the GHG intensity in the facilities we own and operate.

AHS recognizes the need to engage and educate **AHS representatives** to support a culture that reinforces our commitment to constant improvement, fiscal prudence, and a high performing health system. This includes as it relates to the environment, operation costs and the health and safety of our population.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

1. Greenhouse Gas Management and Reduction

1.1 AHS shall make reasonable efforts to:

- a) track aspects of GHG emissions following an internationally accepted protocol for Scope 1, Scope 2 and some Scope 3 emissions as defined by the *Greenhouse Gas Protocol* (World Resources Institute [WRI] and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development [WBCSD]), including:
 - (i) electricity;
 - (ii) natural gas;
 - (iii) steam;
 - (iv) chilled water consumption;
 - (v) fuel used by AHS owned and leased vehicles;
 - (vi) refrigerant releases;
 - (vii) anesthetic gas usage;
 - (viii) waste; and
 - (ix) paper usage.
- b) identify, implement and monitor innovative, cost effective, and reasonably practical programs or strategies that reduce GHG emissions and water consumption that support operations and direct patient care while providing a safe and comfortable work environment;
- c) reduce GHG emissions and provide cost savings by minimizing travel, carpooling to meetings, restricting airline travel wherever reasonably practical, and increasing the use of alternative transportation in compliance with the *AHS Travel, Hospitality, and Working Session Expenses Policy*;
- d) create an action plan and targets to reduce water and GHG intensities (GHG use per square meter) and energy and water costs of our operational facilities over the fiscal year 2017/18 intensity values; and

- e) educate and inform AHS representatives, patients, and stakeholders, on the importance of GHG reduction and environmental **sustainability** within the context of health care, and create social acceptability of new programs and policies.

2. Other Sustainability Initiatives

2.1 AHS shall make reasonable efforts to:

- a) implement waste reduction strategies and programs to reduce the volume of materials (e.g., reducing waste in operating rooms, reduce office supplies, etc.);
- b) implement recycling programs to reduce the volume of waste materials being directed to landfills;
- c) ensure our purchasing processes aim to reduce negative impact on the environment, minimize pollution and waste in supplies and packaging, and consider sustainability when sourcing equipment and supplies. These expectations shall be communicated to our vendors and those we do business with;
- d) for construction projects, strive to attain the highest possible Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards in respect to water efficiency, mechanical system selection, materials and resources used, waste management, indoor environmental quality, and innovative design; and
- e) responsibly source food which meets patients' expectations and needs and supports operational requirements in providing a cost effective service.

DEFINITIONS

AHS representative means Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

Sustainability means working in alignment with the framework of the "triple bottom line" to consider the environmental, social and financial components:

- Environmental: ensure that resources are used at a supportable level that can be maintained long-term.
- Social: ensuring Our People and Patients have access to the resources they require to be healthy and safe.

- Financial: ensuring AHS has the resources to meet the needs of Our People and Patients. The progression of one pillar of sustainability contributes directly to the progress of others.

REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
 - *Travel, Hospitality, and Working Session Expenses Policy* (#1122)
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
 - *Waste Management Training Modules*
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
 - *Greenhouse Gas Protocol* (World Resources Institute [WRI] and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development [WBCSD])
 - *What is Sustainability* (University of Alberta Office of Sustainability)

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