



ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

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2024 – 2027

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Acknowledgement of Country

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our campuses are located, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.

We respect their historical and continuing spiritual connections to country and community, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. As a health and aged care provider, we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Commitment to Country

Fire, water, earth and wind
These elements make our land
Mother nature's teachings passed through history
Our Elders learn to live and care for the land

Through care for Country, with effort but little praise
Elders started a spark within everyone
The message, keep the fire burning
We need to remember this every day

Through Dreamtime we share stories
Whispers and laughter shared round our circle
Guided by our Ancestors, past owners of the land
Learnings about our Country repeated, loud and proud

With free and clean air, Bunjil flies his wings
Protecting the Kulin Nation, from water to land
Listen to our guardians, those spiritual
whispers that are echoed
Protect those who protect us by preserving our land

Mob are our custodians
Through history and for what is to come
But all persons are needed
To keep caring for our Country's lands

Better and fairer care - Always
For our Country and for our people
Always was and Always will be
Aboriginal land

Written collaboratively by SVHM Wilam Ngarrang staff members Imogen Nund Dam, Gunditjmara and Ngarrindjeri, and Hayley Pepper, First Nations Ally.

'Walu-win Girri' artwork by Christopher Delamont, SVHM staff member, Wiradjuri and Nari Nari.



Foreword

At St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, we recognise that our responsibility extends beyond providing exceptional care to our patients – we also have an obligation to safeguard our environment and address the pressing challenges of climate change. Our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan is a testament to this commitment.

This plan represents a significant step forward in our ongoing journey towards environmental sustainability. It is designed to integrate eco-friendly practices into every facet of our operations, ensuring that our impact on the environment is positive and enduring. By aligning our actions with the latest advancements in sustainability and the values we uphold, we aim to create a legacy of responsible stewardship and innovation.

Our approach is grounded in the understanding that a sustainable environment is integral to the health and wellbeing of our communities. This plan is not just a set of guidelines; it is a call to action for all of us – staff, patients and partners – to embrace sustainable practices and make meaningful contributions toward a greener future.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the dedicated team at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne who have contributed to the development of this plan. Their expertise and passion have been instrumental in shaping our environmental strategy and their continued engagement will be crucial as we implement these initiatives.

We are excited to embark on this journey with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. Alongside this organisational commitment, we must also consider what we can do individually to reduce our impact on the planet. Together, we can make a lasting difference by fostering a culture of sustainability in our organisation and beyond.

If at times it all feels too overwhelming, remember the words of American anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

Nicole Twedde
Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne



Executive Summary

St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) is dedicated to safeguarding the environment, minimising greenhouse gas emissions and conserving Earth's resources for future generations. Our environmental sustainability initiatives are a core component of SVHA's Strategy 2030 and are explicitly identified as a strategic priority to mitigate our environmental impact. This commitment underscores our duty to deliver safe, high-quality care while enhancing the health of our communities, planet and people. We are focused on becoming a sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient provider in health and aged care. As leaders in health care, it is imperative that we integrate efforts to decarbonise and build climate resilience into every aspect of our decision-making, strategy and operations – this is central to our mission.

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's (SVHM) Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2024–2027 (the Plan) is designed to guide us towards our goal of integrating high-quality health care with sustainable practices. This plan outlines a comprehensive approach to embedding sustainability into our operations and service delivery.

The Plan follows on from the 2023–2024 Sustainability Action Plan, which delivered significant achievements such as the establishment of our Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee and the recruitment of a Sustainability Officer position. These steps were crucial in reinforcing our commitment to environmental stewardship and ensuring dedicated leadership and oversight in our sustainability efforts.

As we build on the progress made, this Plan has been developed in conjunction with our people and leaders, led by our Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee. The Plan includes our key environmental sustainability performance targets and five priority areas for action:

- 1. Organisational Culture and Leadership:** Cultivating a culture of environmental responsibility across all levels of the organisation and ensuring that leadership actively supports and drives sustainability initiatives.
- 2. Energy, Water and Buildings:** Implementing measures to reduce energy and water consumption, improve the efficiency of our buildings and minimise our overall environmental footprint.
- 3. Waste Management:** Enhancing our waste management practices to reduce, reuse and recycle materials, and to manage waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- 4. Procurement, Travel and Transport:** Adopting sustainable practices in procurement processes, and optimising travel and transport to lower emissions and resource use.
- 5. Clinical Sustainability:** Integrating sustainability into clinical practices, including the reduction of environmental impacts associated with medical supplies and procedures.

These priority areas in addition to the environmental sustainability performance targets will guide our efforts to reduce our environmental impact and uphold our commitment to delivering high-quality, sustainable health care.



About St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

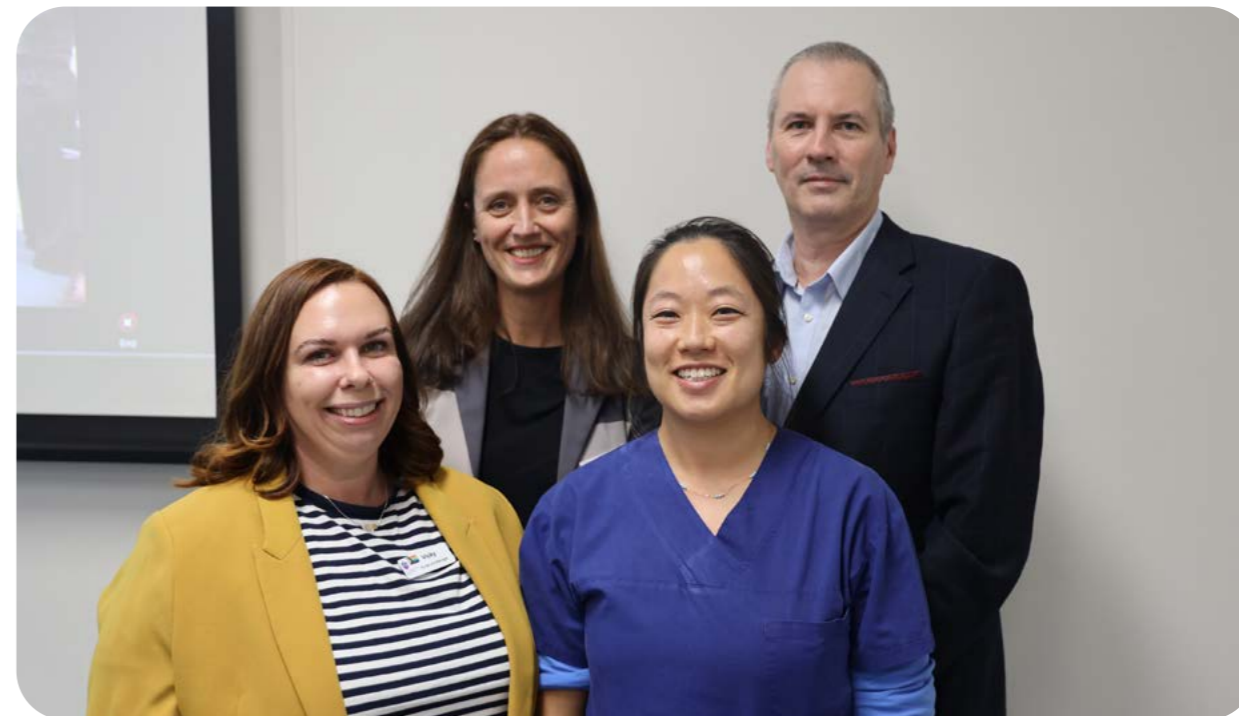
Founded by the Sisters of Charity more than 130 years ago, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) provides a range of public health services. SVHM is part of St Vincent's Health Australia and is committed to delivering better and fairer care, always.

Operating from 16 sites across greater Melbourne, SVHM delivers services including acute medical and surgical services, emergency and critical care, diagnostics, rehabilitation, allied health, mental health, drug and alcohol, palliative care and residential aged care. SVHM works with a vast network of collaborative partners to deliver high-quality treatment, teaching,

education and research. SVHM has extensive networks in regional Victoria and is a major provider of correctional health services.

SVHM has more than 7,000 staff and 880 beds in daily use across our services.

We deliver person-centred care, inspired by the Sisters of Charity, and underpinned by our values of compassion, excellence, integrity and justice. We are especially committed to those who are poor or vulnerable.



Case Study: SVHM Sustainability Forum and Green Champion Awards

In July 2024, SVHM hosted its inaugural Sustainability Forum and Green Champion Awards, a hybrid event designed to highlight and celebrate the sustainability efforts of our staff. The forum provided a valuable platform for staff to showcase their initiatives, share insights and foster connections with colleagues across various departments. A recording of the event has been made available on SVHM's Environmental Sustainability intranet page for ongoing access.

The forum featured eight presentations from staff members, each spotlighting sustainability initiatives in different areas, including ICU, medical imaging, operating theatres, pathology, allied health, emergency services, palliative care and junior medical staff. These presentations addressed the challenges and opportunities unique to their respective fields.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Emma-Leigh Synnott, Consultant Physician in Rehabilitation Medicine and the Medical Lead for Climate Health and Environmental Sustainability at South Metro Health Service. Dr Synnott discussed 'The Role of Clinical Voices in Transitions to Sustainable Healthcare', offering valuable perspectives on how clinical input drives sustainable practices.

During the forum, SVHM CEO Nicole Twedde presented five Green Champion Awards, recognising outstanding individuals for their exceptional commitment to integrating sustainability with high-quality health care. These Green Champions were celebrated for their contributions to advancing sustainable healthcare practices and exemplifying SVHM's dedication to environmental stewardship.

Introduction

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century.¹ More than 200 medical journals, including the Medical Journal of Australia, have called for ‘emergency action to limit global temperature increases, restore biodiversity, and protect health’.²

Climate change has direct and indirect impacts on health. Examples include injury and mortality during extreme weather events and poor air quality from bushfire smoke that can exacerbate respiratory illness.³ The impacts of climate change are likely to place increasing pressure on Australia’s health system and will exacerbate existing health inequities, with vulnerable groups and rural communities most likely to be affected.⁵

The health sector unintentionally contributes to environmental health problems. Globally, health care’s carbon footprint has been estimated to be equivalent to 4.4% of all greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.⁶ In Australia, the healthcare sector contributes to approximately 7% of total national greenhouse gas emissions.⁷ The health sector’s environmental impacts extend beyond greenhouse gas emissions with health care globally contributing between 1% and 5% of the world’s particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen runoff and use of scarce water.⁸ In addition, many pharmaceuticals are found in the environment⁹ and health care uses vast quantities of resources and generates large quantities of waste.¹⁰

There is a focus and commitment from the global healthcare sector to reduce the impacts that hospitals and health services have on the environment. This is demonstrated by the efforts of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network.¹¹ This network comprises more than 70,00 hospital and health centres worldwide, including SVHA, who are working together to reduce environmental health problems.

SVHM’s first 2015–2018 Environmental Sustainability Strategy built on work that was underway in the organisation. This first Sustainability Strategy outlined achievements to date, SVHM’s baseline environmental footprint and proposed actions and objectives organised in five key focus areas.

In 2022 an increased focus on environmental sustainability led to the development of SVHM’s Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2024, with a goal to create a health service that delivers quality health care with sustainable practices. As part of this work an environmental sustainability steering committee and environmental sustainability governance framework were re-established.

This Plan sets out how SVHM will continue to build on achievements to date and paves the path forward for future environmental sustainability success.

SVHM’s Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee has developed this plan in consultation with SVHM staff and key stakeholders. Relevant strategies, policies and regulations were considered during the development of the plan, including:

- Department of Health Strategic Plan 2023–27
- The Victorian Climate Change Act 2017
- The Victorian Climate Change Strategy
- 100% renewable electricity in public hospitals by 2025 Target
- Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022–2026
- Environmental Protection Act 2017
- Recycling Victoria: A new economy
- The Department of Health and Aged Care’s National Health and Climate Strategy
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care’s Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Healthcare module
- The National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019

SVHM Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Staff Survey

From November 2023 to January 2024, SVHM staff were invited to participate in an online survey that investigated staff beliefs and attitudes towards climate change and health. The survey, developed by researchers from Monash University to inform their Healthcare Worker Attitudes to Climate Change and Health (WATCH) Study, was also distributed to employees across 11 other Victorian healthcare organisations.

Respondents ranged from medical and nursing staff to allied health and administration staff. Of the respondents, 86% rated action on climate change as a moderately or extremely important

priority for SVHM. Compared with other competing priorities, action on climate change was viewed of similar importance to improving working conditions and not far behind addressing staff shortages and worker safety. When asked about reducing waste and emissions, 87% of respondents wanted to be doing more to reduce waste or greenhouse gas emissions at work. These results demonstrate a high level of interest and support for improving environmental sustainability at SVHM.



Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2024 Outcomes

The SVHM Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2024 delivered some valuable improvements across the organisation.

A full progress report is available via the SVHM Environmental Sustainability Intranet page and key achievements are summarised below.

SVHM Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2024 Key Achievements

Action	Notable Achievements
Re-establish the SVHM Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee with governance that embeds accountability across SVHM to enable achievement of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee and Governance structure established.
Recruit Environmental Sustainability Officer Role	Environmental Sustainability Officer recruited
Explore the development of a sustainability initiative tracker across all wards and departments	Development of the Sustainability Initiative Tracker established and is now in operation.
Installation of solar PV panels at St George's Health Service (SGHS) and Auburn House	38KW system installed at SGH. 30KW system installed at A-uburn House. These systems are in addition to two pre-existing 100KW systems in place at SGH and the In-Patient Services building in Fitzroy.
Focus recycling and diversion in areas of high use and waste: Pathology, Theatre and ICU	ICU soft plastics recycling trial is diverting approximately 40-50kgs from landfill per month. ICU are also recycling other materials such as PVC and comingled, repairing furniture and reducing battery waste. Theatre have recycled 672kg metals over two years (diathermy cables and suture packets). Theatre are also recycling Kinguard, PVC, Little Blue Towels, Polystyrene and comingled.



THIS IS NOT a

Environmental Performance Financial Year 2023-2024

Below is a summary of SVHM's energy use, waste generation, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions for financial year 2024. **In FY24, SVHM** used a total of 314,500,760 MJ of energy across its facilities and fleet.

Energy

Electricity	Megawatt hour (MWh)	MJ	TCO2e*	MJ/m2
Purchased electricity from the grid	43,111	155,199,826	28,355	735.22
Solar electricity generated onsite	224	806,569	NA	3.82
Cogeneration Electricity	1,037	3,731,860	NA**	17.67
Total	44,372	159,738,255	28,355	756.72

0.66 MWh of electricity was exported to the grid from solar generation, and 12.88 MWh of electricity was exported to the grid from the cogeneration plant. *TCO2e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. **GHG emissions are accounted for in natural gas use

Stationary fuel combustion	MJ	TCO2e	MJ/m2
Natural gas	149,375,560	7,697	707.62
Diesel fuel for generators	796,635	56	3.77
Total	150,172,195	7,753	711.4

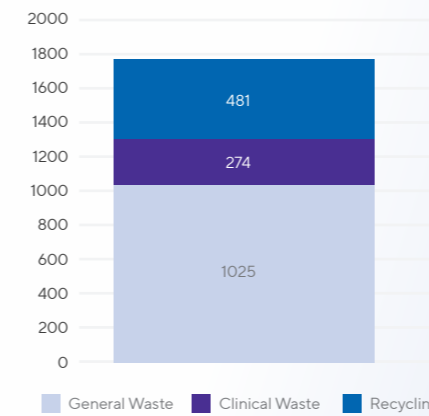
Fleet fuel use	MJ	TCO2e
Petrol transport fuel	4,320,486	292.15
Petrol E10 transport fuel	15,898	0.97
Diesel transport fuel	228,512	16.09
LPG transport fuel	25,414	1.55
Total	4,590,310	310.76

Waste

In FY24 SVHM:

- produced 1,779 tonnes of waste and recycling in total
- produced 6.25 kilograms of waste and recycling in total per occupied bed day (including aged care bed days).

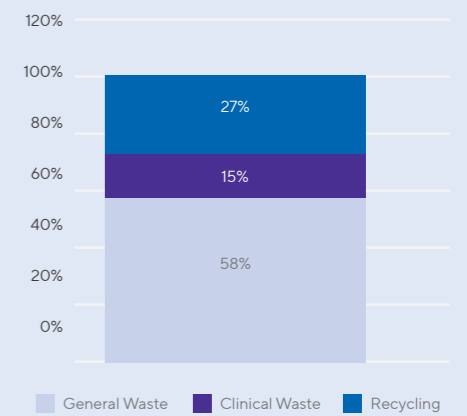
FY24 Total tonnes by waste stream



FY24 Kg / Occupied bed day by waste stream



FY24 % proportions of waste streams



Water

Total water consumed FY24 (kL)	Water consumed area of floor space FY24 (kL/m2)	Water consumed by separation FY24 (kL/separation)	Water consumed by occupied bed day* FY24 (kL/m2)
218,904	1.04	2.76	0.77

*Includes aged care bed days

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In FY24, SVHM produced a total of 42,912 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) emissions from scope 1, 2 and limited scope 3 emissions.

Emissions source	Scope	tCO2e	%
Purchased electricity from the grid	Scope 2	28,355	66.08%
Natural gas	Scope 1	7,697	17.94%
Diesel for generators	Scope 1	56	0.13%
Vehicle fleet (Petrol, E10, Diesel, LPG)	Scope 1	310	0.72%
Nitrous Oxide	Scope 1	109	0.25%
Sevoflurane	Scope 1	48	0.11%
Desflurane	Scope 1	9	0.02%
Indirect emissions from Stationary Energy	Scope 3	4,112	9.58%
Waste emissions	Scope 3	1,678	3.91%
Indirect emissions from water	Scope 3	367	0.86%
Indirect emissions from Transport Energy	Scope 3	124	0.29%
Commercial air travel	Scope 3	45	0.11%
Total		42,910	100%

Key Targets for St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

In alignment with SVHA and Victorian Government greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, SVHM commits to:



Reducing emissions by 50% by 2030

for scope 1 and 2 emissions, with a baseline year of FY24



Achieving net zero by 2045

Key targets 2024-2027

June 2025/Year 1

- Increase proportion of waste diverted from landfill (recycled) by 3% compared with baseline (FY24)

June 2026/Year 2

- Understand our carbon footprint including scope 1, 2 and expanded scope 3 emissions by December 2025
- Increase proportion of waste diverted from landfill (recycled) by 6% compared with baseline (FY24)

June 2027/Year 3

- Create an emissions reduction plan, revise emissions reduction targets, and set targets for 2035 and 2040 by December 2026
- Increase proportion of waste diverted from landfill (recycled) by 9% compared with baseline (FY24)
- Reduce energy use per meter squared by at least 5% compared with baseline (FY24)

2024-2027 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

The 2024-2027 Sustainability Action Plan sets the direction for meeting key targets and improving environmental sustainability from 2024-2027.

The plan focuses on five priority areas:

1



Organisation Culture and Leadership

2



Energy, Water and Buildings

3



Waste Management

4



Procurement, Travel and Transport

5



Clinical Sustainability



Organisational Culture and Leadership

Objectives

- Lead change through sound governance and ambition to deliver sustainable and climate resilient practices
- Engage, educate and empower our employees to create a culture of sustainability.

SVHM Organisational Culture and Leadership Actions

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
1.1	Continue Sustainability Grand Rounds and increase membership of the Sustainability Special Interest Group to build awareness of sustainability and connect sustainability champions across SVHM	Ongoing	Increase the Sustainability Special Interest group membership by 10% on each previous year's membership
1.2	Celebrate sustainability achievements and promote opportunities with staff	Ongoing	An annual communication plan developed and delivered Information and opportunities shared monthly in the Staff Bulletin Achievements celebrated at staff forum once per year Annual window display aligned with awareness days
1.3	Maintain a register of environmental projects and opportunities, and their outcomes	Ongoing	Minimum of 20 actions added to the sustainability tracker each year
1.4	Provide education, training and resources to build knowledge and support staff to practice environmental sustainability	Ongoing	Update waste management online learning module (year 1) Opportunities to implement and/or embed training in existing training are understood (year 1) An online sustainable healthcare learning module is developed (year 2) and maintained (ongoing) Minimum 2 resources developed per year; for example, a guide to including environmental sustainability in Matters for Decision
1.5	Maintain and update our Environmental Sustainability intranet page to provide access to resources and information in a central location	Ongoing	Intranet page remains current

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
1.6	Collaborate with Victorian Department of Health, sustainable healthcare networks and organisations to learn from and contribute to collective action for sustainable health care	Ongoing	Quarterly engagement with Department of Health, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, Melbourne Academic Centre for Healthcare Sustainable healthcare community of practice, Victorian Green Health Roundtable
1.7	Pilot the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Healthcare module	Year 1	Trial completed and outcomes reported to sustainability committee
1.8	Integrate environmental sustainability into staff orientation	Year 1	Orientation package material developed Sustainability included in orientation package
1.9	Understand our carbon footprint including direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1, 2 and expanded scope 3 emissions)	Year 2	Expanded carbon footprint understood and published
1.10	Investigate the potential for sustainability committee and sub-committee representatives to have protected time for sustainability	Year 2	Potential avenues have been explored
1.11	Undertake a climate risk assessment	Year 3	Risk assessment completed
1.12	Contribute to sustainable healthcare research	Year 3	SVHM involved in ≥ 1 published research article



Case Study: Sustainability Grand Rounds and Special Interest Group

Since July 2022, SVHM has been hosting monthly Sustainability Grand Rounds, a platform designed to unite sustainability champions to foster a deeper understanding of how to reduce health care's environmental impact. These sessions aim to educate and support staff, while providing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Each Grand Round features a presentation from an SVHM staff member, followed by a guest speaker covering diverse topics. Past guest presentations have included:

- getting started in healthcare sustainability
- designing behaviour change interventions to improve hospital waste management
- climate change as a financial and liability risk
- an overview of the National Health and Climate Strategy.

Once every quarter SVHM partners with the University of Melbourne to deliver a joint sustainability Grand Round, providing an opportunity to share SVHM's achievements, and learn from other public hospitals affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

To ensure all staff have access to sustainability content, recordings of each session are made available on SVHM's intranet for those who cannot attend live. Additionally, a Sustainability Special Interest email group enables ongoing communication, allowing staff to continue discussions and share information between Grand Round presentations.





Energy, Water and Buildings

Objectives

- Improve and optimise energy and water efficiency
- Ensure our buildings are sustainable and climate resilient.

SVHM Energy, Water and Building Actions

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
2.1	Best practice sustainability standards are implemented in all new and redeveloped buildings	Ongoing	All builds meet best practice standards
2.2	Upgrade refrigeration assets to current standards as opportunities allow	Ongoing	All upgrades meet current standards
2.3	Ongoing analysis using of our Building Management System (BMS) to optimise the energy efficiency of plant and equipment	Ongoing	BMS is monitored quarterly at a minimum
2.4	Develop plans for purchasing renewable electricity in collaboration with SVHA and HSV	Year 1	Plans are in place to purchase renewable electricity
2.5	Seek funding to investigate and implement energy efficiency upgrade	Year 1	Funding options have been explored
2.6	Conduct department/office energy efficiency audits to inform future equipment purchasing decisions and potential behaviour change activities	Year 2	Minimum 2 audits completed each year
2.7	Scope opportunities to electrify our buildings and facilities	Year 2	Priority opportunities to electrify are understood
2.8	Explore water harvesting opportunities	Year 3	Water harvesting opportunities are understood



Case Study: Enhancing Energy Efficiency

In 2021, SVHM received a grant from the Business Recovery Energy Efficiency Fund to significantly enhance the energy efficiency of the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) systems in the main hospital building at our Fitzroy campus. The project began with a comprehensive energy audit conducted by Siemens, which identified several high-impact, low-risk solutions for improvement.

The implemented upgrades included:

- replacing outdated belt-driven fans with high-efficiency models

- optimising controls for cool water pumping systems, which circulate water for air conditioning
- enhancing air handling unit controls with advanced, smarter technology.

These improvements resulted in a reduction of electricity consumption by 306,500 kWh per year, a decrease in emissions by 242 tonnes of CO₂e per year and an annual savings of \$40,000 in electricity costs.



Waste Management

Objectives

- Sustained waste reduction
- Maximisation of opportunities to reduce, re-use and recycle.

SVHM Waste Management Actions

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
3.1	Continued promotion and maintenance of our swap meet site to reuse equipment within SVHM	Ongoing	15 items swapped through the site each year
3.2	Investigate opportunities to introduce additional recycling or reuse streams as opportunities arise	Ongoing	Min. 3 recycling or reuse streams investigated
3.3	Maintain a monthly waste site analysis program to identified opportunities for improved waste management	Ongoing	Min. 9 site analyses and reports completed each year
3.4	Standardise waste management infrastructure and processes across SVHM and educate staff regarding changes	Ongoing	Standardised signage is shared with all staff Bins that are upgraded/introduced are consistent Waste management procedures are reviewed annually and shared with staff
3.5	Maintain partnerships with waste contractors	Ongoing	Minimum quarterly engagement with waste contractors
3.6	Engage with SVHA regarding opportunities to improve sustainability terms in waste service contract	Ongoing	Opportunities are discussed
3.7	Continue soft plastics trial with APR. Develop SVHM processes to collect and expand (pending completion of plastic processing facility)	Year 1	Pending facility establishment – Processes to collect and expand are developed
3.8	Scale up PVC recycling	Year 1	PVC recycling is in place in all areas waste quantities warrants it and it is feasible to do so
3.9	Scale up small metals recycling	Year 1	Metals recycling is in place in minimum two areas
3.10	Establish processes to reuse unopened packaged food	Year 1	Process established
3.11	Systems for donating IT equipment that is no longer fit for purpose are established	Year 1	System established
3.12	Develop a process for donating materials and equipment and communicate this with staff	Year 2	Process developed
3.13	Investigate opportunities for recovering organics	Year 2	Opportunities are understood



Case Study: Reducing Waste in the Operating Theatre – Embracing Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The SVHM Operating Theatre Sustainability Team has been committed to minimising landfill waste for several years. Their efforts to enhance sustainability are demonstrated through a range of innovative initiatives, including:

- a switch from disposable paper cups to reusable cups in the staff tearoom, preventing approximately 500 cups from entering landfill every two weeks
- a transition from daily to weekly anaesthetic circuits, reducing waste from approximately 3,120 daily circuits per year
- reuse of clean paper and wraps where possible instead of disposable Blueys
- establishing co-mingled recycling, including rigid plastics
- the introduction of Kingaard sterile wrap recycling

- recycling of Sevoflurane aluminium bottles, diverting around 480 litres from landfill annually
- recycling diathermy cables, metal nose clips, aluminium suture packets and single-use metal instruments, diverting approximately 300 kilograms of waste from landfill each year
- PVC recycling, removing between 720 and 960 litres of waste from landfill weekly
- recycling polystyrene

The Theatre Green Champions actively promote sustainability through ongoing education and awareness campaigns, using staff emails, a dedicated sustainability notice board, regular meetings and direct conversations with colleagues.



Procurement, Travel and Transport

Objectives:

- Prioritise sustainable products
- Actively work with suppliers to provide sustainable options, reduce waste, offer circular economy solutions and deliver via most sustainable methods
- Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of existing fleet vehicles
- Promote and transition to sustainable transportation and reduce the need to travel.

SVHM Procurement, Travel and Transport Actions

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
4.1	Investigate opportunities to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet vehicles such as preferencing E10 fuel	Year 1	Opportunities investigated
		Year 2	Targets to be set following investigation
4.2	Develop a guide for all staff outlining environmental impacts to consider when purchasing items	Year 1	Guide developed
4.3	Maximise availability of existing bike lock-up facilities	Year 1	Processes for using the Bike lock-up facilities in the IPS basement car park area are established and
4.4	Include environmental criteria in all SVHM tenders	Year 1	Environmental criteria are included in all tenders
4.5	Investigate opportunities for expansion of bike lock up facilities including E-bikes, and end-of-trip facilities	Year 2	Opportunities are understood
4.6	Understand and implement opportunities to purchase environmentally preferable options for high-volume consumables	Year 2	Plans for 10 high-volume consumables developed and implemented
4.7	Analyse the opportunities, environmental benefits, costs, savings, and risks for upgrading fleet to EVs and updating charging	Year 3	Feasibility report complete



Case Study: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing at SVHM

At SVHM, the procurement team is dedicated to reducing the environmental footprint of our purchasing practices through strategic engagement with suppliers and by continually seeking opportunities to streamline our inventory. By focusing on these areas, we aim to minimise waste and enhance sustainability across our operations.

Following are two examples of environmentally preferable purchasing initiatives:

- **Reduction in exam glove packaging:** SVHM switched to a brand of glove that holds more gloves in each dispensing box. This change eliminates the need for 10,000 dispensing boxes and more than 1,000 cardboard delivery boxes annually.

- **Consolidation of oxygen tubing:** In our effort to optimise resource use, we have consolidated our oxygen tubing supplies. This strategic adjustment has led to a remarkable reduction of 10,000 meters of tubing. By streamlining our inventory, we not only enhance operational efficiency but also reduce material waste and save money (\$600 per year).

These initiatives illustrate SVHM's commitment to environmentally responsible procurement practices. By working closely with suppliers and continuously assessing our inventory management, we are making meaningful strides towards sustainability, reducing waste and supporting our broader environmental goals.



Clinical Sustainability

Objectives:

- Promote and enhance a culture of innovation and environmental stewardship in clinical care.

SVHM Clinical Sustainability Actions

No.	Action	Timeframe	KPI
5.1	Engage with the pharmaceutical industry to advocate for solutions to reduce pharmaceutical waste	Ongoing	Engagement min. twice per year
5.2	Investigate opportunities for reusable equipment and consumables (for example gowns, bed side curtains)	Ongoing	Min. 3 items investigated each year. Develop implementation targets based on findings
5.3	Identify opportunities and support staff led initiatives to reduce unnecessary testing, procedures and treatment	Ongoing	Min 1 initiative implemented each year
5.4	Support staff led environmental sustainability projects to be embedded in existing continuous improvement processes	Ongoing	Min. of two environmentally focused CI projects completed each year
5.5	Review opportunities to reduce items that are regularly unused in kits and procedure packs	Ongoing	Min 2 kits reviewed each year
5.6	Reduce unnecessary use of gloves and support improved hand hygiene	Year 1	Sustainability hand hygiene trial commenced
		Year 2	Set reduction targets once opportunities are known
5.7	Engage with Anaesthetists regarding efficient use of sevoflurane. Minimise unnecessary use and wastage of sevoflurane	Year 1	Engagement with Anaesthetics has occurred
		Year 2	Set reduction targets once opportunities are known
5.8	Investigate opportunities to reduce nitrous wastage. Minimise unnecessary use and wastage of nitrous oxide	Year 1	Engagement with Anaesthetics has occurred
		Year 2	Set reduction targets once opportunities are known
5.9	Reduce emissions from medical inhalers	Year 3	Opportunities to reduce emissions from inhalers have been identified and implemented



Case Study: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint by Eliminating Desflurane

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Anaesthetic Green Champions, there has been a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from anaesthetic gases.

In 2023, SVHM chose to stop using the anaesthetic gas desflurane, which is known to be a much more potent greenhouse gas compared

with other available alternatives. By eliminating desflurane, SVHM is now reducing its emissions by approximately 35,514 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents (kgCO₂e) annually. This reduction is comparable to the emissions produced by driving an average Australian car around the world six times.

Reporting and Reviewing

A key driver for the successful implementation of this Action Plan is the frequent tracking and reviewing of goals and achievements. This will be completed quarterly at the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting.

Progress against action plans and performance targets are formally published annually in December. This publication includes an update on the implementation of action items and key progress to date.

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