

Title

3 DHB Sustainability Strategy	
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Foreword

This document sets out the sustainability strategy and operating framework for Capital and Coast District Health Board (CCDHB), Hutt Valley District Health Board (HVDHB) and Wairarapa District Health Board (WrDHB). It also provides direction for our contractors and tenants. The Strategy will support us to meet our obligations and responsibilities to legislation, government policy and international agreements. A strong and comprehensive sustainability strategy will also help us to meet our ambition to promote health and wellbeing, improve health outcomes and support people to live better lives. Climate Change in particular presents a real risk to these ambitions and it is unlikely that the impacts will be felt equitably.

The Health sector is a major contributor of climate warming emissions globally. We will also be at the forefront of managing the effects of increased severe weather events, heat waves, prevalence of tropical disease and the long term impacts of sea level rise. As Crown agents DHBs have been instructed to become carbon neutral by 2025. While some of this may be met through offsetting, the intent of the target is to reduce the gross emissions from the public sector and demonstrate leadership to the private sector.

Combined, CCDHB, HVDHB and WrDHB (3DHB) are amongst the largest employers and procurers in the lower north island. We have a unique role and responsibility in demonstrating and validating emission reduction activities and long term adaptation to reduce the negative impacts of the effects of climate change.

To achieve this, we will set emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. We will also take better stewardship of the products we use and make sure we have procurement policies that support this outcome.

Other areas of environmental sustainability are also important to DHBs. There is a growing body of evidence that points to the health benefits of connection to nature and healthy natural environments. DHBs are significant consumers of single use products and generators of waste. We use large amounts of water and the sites we operate place strain on municipal storm water systems. Our trade waste discharge is unique and challenging. Across 3DHB we operate over 400 light passenger vehicles. We provide a large number of meals to patients and staff in our hospitals and in the community. Hospitals are important to our communities but have traditionally been physically separated and isolated due to their institutional nature.

Our Sustainability Strategy forms an umbrella that covers this wide range of impacts and opportunities. Some areas, such as waste, transport and energy will have specific policies that sit beneath the overarching Sustainability framework.

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All of our strategies, policies and implementation plans align with Central and Local Government objectives, and we will be active participants in public discourse on environmental action where it impacts health outcomes. Our health boards are taking a stance for healthcare without harm, and the broader importance of environmental sustainability to ensure the health of our communities now and into the future.

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District Health Board Responsibilities

CCDHB, HVDHB and WrDHB receives funding to improve, promote and protect the health of around 500,000 people in:

- Wellington City and its suburbs
- Porirua
- parts of the Kapiti Coast such as Waikanae.
- Hutt Valley
- Wairarapa

CCDHB are also the leading provider of a number of specialist services, including neurosurgery, oncology, neonatal intensive care, and specialised mental health services, for the upper South and lower North Islands, a population of about 900,000 people.

There are five main sites where our services take place: The Wellington Regional Hospital Campus, the three adjacent sites in Porirua (Kenepuru Hospital, Puketiro Centre and our MHAIDS Forensic campus), Hutt Hospital, Wairarapa Hospital and the Kapiti Health Centre. There are other regional and out of region offices that support regional or national projects.

The New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 Section 22, Objective (j) requires that District Health Boards '*exhibit a sense of environmental responsibility by having regard to the environmental implications of its operations*'.

The environmental impact of the health sector is far-reaching; other District Health Boards are committing valuable resources to prepare and adapt to the changing physical, social and economic challenges that environmental issues, particularly climate change will bring. As District Health Boards share similar goals and principles, this has provided vital links to discuss issues, exchange ideas and share learning to build resilience and knowledge across the sector.

Our organisations have a critical role in the community to reduce our environmental impact and disruption and harm to the communities we serve today and in the future. Our core values align with reducing carbon emissions and social inequities that are regarded as precursors to poverty and poor health outcomes.

Linking with our community and public sector organisations is regarded as essential and signals a new era for wider engagement and collaboration with other sectors.

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3 DHB Vision and Values

CCDHB

Our vision

Keeping our community healthy and well.

Our values

Manaakitanga – Respect, caring, kindness

Kotahitanga – Connection, unity, equity

Rangatiratanga – Autonomy, integrity, excellence

HVDHB

Our Vision

Whānau Ora ki te Awakairangi

Healthy people, healthy families and healthy communities

Our Mission

Working together for health and wellbeing

Our Values

Always caring – respectful, kind, helpful

Can do – positive, learning and growing, appreciative

In partnership – welcoming, listens, communicates, involves

Being our best – innovating, professional, safe

WrDHB

Our Vision

To improve, promote and protect the health status of the people of the Wairarapa, and the independent living of those with disabilities, by supporting and encouraging healthy choices.

Our Values

Together, we MAKE a difference

Manaakitanga – Respect

We care for each other, showing kindness and empathy in all that we do.

Auaha – Innovation

We are committed to finding future focused solutions and take personal responsibility to be better every day.

Kotahitanga – Relationships

Our diversity is our strength, we back each other and work together in partnership.

Eke Taumata – Equity

We are committed to doing the right thing, by ensuring equity and hauora are at the heart of everything we do.

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3DHB Sustainability Vision

A health system that regenerates our ecosystem

3DHB Sustainability Objectives

- Recognize the mauri of our environment is intrinsic to the health of our people.
- Recognize that nature has an essential role in the delivery of healthcare
- Sustainability evolves from minimising negative impact to maximizing positive outcomes across all environments (natural, social, cultural and economic)
- Sustainability is the responsibility of all staff and we strive to inspire and motivate others
- Sustainability is considered in all decisions and investments

3DHB Sustainability Governance

To ensure that the work programs that are established under this strategy are aligned with the stated objectives, and the broader legislative, regulatory and international context a governance group consisting of senior representatives from each of the three DHBs. This governance group should include representation from both clinical and non-clinical leaders. Named the 3DHB Sustainability Governance Group, members, as appointed by the 3DHB ELTs are responsible for establishing their own Terms of Reference.

Staff Sustainability Groups

Each DHB (or a combination of DHBs) will support Staff Sustainability Groups which provide advice and feedback on the sustainability work programme with a focus on implementation. These groups will be responsible for establishing their own Terms of Reference and providing regular reports to the 3DHB Sustainability Governance Group. The groups should be as representative as possible of departments and cohorts across the DHBs.

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Legislative and Regulatory Context and Compliance

Alignment with domestic policy ensures that our work programme meets government and public expectations. Value for money and whole of system investment return is most likely to be maximised by seeking strategic alignment with national and international work programmes.

Climate Change/ Decarbonisation

In December 2020, the New Zealand Parliament declared a Climate Emergency. At the same time, the Government announced the Carbon Neutral Government Programme which committed the public sector to measure and report on emissions with a target of achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2025 (which may include offsetting)¹.

Governments around the world are ratifying the COP21 Paris Agreement² to limit global temperatures rising to well below 2 degrees Celsius and strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. Under this agreement, the New Zealand Government is committed to reduce emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2050 (on 1990 levels)³. The COP21 Paris Agreement aligns with the UN Sustainability Development Goals⁴ to address climate change but also poverty and social inequities which the New Zealand Government has adopted through the Living Standards Framework⁵ to frame domestic policies over the next 15 years.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act, passed by Parliament in 2019 sets new domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for New Zealand to:

- reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
- reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030
- establish a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target
- require the Government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation

¹ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/public-sector-be-carbon-neutral-2025>

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>,
<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/why-climate-change-matters/global-response/paris-agreement>

³ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-and-government/emissions-reduction-targets/about-our-emissions>

⁴ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

⁵ <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

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- establish a new, independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals. See the Climate Change Commission website.

It is likely that District Health Boards will be required to take action to comply with requirements of government policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as reduce emissions to meet national emission budgets. At this stage, the Carbon Neutral Government Programme is the primary policy announced.

Waste Minimisation Act

Waste minimisation has become a high priority of the New Zealand public and Government. The 2010 New Zealand Waste Strategy aims to reduce the harm from waste and improve the efficiency of resource use⁶. DHBs are large resource consumers and waste producers, decisions made by CCDHB, HVDHB and WvDHB should align with the goals of the New Zealand Waste Strategy and other relevant international agreements.

3 Waters

Hospitals are large potable water users and producers of waste water. The developed nature of our sites has a significant impact on municipal stormwater systems. A review of the three waters system (Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater) has been completed⁷ and reforms to the sector are in the process of being developed and consulted on. DHBs should align with the recommendations where relevant. In particular, drinking water resiliency and stormwater detention and/or retention opportunities should be considered to support Local Government/ Regional Water Agency work programmes and increase resilience.

International Alignment

UN Sustainable Development Goals

To drive high level strategic planning throughout our organisations, we will use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for policies and sustainability programme⁸.

The 17 goals cover health and wellbeing, climate action and other environmental, social and economic sustainability goals. Our DHBs can make a contribution over the long-term that will:

- Broaden our view of and response to sustainability opportunities from the single issue of climate action;
- Recognise the sustainability areas where DHB is already taking action and contributing to the UN agenda, for example, gender equality, equity of access etc., by virtue of its role as a major employer, trainer, health funder and provider;

⁶ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/new-zealand-waste-strategy-reducing-harm-improving-efficiency/new-zealand%E2%80%99s-goals>

⁷ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>

⁸ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

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- Align reporting on progress against the SDGs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as required.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Global Green Healthy Hospital Principles

HVDHB and WrDHB will join CCDHB as signatories of the Global Green Healthy Hospital (GGHH) programme⁹. The principles set out by GGHH are based on the idea of Health Care without Harm. The philosophy of this approach can be defined as follows:

A green and healthy hospital is one that promotes public health by continuously reducing its environmental impact and ultimately eliminating its contribution to the burden of disease. A green and healthy hospital recognizes the connection between human health and the environment and demonstrates that understanding through its governance, strategy and operations. It connects local needs with environmental action and practices primary prevention by actively engaging in efforts to foster community environmental health, health equity and a green economy.

The principles that the DHBs' agree to support are:

- Leadership: Prioritize Environmental Health
- Chemicals: Substitute Harmful Chemicals with Safer Alternatives
- Waste: Reduce, Treat and Safely Dispose of Healthcare Waste
- Energy: Implement Energy Efficiency and Clean, Renewable Energy Generation
- Water: Reduce Hospital Water Consumption and Supply Potable Water

⁹ <https://www.greenhospitals.net/sustainability-goals/>

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- Transportation: Improve Transportation Strategies for Patients and Staff
- Food: Purchase and Serve Sustainably Grown, Healthy Food
- Pharmaceuticals: Safely Manage and Dispose of Pharmaceuticals
- Buildings: Support Green and Healthy Hospital Design and Construction
- Purchasing: Buy Safer and More Sustainable Products and Materials

Strategic Sustainability Principals

All initiatives undertaken to reduce environmental impact, and improve the sustainability of hospitals and health centers, must not impact the level of service provided or the comfort and recovery of patients. Opportunities with co-benefits which improve health outcomes should be given particular attention.

Staff promotion/ involvement/ education

The actions and practices of individual staff, contractors, tenants, teams and departments collectively has a large impact on the overall environmental performance of the DHBs. Staff should be supported to improve environmental outcomes through procurement/ purchasing decisions, clinical practice and broader behaviour change campaigns. Empowering staff to adopt an energy efficient culture in the workplace should be prioritised to instil the culture as part of ingrained, everyday practice.

There should be resources available on DHB intranets to staff to support improving environmental performance or reducing environmental impact on appropriate channels (e.g. intranet, staff emails). DHBs must resource sustainability functions to produce and maintain these resources as well as provide support to staff champions as appropriate.

Infrastructure Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation

Comfortable and sustainable healthcare services rely on the provision of secure and low emissions energy. The efficient delivery of low emissions energy leads to improved health and environmental outcomes for patients, staff and the wider community.

Continual energy performance improvement (e.g. increased efficiency, reduced energy consumption and resource use), will be prioritised. Fossil fuels must be phased out for primary use and low emissions alternatives, including self-generation of renewable energy, should be prioritised to improve resiliency and decarbonise. Targets for energy consumption and its related emissions should be set and aligned with government directives. Energy performance will be benchmarked to enable comparisons between and within the DHBs' hospital campuses. New builds should strive for industry best practice energy performance.

The necessary information, skills and resources must be committed to ensure the successful achievement of the above objectives.

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Travel Efficiency and Decarbonisation

Meeting government directives to decarbonise light passenger fleets requires significant changes to operations in DHBs. Support should be given to enable to decarbonisation of light passenger vehicles in fleets, as well as for staff owned vehicles.

Increasing the number of trips taken using public or active transport by staff should be a priority. Car parking priority should be given to staff who carpool, and/or use electric vehicles. Information and infrastructure should be provided to staff on how to reduce the carbon impact of their commute and increase the positive outcomes of transport choices.

Air Travel for patients and staff entitled to continuing medical education are significant contributors to total carbon emissions. Where appropriate, these activities should be reduced through use of technology such as telehealth, webinars and virtual conferences.

Water Management

Sustainable water use, low impact waste water discharge and reducing storm water flows are all areas of opportunity for DHBs to reduce environmental impact. Where possible, opportunities to use water management to regenerate nature should be identified and invested in.

New buildings and projects that involve landscaping should follow relevant water sensitive urban design (WSUD) guides published by local government. Improving and increasing green spaces around hospital campuses to improve amenity and health recovery outcomes should include measures to mitigate storm water impacts, particularly detention or retention opportunities. Consideration should be given to benefits of WSUD on neighbouring properties and the wider community, including reducing the risk of flood events, improving resiliency and potential savings to the health system from lower numbers of storm/ flood related injuries. Consideration should be given to using regenerative design in water management systems.

Storm water should also be used to supplement fresh water supplies for non-potable uses such as toilet cisterns. Water retention opportunities should consider the resiliency benefits of reducing fresh water demand and increasing overall water storage capacity.

Waste water toxicity should be minimised through infrastructure investment and policy. This may include changes to drug disposal or waste management policies.

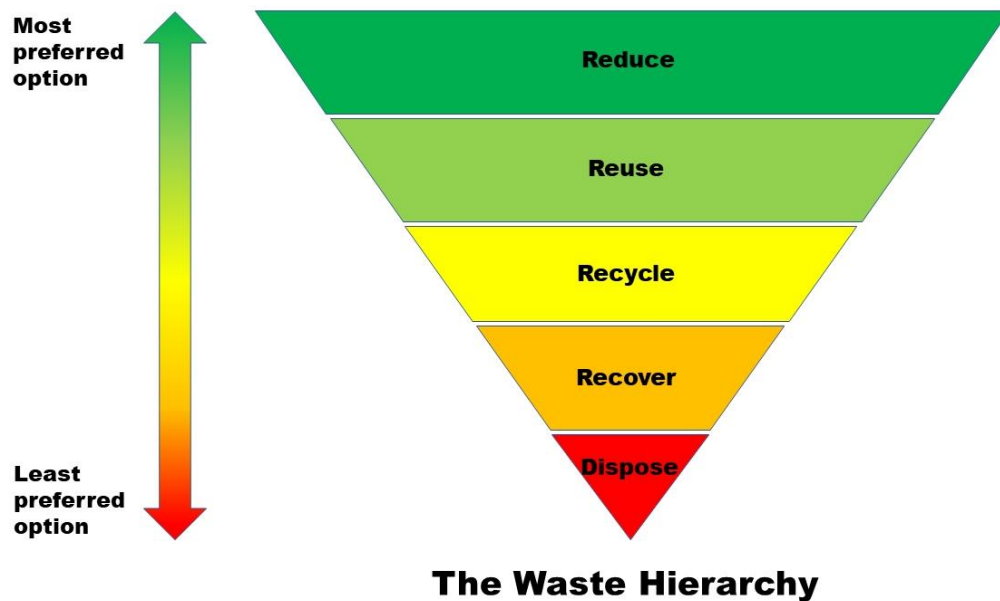
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Waste Minimisation

The purpose of waste minimisation is to reduce the harm from the management and disposal of waste. Waste minimisation activities should follow the waste hierarchy:



Waste impacts should be considered as part of procurement processes, including the quantity, toxicity, and available minimisation opportunities.

Sustainable Procurement

In seeking to deliver value for money and quality of service, procurement activities will take into account the need to ensure that goods and services purchased are manufactured, delivered, used and disposed of in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. To that end, procurement policies across DHBs must reflect the objectives included in this strategy.

Integrating sustainable practice into procurement activities will provide savings on a whole-of-life basis, safeguard the reputations of the DHBs as responsible public entities, and protect the health of staff, patients and the public generally. The key sustainable procurement objectives are:

- Minimising and reducing waste
- Reducing energy consumption and climate change impacts
- Reducing soil, air and water pollution
- Improving water efficiency
- Procuring from sustainably managed ecosystems
- Promoting fair working conditions through ethical procurement practices
- Complying with current, and anticipating future, legislation

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