



# **2023 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**



Interior Health

The background image is a composite of two natural scenes. The upper portion shows a calm body of water reflecting a soft, orange-hued sunset sky. In the distance, rolling hills and mountains are visible under the twilight sky. The lower portion of the image is a close-up of a field of bright yellow wildflowers, likely Black-eyed Susans, with green leaves and stems in sharp focus.

# Land Acknowledgement

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Dăkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx and T̕silhqot'in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.



# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

## OUR APPROACH 1

Learn more about our approach to the Climate Change Accountability Report. This section documents our legislative requirements for Interior Health's emissions and offsets.

---

## ENERGY AND CARBON 2

Dive deeper on actions we are taking to minimize emissions associated with our stationary sources (buildings), mobile sources (fleet vehicles), and paper consumption.

---

## CLIMATE LEADERSHIP 3

Discover how we are preparing our leaders, buildings and communities to be climate-ready.

---

## HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION 4

Interior Health is embedding sustainability into our organization by investigating opportunities that support emissions reductions and preparing for a changing climate.

---

## SETTING DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE 5

### APPENDIX A

Concordance Table

# 1 Our Approach

Interior Health (IH) is committed to being a leader in initiating change towards a healthy and resilient health-care system that equitably contributes to the well-being of our populations, staff and communities, and to the sustainability of our planet. The actions we take are a key element in proactively preparing for and mitigating the health impacts of a changing climate. We aspire for our communities to live long, healthy lives, aided by the strategies IH puts in place to reduce environmental impacts in the communities in which we operate.

Interior Health serves a population of approximately 870,700 in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, across seven regional hospital districts that includes 59 municipalities, 54 First Nation communities and 15 Métis Chartered communities. The service area covers more than 215,000 square kilometres, and includes two tertiary hospitals, four regional hospitals, 16 community hospitals, nine urgent and primary care centres, 18 health-care centres, and 43 IH-owned long-term care sites. IH has more than 26,500 employees, more than 2,800 medical staff and more than 2,000 volunteers providing health-care services to the people in the Southern Interior.

## 2024 QUICK FACTS



- 59 MUNICIPALITIES
- 54 FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES
- 23 PRIMARY CARE CLINICS
- 15 MÉTIS CHARTERED COMMUNITIES
- 7 REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS
- 7 DIVISIONS OF FAMILY PRACTICE
- 8 PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

SERVING OVER  
**870,719**  
INDIVIDUALS ACROSS  
THE SOUTHERN  
INTERIOR OF B.C.

WITH A  
BUDGET OF  
**\$3.5B**

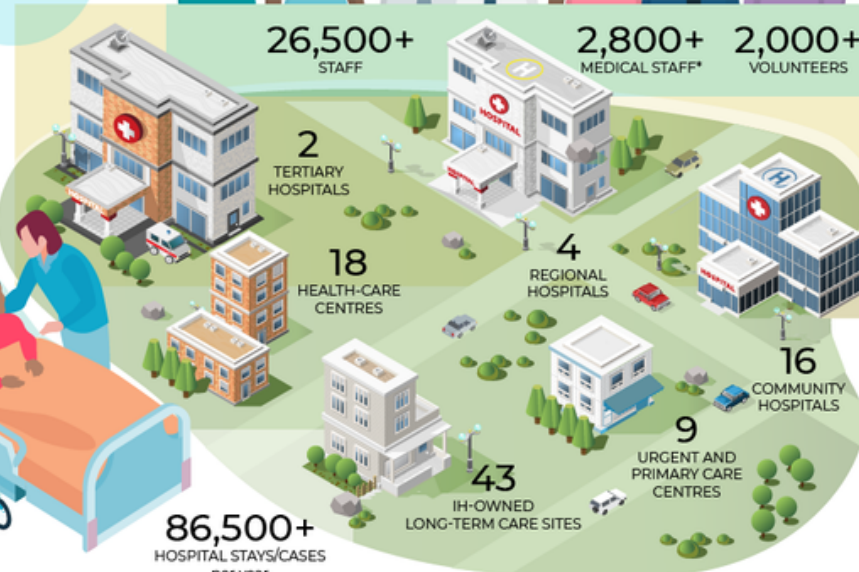
AND  
COVERING OVER  
**215,000**  
SQ KILOMETRES



**26,500+**  
STAFF

**2,800+**  
MEDICAL STAFF\*

**2,000+**  
VOLUNTEERS



**33,600+**

ACTIVE MENTAL HEALTH  
AND SUBSTANCE USE CLIENTS  
served in community settings  
each year

**42,000+**

HOME HEALTH CLIENTS  
served in community settings  
each year

**9,700+**

LONG-TERM CARE AND  
ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS  
in IH-owned and partner sites  
served per year

**86,500+**  
HOSPITAL STAYS/CASES  
per year

\*physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists and midwives

## *A Message from Interior Health's*

# **PRESIDENT AND CEO, AND EXECUTIVE SPONSOR**

As a major employer, service provider and social influence within British Columbia, Interior Health has a key role to play in the collaboration and partnerships needed to support staff, patients and communities prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Interior Health continues to face immense environmental and climate challenges, which were particularly evident over the course of the summer of 2023. We are taking several actions to mitigate, adapt and increase our resilience by finding new and innovative ways to operate that are both beneficial for the environment and, ultimately, our vision: *Health and well-being for all*. We are proud of our energy management and environmental sustainability efforts in 2023. Some of these achievements are:

- Maintaining carbon neutral operations for the past 13 years
- Launching the *Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2028*, the first of its kind for a Canadian health-care organization
- Confirming 'Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability' as a new, strategic priority for 2024-2027
- Supporting communities to prepare for and adapt to climate-related events, including developing a toolkit on heat adaptation and response planning
- Expanding our anesthetic gas recovery technology to 24 operating rooms, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions associated with surgical services
- Diverting a total of 33 per cent of the total waste produced from our operations in 2023

We also play an integral role in supporting the health and well-being of local and Indigenous communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts, and will continue to advocate at the provincial and federal levels to support these meaningful and necessary actions. This report provides an overview of our actions in 2023, along with our plans to minimize our carbon footprint and prepare for a changing climate.

Moving into 2024, we will continue to strive for meaningful improvements as we embed sustainability across our operations, creating a healthier environment for the patients, staff and the communities we serve.



**Susan Brown**  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer



**Sylvia Weir**  
Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer



# Legislative Reporting Requirements

## Declaration Statement

This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.

## Carbon Neutral

## 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table

| Interior Health 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table                   |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| GHG emissions for the period Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023                            |                      |
| Total BioCO <sub>2</sub>                                                       | 911                  |
| Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                           | 41,436               |
| Total Offsets (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                             | 40,525               |
| Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years           |                      |
| Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                  | 153                  |
| Grand Total Offsets for the 2023 Reporting Year                                |                      |
| Grand Total Offsets to be Retired for 2023 Reporting Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) | 40,677               |
| Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                | \$1,016,925 plus GST |

## Retirement of Offsets Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Interior Health (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2023 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.

## Executive Sign-off



May 31, 2024

Susan Brown

President &amp; CEO

Signature

Date

Name

Title

## Overview

In delivering essential health-care services, our operations consume energy, produce waste and emit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the environment. As a result of this, minimizing our environmental footprint and considering how we adapt to climate change is a priority for our teams, patients, communities and many other partners we work with every day.

In alignment with the Government of British Columbia's *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030*<sup>1</sup>, and the *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy*<sup>2</sup>, Interior Health (IH) is committed to executing detailed strategies to reduce our GHG emissions in years to come.

Actions outlined in IH's Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) feed into collective action B.C. is taking to reduce emissions, build a cleaner economy, protect nature and prepare communities for future climate-related impacts.

Through the carbon neutral government program, legislated under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*<sup>3</sup> (CCAA), IH has achieved carbon neutral operations since 2010. All public sector organizations (PSOs) achieve carbon neutrality by:

- Measuring GHG emissions from buildings, vehicles and paper use
- Reducing emissions as much as possible by conserving electricity and fossil fuels
- Offsetting remaining emissions by purchasing an equivalent amount of high-quality, made-in-BC carbon offsets
- Reporting annually on progress through the Climate Change Accountability Report
- Verifying data and emissions

In addition to reporting our GHG emissions associated with stationary sources (also referred to as building sources), mobile sources (fleet) and paper, this report details the progress made in the management of climate risk. This report also discusses environmental sustainability success stories and features some of the dedicated staff working diligently to transform our health-care system.

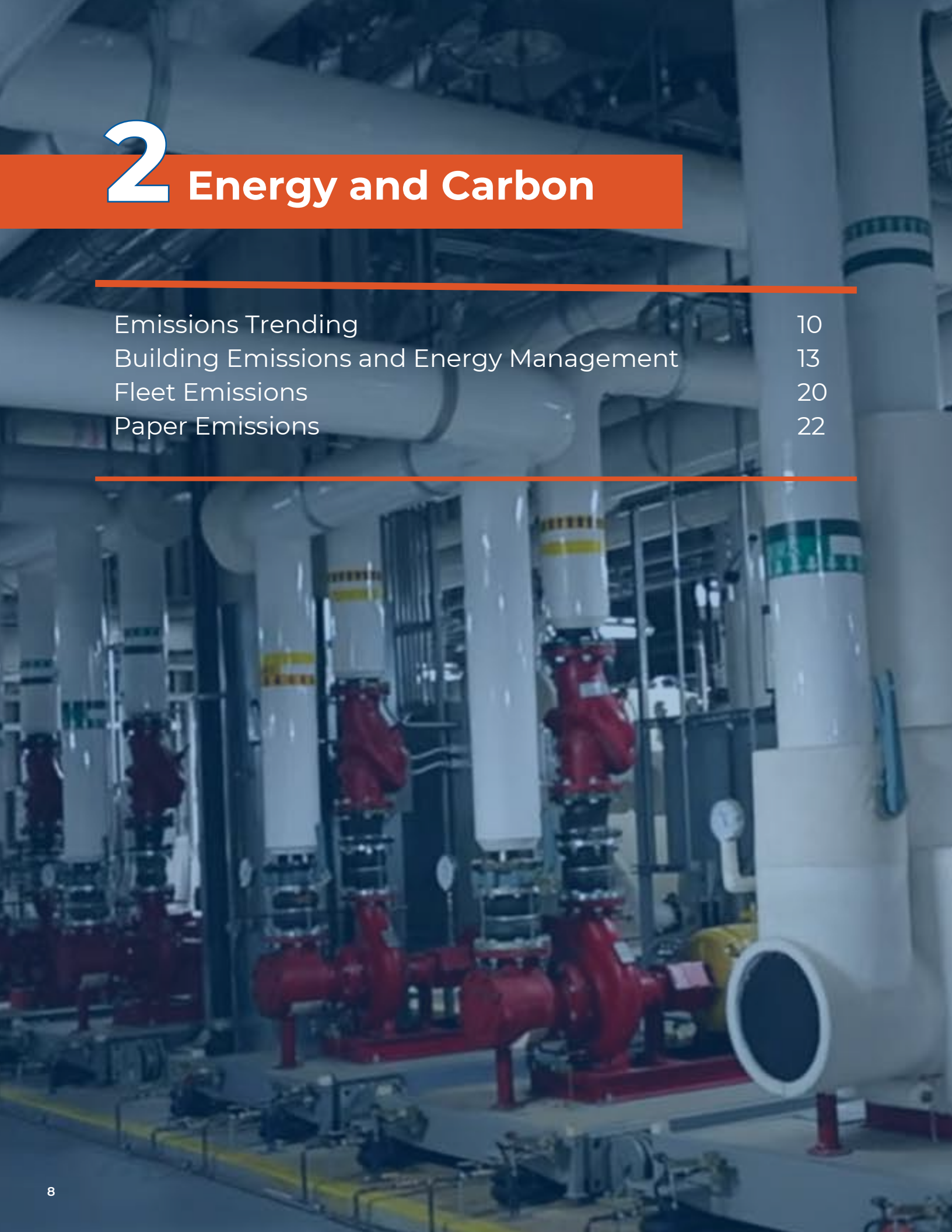
In preparing this report, IH has included a Concordance Table to ensure all legislative reporting requirements have been met as detailed in **Appendix A**.

---

[1] To learn more about how British Columbia is taking action on Climate Change see <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/>

[2] Learn about British Columbia's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy at [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: Actions for 2022-2025](https://climate.gov.bc.ca/documents/Climate-Preparedness-and-Adaptation-Strategy-Actions-for-2022-2025) ([gov.bc.ca](https://climate.gov.bc.ca)).

[3] For more information on the Climate Change Accountability Act, refer to [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/07042\\_01](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/07042_01)



# 2 Energy and Carbon

---

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Emissions Trending                       | 10 |
| Building Emissions and Energy Management | 13 |
| Fleet Emissions                          | 20 |
| Paper Emissions                          | 22 |

---

Public Sector Organizations (PSOs) like Interior Health (IH) are working towards accelerating emissions reductions, developing adaptation plans to prepare for climate change and increasing the use of energy efficient equipment in infrastructure.

CleanBC is the provincial government's plan to collectively lower climate-changing emissions by 40 per cent by 2030. The Province of British Columbia is collaborating with key partners, industry, Indigenous communities and local governments to take action, and together we are protecting nature, reducing emissions and building a cleaner economy.

As part of the provincial government's *CleanBC Climate Action Plan*, IH has aligned our strategies and targets to reduce GHG emissions:

### Our targets

- A building emissions reduction target of 50 per cent by the year 2030, from 2007 levels
- A vehicle fleet emissions reduction target of 40 per cent by the year 2030, from 2010 levels

## 2023 Emissions Profile

Energy use from our facilities accounts for approximately 95 per cent of our reportable GHG emissions, whereas fleet fuel use accounts for almost 3 per cent, and paper use accounts for the remaining 2 per cent. (Figure 1)

The emissions associated with the energy used in our buildings, fuel used by our fleet and our paper usage are quantified and reported annually using the B.C. Government's Clean Government Reporting Tool (CGRT).

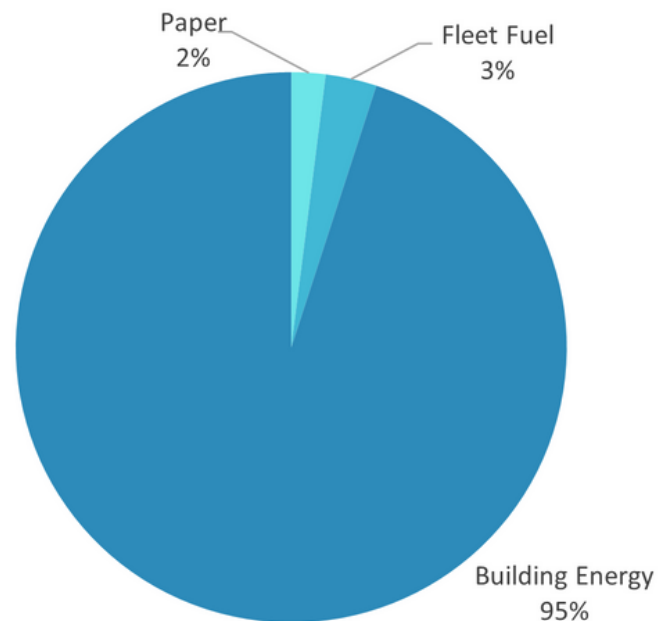


Figure 1 - Greenhouse gas emissions totals for 2023

Our building energy use, also known through the CGRT as stationary emissions, accounts for the majority of our reportable GHG emissions. As a result, a significant focus on emissions reductions is focused on our buildings portfolio. To guide our investment decisions and to meet our long-term GHG emissions reduction targets, IH's Energy Management team produces the Strategic Energy Management Plan each year.

## Emissions Trending

Compared to the emissions reported in 2022<sup>4</sup>, GHG emissions from our:

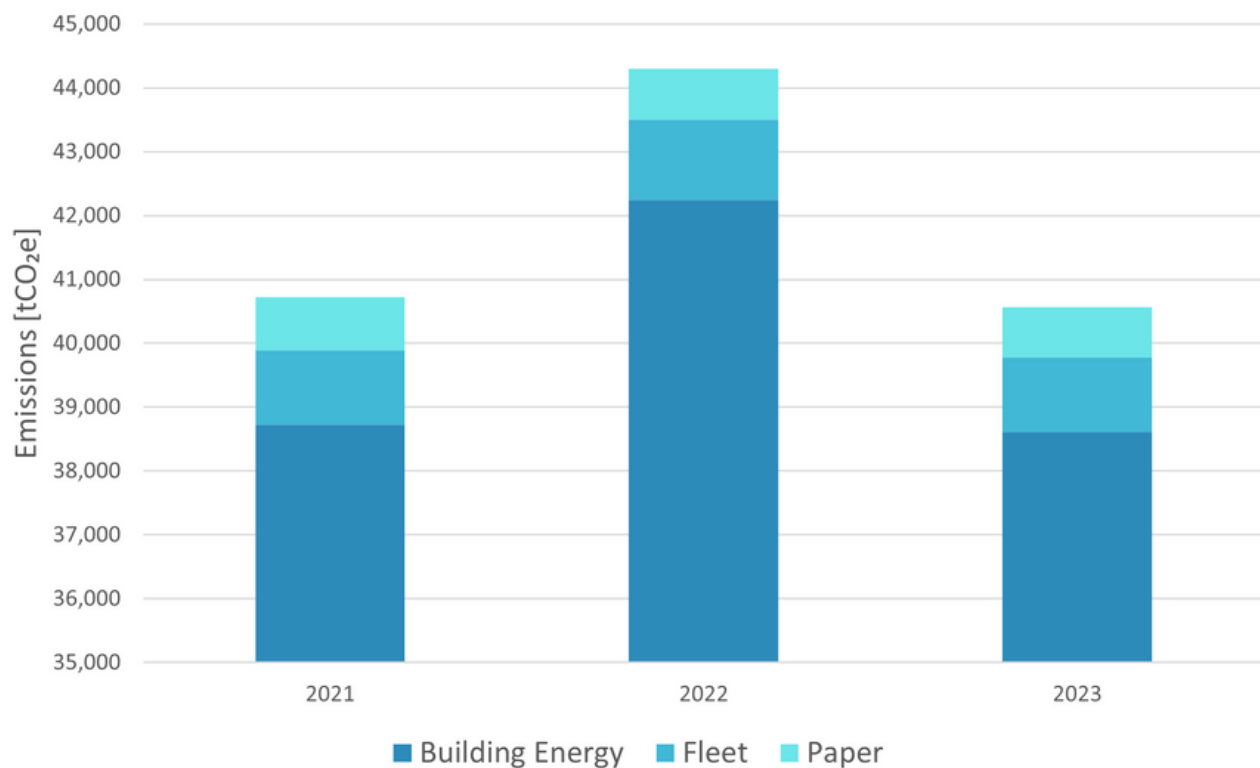
- Buildings decreased by 8.7% (-3,657 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Fleet decreased by 6.8% (-85 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Paper decreased by 2.3% (-19 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

See Graph 1 for a comparison of adjusted 2021, 2022 and 2023 emissions.

### What is CO<sub>2</sub>e?

CO<sub>2</sub>e is the abbreviation for carbon dioxide equivalent.

CO<sub>2</sub>e is used to measure and compare emissions from greenhouse gases based on how severely they contribute to global warming. Metrics for CO<sub>2</sub>e would show how much a particular gas would contribute to global warming if it were carbon dioxide. In Canada, we measure CO<sub>2</sub>e in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide.

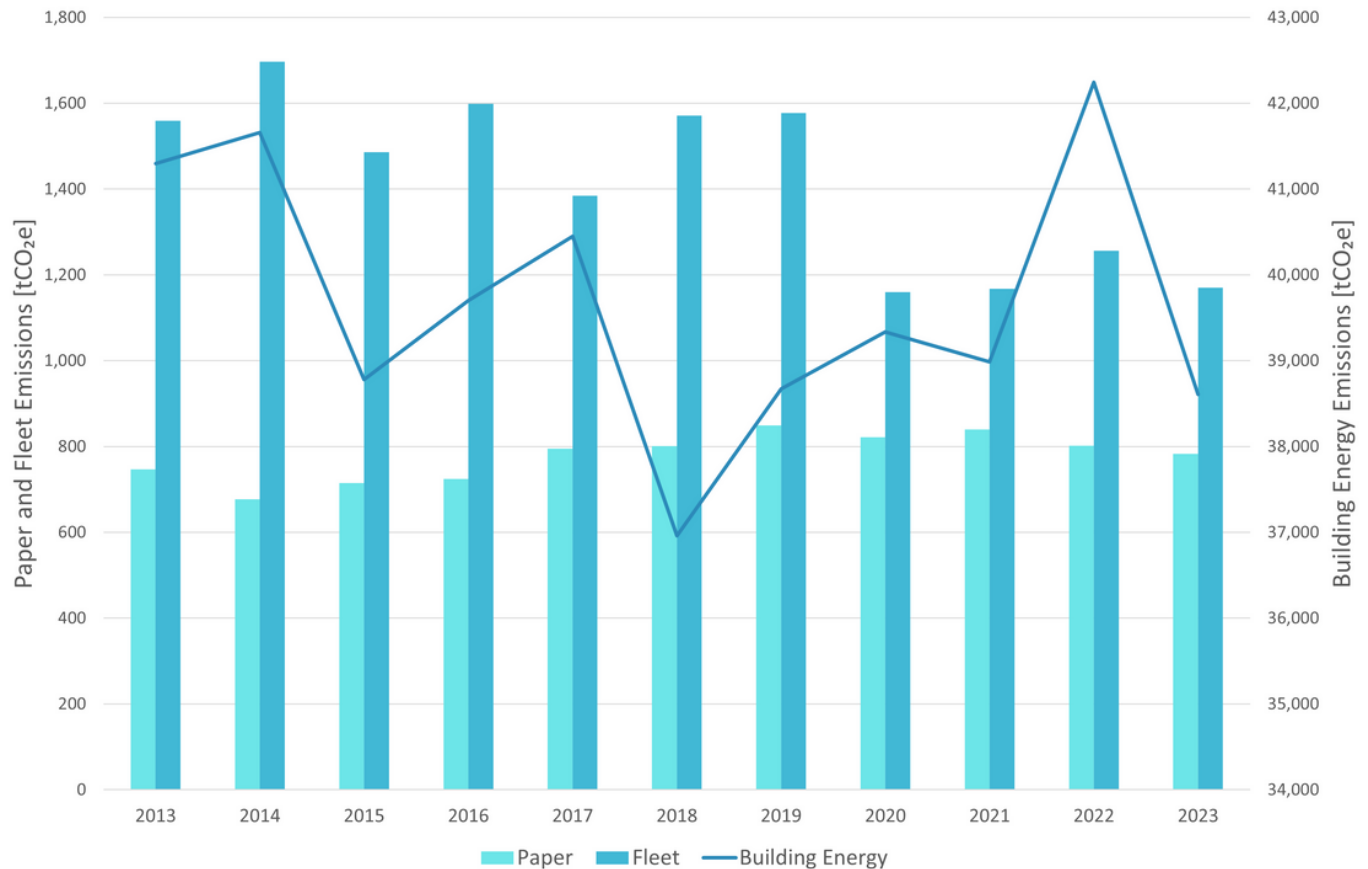


Graph 1 - Comparison of adjusted 2021, 2022 and 2023 emissions

The Southern Interior region experienced a much colder winter in 2022, which resulted in increased energy use in 2022 compared to our energy use in 2023. As we focus on reducing the emissions of our existing infrastructure, any new facilities we build must also be more energy efficient, and have low carbon intensity (the amount of carbon

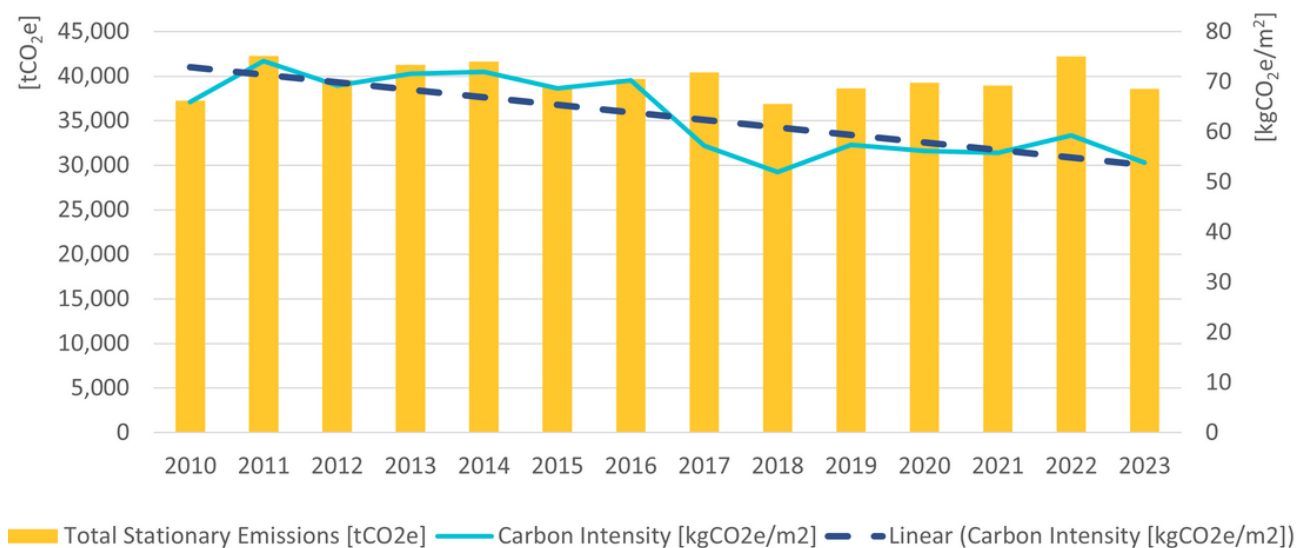
[4] Emissions adjustments are made throughout the next years reporting cycle. This is due to changes in data, which includes emission factor changes and additional data received by IH.

emissions per unit of floor area) to minimize the GHG impact of adding new spaces for our expanding health-care services.

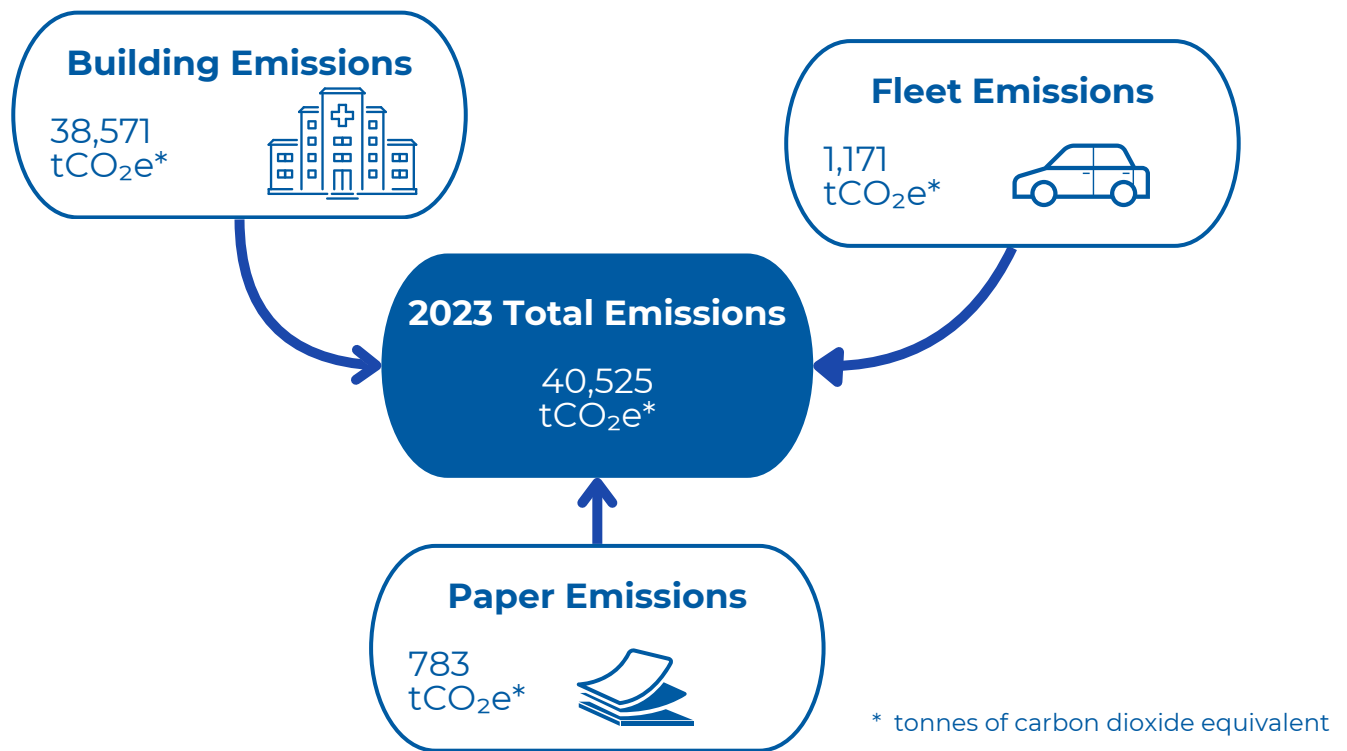


Graph 2 - Total GHG emissions trending from 2010

The carbon intensity in our facilities continues to trend downward. It is important to measure carbon intensity rather than the overall consumption as it demonstrates a complete picture of the efficiency of our facilities. Even with a larger floor area from our 2010 baseline, the energy-efficient interventions that have been implemented highlight the positive impacts.



Graph 3 - Building emissions carbon intensity



Vernon Jubilee Hospital ([Infrastructure BC, 2014](#))



## Building Emissions and Energy Management

Our building emissions in 2023, which are made up of IH's owned buildings and leased facilities, account for 95.2 per cent of our total emissions and totalled 38,571 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This equates to an 8.7 per cent decrease in building emissions compared to the adjusted emissions from 2022<sup>5</sup>.

Our approach to energy conservation and management requires us to align infrastructure renewal plans for existing buildings, optimize opportunities for upcoming capital projects, maximize utility partner incentive programs, and conduct annual prioritization reviews to ensure the energy management portfolio is being managed effectively.

---

[5] Emission factors were updated in the CGRT for natural gas and electricity, due to greater understanding of the composition of natural gas in pipelines and the electricity change reflects a shift from the gross import model to a net import model.

Penticton Regional Hospital (Interior Health)



## Energy Studies

Interior Health completes energy studies to assist in defining the preliminary scope, energy performance outcomes and the estimated implementation costs for projects that will optimize energy performance. The type of energy study can vary depending on the facility size, equipment condition and age, applicable utilities, the ratio of electricity use compared to overall energy use, climate zone and the configuration of various buildings systems.

Opportunities identified in an energy study can contribute to effective planning such as assisting with the selection of more efficient replacements when equipment reaches its end of service life. Instead of replacing with like-for-like equipment, it is often beneficial to conduct an energy study to determine a long-term and energy efficient alternative. Energy studies are currently underway at the following eight sites:

- Penticton Regional Hospital
- Princeton General Hospital
- Shuswap Lake General Hospital (Salmon Arm)
- Pleasant Valley Health Centre (Armstrong)
- Swan Valley Lodge (Creston)
- Nicola Valley Hospital (Merritt)
- Queen Victoria Hospital (Revelstoke)
- South Hills Tertiary Mental Health (Kamloops)



Queen Victoria Hospital in Revelstoke ([Revelstoke Review, 2020](#))

## Recommissioning Projects

In order to meet the operational needs of our facilities, IH implements low-cost recommissioning projects with budgets typically less than \$100,000 through the Continuous Optimization Program. This program identifies energy-saving opportunities through small-scale repairs and upgrades. This program is comprised of three stages, including:

### Phase 1 - Investigation

- During this phase, energy saving opportunities known as energy conservation measures (ECMs) are identified in an optimization investigation. Measures can include anything from installation of occupancy sensors to boiler system optimization.

- These low-cost opportunities are a result of projected energy savings and emission reductions. These measures have a typical payback period of two to three years. All investigations are submitted to funding partners like BC Hydro and FortisBC by the end of the fiscal year.

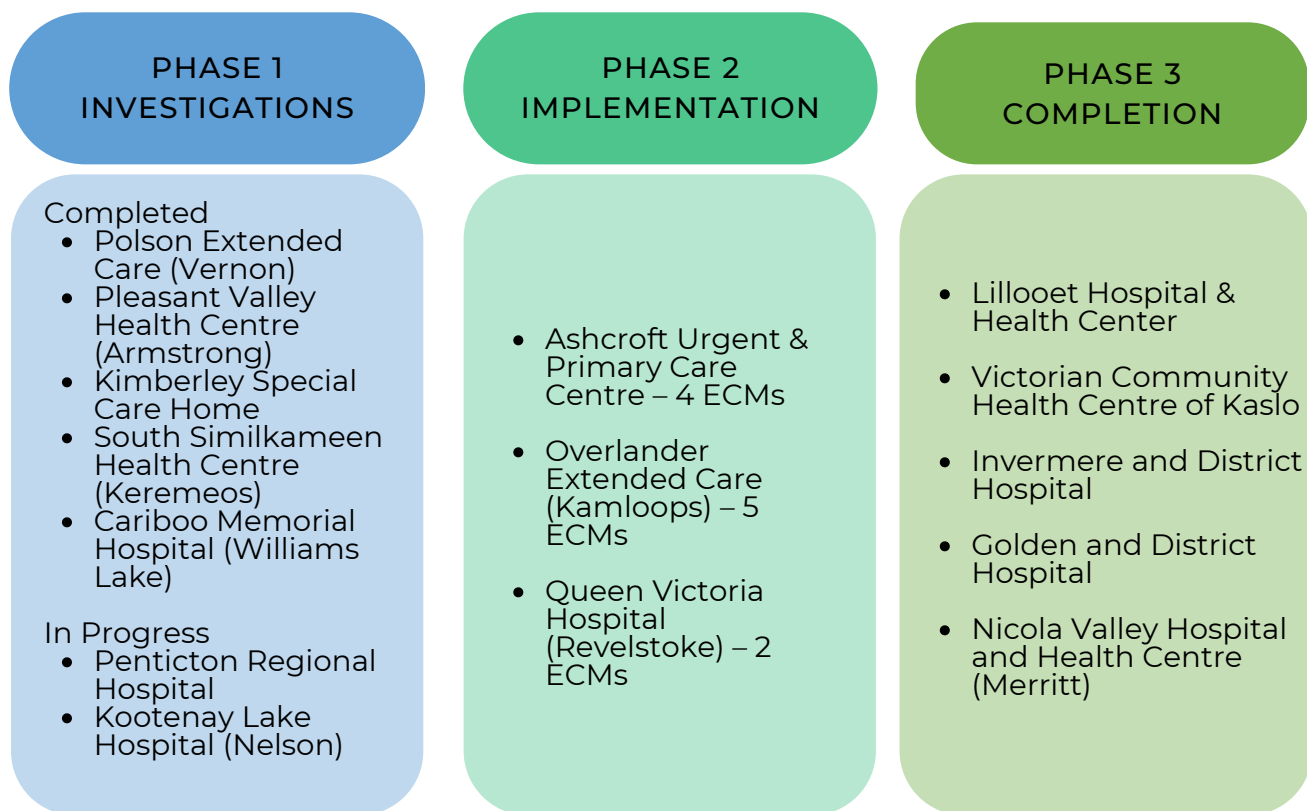
#### Phase 2 - Implementation

- Following the investigation, approved ECMs are prioritized and implemented.

#### Phase 3 - Completion

- After the implementation of the approved ECMs, a final study is conducted to validate the savings that were initially identified in the investigation phase and the final project report to our funding partners.

### 2023 Continuous Optimization Projects



### Capital Projects

To achieve the greatest energy savings and GHG emission reductions, IH invests in capital projects that are typically more than \$100,000 and have a longer payback period and higher GHG abatement cost (dollar per tCO<sub>2</sub>e). These projects are undertaken when existing equipment or systems are reaching the end of their service life and need to be replaced. Building retrofits that are major or deep in scale support multiple energy upgrades simultaneously. When successful, these upgrades and innovations can be implemented at other sites.

Some capital upgrades are implemented through the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP), including measures such as combustion efficiency improvements, heat recovery and low carbon electrification (LCE)—switching the energy utility source from emissions-intensive fossil fuels such as natural gas and propane, to clean electricity. The following is a list of CNCP projects that are in progress and approved.

| Facility                                    | Project Description                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Brookhaven Extended Care (West Kelowna)     | Energy Retrofits and Building Automation System |
| Creston Valley Hospital                     | Heating Plant Upgrades                          |
| Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital (Clearwater) | Heat Recovery                                   |
| Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (Trail) | Steam Plant Efficiency Upgrades                 |
| Kootenay Lake Hospital (Nelson)             | Building Voltage Regulation                     |
| Summerland Health Centre                    | Boiler/Heat Pump Replacement                    |
| Invermere & District Hospital               | Biomass Boiler                                  |
| Kelowna General Hospital                    | Heating Plant Replacement - Phase 1a            |

## 2023 Energy Wise Campaign

The Energy Wise Network (EWN) is an employee engagement program where staff across the organization come together by adopting behavioural changes to use energy wisely and to incorporate smart energy habits in daily routines. This network is supported in partnership with FortisBC and BC Hydro.

In 2023, the IH EWN campaign focused on energy intensive equipment like chillers and cooling towers. The goal of the campaign was to run chillers and cooling towers at their rated energy efficiency levels and also eliminate any energy deviations in the system without compromising building occupant comfort.

### What do participants in the Energy Wise Network do?

The EWN contribute towards organizational carbon reductions by:

- ✓ Networking with leaders across the province to identify best practices
- ✓ Sharing ideas and knowledge
- ✓ Receiving training and coaching
- ✓ Exploring energy incentive funding opportunities
- ✓ Implementing new ideas

## Public-Private-Partnership (P3) Operations

There are four hospitals that operate under a public-private-partnership (P3) agreement:

- Kelowna General Hospital
- Penticton Regional Hospital
- Royal Inland Hospital (Kamloops)
- Vernon Jubilee Hospital

Under these agreements, the P3 private partners have designed and constructed facilities to meet or exceed an agreed-upon design and construction energy target. After the design and construction target are reconciled, our P3 partners are then financially incentivized to maintain and operate the new building in an energy-efficient manner.

### *Employing Setback Strategies in Operating Rooms*

In 2023, our IH P3 team, in collaboration with our partner at Kelowna General Hospital, introduced heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) setbacks for five operating rooms and surrounding departments. These operating rooms are occupied during the day only and subject to energy-intensive HVAC requirements when in use. By reducing HVAC demands during unoccupied periods, significant energy savings can be achieved. In collaboration with IH's Energy Management team and FortisBC, our partners reprogrammed building automation systems and installed upgraded occupancy sensing hardware. The annual energy savings are estimated to be 31 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e – equivalent to the energy use of 7.3 homes.

Kelowna General Hospital (Interior Health)



### Green Building Certifications

The nine-storey Phil and Jennie Gagliardi Tower at Royal Inland Hospital, which opened in July 2022, has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The tower features the following energy and environmentally sustainable features:

- Electric vehicle (EV) parking and charging
- Dedicated bicycle storage facilities to promote alternate methods of transportation
- Energy-efficient heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting systems
- Energy-efficient construction, including exterior walls and roofs
- Low water use fixtures and irrigation
- Water-efficient landscaping
- Environmentally friendly construction products, materials and practices
- Enhanced commissioning and verification processes as part of the construction process

#### **What is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and why is it important?**

LEED is a third-party certification program and an internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

LEED practices help lower carbon emissions, conserve resources, and reduce operating costs by prioritizing sustainable practices.



Under the Ministry of Health's Capital Policy 11, as discussed on page 25, all new construction and major renovation projects for PSOs are designed and constructed to achieve LEED Gold or similar building standards in line with the BC Government's commitment to low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable health-care facilities. This development standard proactively plans to minimize climate risk, and assesses opportunities to not only upgrade our systems, but to design future facilities to minimize our GHG emissions and our energy use.

Other LEED certified IH buildings include the following:

- Royal Inland Hospital – Clinical Services Building
- Penticton Regional Hospital – David E. Kampe Tower
- Interior Heart and Surgical Centre
- Kelowna General Hospital – Dr. Walter Anderson Building
- Kelowna General Hospital – Centennial Building
- Vernon Jubilee Hospital – Polson Tower
- Hillside Centre, Royal Inland Hospital – Adult Psychiatric Centre

Royal Inland Hospital (Interior Health)

## *Plans for the Future*

To meet our emission and energy reduction targets for our building portfolio, IH will focus on:

**Financial Investment** - the primary task is to confirm financial investments to fund prioritized initiatives that have been identified by the Energy Management team. Once funding has been confirmed, the Energy Management team will continue to conduct and complete energy studies and implement more energy conservation opportunities in 2024. The Energy Management team will also optimize access to incentives and rebate programs through fostering partnerships with BC Hydro, FortisBC and other partners.

**Low Carbon Capital Plan** - in 2024, the Energy Management team will continue collaborating with Capital Planning on major and routine projects. Work is underway to develop a Low Carbon Capital Plan for owned buildings. This document will outline a decarbonization pathway aligned with the provincial emission reduction targets. Results of a portfolio analysis will inform recommendations to create a project list for low-carbon projects 2025-2030. Tools will also be created to assist in selecting and prioritizing low carbon options when replacing existing assets.

Royal Inland Hospital (Interior Health)



## Fleet Emissions

The emissions from our fleet vehicles account for 2.9 per cent of our total emissions. The 2022 fleet emissions were adjusted to 1,256 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (from 1,074 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). This adjustment is due to updated emission factors<sup>6</sup> and additional data received from our vendors after the reporting period closed. At the time of reporting, the 2023 fleet emissions are 1,171 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

### *Fleet Electric Vehicle Transition Plan*

In 2023, IH developed a tactical plan to transition our fleet of internal combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs). The EV Transition Plan considered:

- Vehicles reaching end-of-life and requiring replacement in future years
- The vehicle inventory within a community and a site to determine appropriate locations to transition from internal combustion engine vehicle to an EV or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)
- Site assessments to ensure facilities have capacity for the installation of EV-charging equipment
- Community travel patterns
- Available public charging options

The path forward to transition our fleet aligns with several commitments:

- The BC Government mandate requires PSOs to contribute to the shared target of a 40 per cent reduction in fleet GHG emissions by 2030
- Mirroring the requirement that core government ministries transitions 10 per cent of our fleet to EVs by 2030
- Joining West Coast Electric Fleet as an On-Ramp partner, committing to evaluate our fleet vehicle procurements appropriate for an EV transition
- IH's *Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap*<sup>7</sup> – Action 6 identifies actions Fleet Services can take to contribute to the climate change mitigation and GHG reductions from our capital assets.



*Figure 2 - Chevrolet Bolt, an electric vehicle in IH's fleet*

---

[6] The emission factor for gasoline-fuelled Light Duty Vehicles (LDVs) and Trucks (LDTs) to reflect increased stringency of federal tailpipe air pollutant emission requirements.

[7] Learn about our 5-year strategy - [Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap](#)

This transition plan provides an overview of IH's objectives for transitioning our fleet from internal combustion engine vehicles to low-carbon vehicles, a key step to mitigate climate change by reducing GHG emissions. The EV Transition Plan focuses on EV infrastructure deployment in 15 communities over the next five years, with a goal to transition 60 vehicles to EVs by 2030. IH's Fleet Services team presented this first-of-its-kind tactical plan at BC's Climate Leadership Symposium, held in Kamloops in October 2023.

Currently, there are 13 electric vehicles in the IH fleet at five facilities, consisting of both plug-in-hybrids and fully electric, with more vehicles to arrive in alignment with the five-year transition plan. Facilities that currently have dedicated Level 2 Fleet Vehicle chargers are:

- Kelowna General Hospital
- Interior Health Regional Services Building (Kelowna)
- Community Health Services Centre (Kelowna)
- Penticton Regional Hospital
- Royal Inland Hospital

Proactive measures are planned, aligned with the five-year transition plan, to ensure charging infrastructure is installed at both the EV's home facility and the most common destination facilities in advance of more EVs arriving.



## Paper Emissions

The emissions from our paper use account for 1.9 per cent of our total emissions. The 2023 paper emissions are 783 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, equal to a 2.3 per cent decrease in paper emissions compared to the adjusted emissions from 2022.

Paper usage continues to decline as online applications and services like SharePoint Online, Enterprise, Teams and OneDrive are more widely adopted by staff. The suite of Microsoft 365 applications support virtual collaboration with staff through easily accessible files across departments.



### *Sweet Savings with Sugar Sheets*

In 2023, IH tested sugar sheets, a paper made from 100 per cent sugar cane residue fibre. This alternative paper source has a much smaller carbon footprint compared to conventional paper. With the support of Digital Health, IH tested sugar sheets in three high-use printing departments: laboratory services, food services and administration. The testing results proved sugar sheets were an effective alternative to conventional paper, with several IH departments adopting the product. In 2023, IH purchased 79 boxes of sugar sheets, resulting in 16 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e saved when compared to purchasing conventional paper sources.

### *Electronic Workflows*

IH continues to identify opportunities to digitize processes with electronic workflows. In 2023, IH discontinued auto-printing of paper medical records in all acute care health record departments. Paper copies of any electronically available reports in Meditech are no longer filed into paper charts. This change is expected to save approximately 870,000 sheets of paper per year. Additional environmental benefits include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 11 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Saving 104 trees worth of paper - left standing, these trees absorb 2.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e each year

These emissions savings are estimated to be equivalent to driving 92,114 km in a new, gasoline powered vehicle – or 2.3 trips around the Earth.

# 3 Climate Leadership

Climate Risk Management, Adaptation and Resilience 24

Climate Change and Health 29

# Climate Risk Management, Adaptation and Resilience

In preparing for a changing climate, IH is reducing risk through both organization and community-based actions. This includes fostering improved health outcomes for those communities most at risk from climate change, building new capacities to proactively plan, act, and respond, supporting local governments in advancing evidence-based plans, and making operational and infrastructure changes in preparation for future climate impacts.

In recent years, IH has faced immense environmental and climate related challenges, which were particularly evident over the course of the summer of 2023. At the same time, IH's infrastructure is aging and many building components are at the end of their life, limiting their capacity and reliability when responding to extreme, climate events. As a result, when rebuilding, replacing or retrofitting, we assess the opportunity to not only upgrade our systems, but to create proactive plans to minimize climate risk, and design future facilities with a low carbon lens. To be well prepared, we are assessing, identifying vulnerabilities, and working to build resilience through various measures.

## *Climate Resilience Guidelines and Policies*

In 2023, the Climate Action Secretariat released the *Climate Resilience Framework and Standards for Public Sector Buildings* (referred to as the *Framework and Standards*). The framework outlines minimum climate resilience standards that all new public sector buildings are required to achieve. By assessing climate risks to our facilities, we intend to reduce overall organization-wide risk, reduce long-term operational and maintenance costs, align with GHG emission reduction strategies provincially and maintain service delivery standards.

B.C. health authorities also use the *Climate Resilience Guidelines for BC Health Facility Planning and Design*. This health-authority specific document is focused on:

- Aligning the project delivery lifecycle with provincial policy and legislation
- Meeting directives to “align operations with targets and strategies for minimizing GHG emissions and managing climate change risk”
- Demonstrating public sector leadership in a dynamic environment - where the province is experiencing increasing climate-related events and a changing regulatory landscape



As of 2024, the *Climate Resilience Guidelines for BC Health Facility Planning and Design* is undergoing updates and further review to align with requirements outlined in the Climate Action Secretariat's Provincial *Framework and Standards*.

An updated chapter in the Ministry of Health's Capital Policy Manual was also released in 2024. *Chapter 11, Low Carbon, Climate Resilient and Sustainable Health Facilities*, outlines requirements for:

- the planning and design requirements for new and replacement health facilities
- strategies and action plans for minimizing GHG emissions
- managing climate risks
- improving environmental sustainability

Updates made to the chapter include a new section on life cycle assessments, and understanding the embodied carbon associated with our building renewals. (Figure 3)

| What's a life cycle assessment (LCA)?                                                                                                                                                                                         | What's embodied carbon?                                                                                                                                                                        | What's operational carbon?                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| An LCA refers to a cradle-to-grave assessment of environmental impacts associated with all the stages of building life, including raw material extraction, materials processing, construction, operation and decommissioning. | In the building industry, embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance and disposal of building materials. | In contrast, operational carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions due to building energy consumption. In order to measure and help reduce embodied carbon, a life cycle assessment (LCA) is completed as part of the initial design of a facility. |

IH's Environmental Sustainability team demonstrated proactive engagement alongside other BC Health Authorities in the updates made to the policy. Internally, the Environment Sustainability team works closely with the Capital Planning team to facilitate the implementation of climate resilience strategies.



Figure 3: Embodied carbon (yellow) and operational carbon (blue) across the key life cycle stages of a building (Carbon Leadership Forum, 2020)

## Climate Risk

Interior Health has taken significant steps to expand its climate resilience portfolio in 2023. Some of the strategic actions taken include the recruitment of dedicated climate resilience staff, working collaboratively across the organization to update climate resilience policies and guidance documents, streamlining our future facility designs to include climate adaptation measures, and conducting a portfolio-level assessment of climate hazards.

The addition of dedicated staff specializing in climate resilience and sustainability is an important step in advancing this work. Identifying future opportunities, pinpointing vulnerabilities in our current and future facilities, and proactively planning for future climate-related events are also key.

In 2023, facility-level climate risk assessments were completed to identify risks posed by climate change and extreme weather events to the structure, functionality, operations and maintenance, and occupant comfort of East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook, Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital in Trail, and Shuswap Lake General Hospital in Salmon Arm.

The risk assessment process is intended to inform the design team and other partners involved in project planning of projected changes in climate and associated risks. The process also provides recommended climate adaptation and mitigation measures for consideration during the detailed design and construction phase. These hospitals have experienced a consistent rise in climate hazards since the baseline period (1971 to the 2000s), and this trend is projected to continue into the 2080s. Each climate risk assessment will comprehensively identify all relevant hazards for each site.

High risks were associated with extreme short-duration rainfall, hot days, heatwaves, wind gusts, thunderstorms, and landslides. Adaptation measures were identified and recommended for mechanical, electrical, structural, enclosure and civil systems. In addition, climate adjusted design criteria were provided to support climate resiliency in the design phases of future hospital infrastructure upgrades.

### What's a climate risk assessment?

Climate risk assessments or CRAs are an essential tool for achieving climate change resilience in building projects.

A risk assessment is important for understanding the likelihood of a given hazard impacting a building or a building component combined with the consequence should the hazard occur.

### Where did IH complete climate risk assessments in 2023?

- East Kootenay Regional Hospital
- Shuswap Lake General Hospital
- Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital

## Climate Profiles & Projections

The new *BC Climate Resilience Framework & Standards for Public Sector Buildings* mandates organizations to evaluate climate risks and use future climate data for planning and design support.

Climate profiles are used to illustrate climate trends occurring in recent history (i.e., over the last 30 years or longer), and projected future climate conditions are used to help inform design and climate adaptation actions.

Historical climate records, usually in the form of meteorological data measured at weather stations, are used to describe the historical climate trends for an area. Future climate projections are determined using global climate models (GCMs). Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has taken a subset of 26 of these models to produce reliable, high-resolution downscaled climate projections localized to specific areas of interest in Canada.

In addition to the physics of the GCMs, global progress towards meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets is also a large source of uncertainty in future climate projections. We maintain best practices for planning in this dynamic field to determine how to best future-proof our facilities.

## Adaptation Measures

Following the completion of climate risk assessments, IH plans for specific operational and infrastructure changes to prepare for future climate impacts. Recommended adaptation measures are made by qualified professionals for mechanical, electrical, structural, enclosure and civil infrastructure categories.

Specific recommendations for modifying design criteria to address risks are incorporated into future designs to ensure facilities are resilient to climate change and extreme weather. Some examples of adaptation measures (Figure 4) incorporated into our projects in 2023 include:

- Increasing the capacity and size of HVAC systems to account for increasing temperatures and rising relative humidity levels with motors that can work with heavier filtration in place for wildfire smoke
- Installing passive solar shades on exterior of building to reduce impact of UV radiation and heat on south facing portions of building

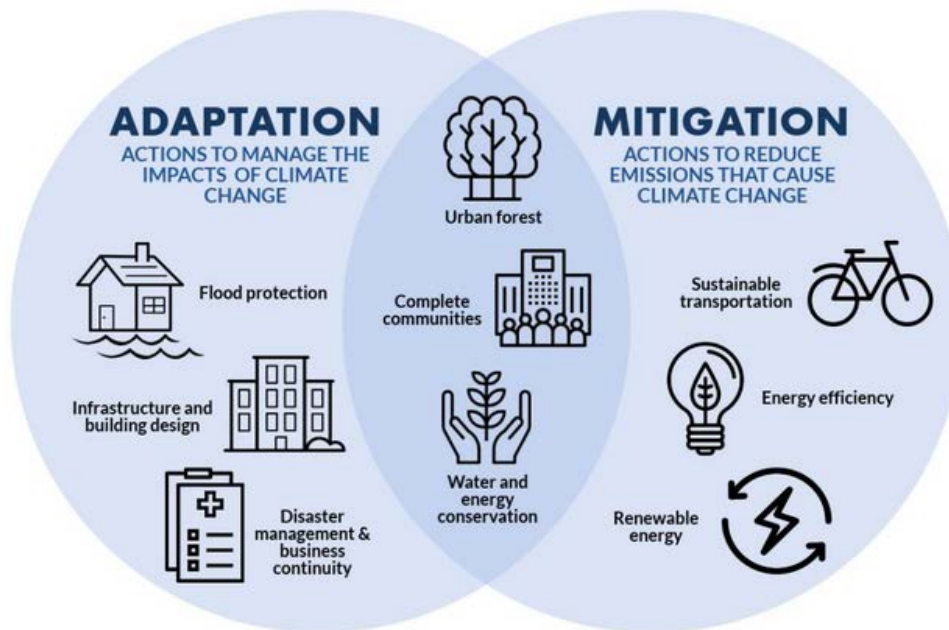


Figure 4 - Example of adaptation and mitigation strategies (*Cowichan Valley Regional District, 2021*)

In addition to these adaptation strategies, it should be noted many risks can be efficiently and effectively addressed and reduced through operations and maintenance (O&M) policy considerations and procedures. One example is updating an O&M policy to inspect and unblock stormwater drains and ditches following a rain-on-snow event.

IH launched a portfolio-level climate hazard exposure screen and high-level vulnerability assessment in late 2023. This assessment includes 56 regions in the Southern Interior. The results from this portfolio-level climate hazard exposure screen are not only informative but also essential for meeting the requirements set forth by the *BC Climate Resilience Framework & Standards for Public Sector Buildings*. This work is the precursor to completing more detailed climate risk assessments specific to the most vulnerable areas identified.



## Climate Change and Health

Climate change is one of the most urgent public health issues facing Interior Health. B.C. is expected to see an increase in climate related events from heat events, poor air quality, flooding and other extreme weather events over the next decade. These events affect the physical, mental and social health of people and communities in the IH region.

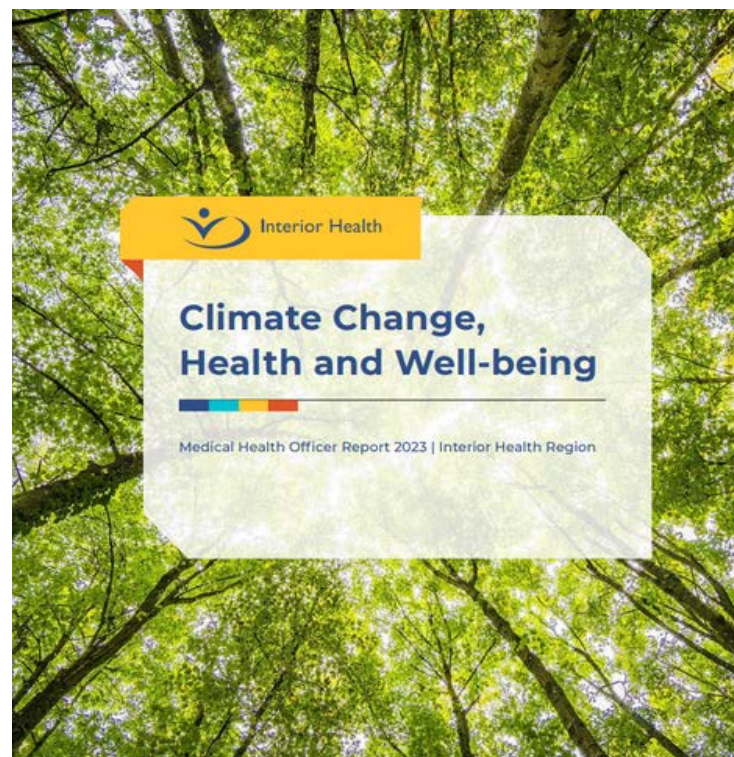
Action is required to support staff and external partners to adapt and respond to the changing climate. In a continued effort to build this capacity within IH and with external partners (e.g., local government, First Nation communities, etc.), IH is focusing on initiatives that support:

- Seasonal readiness planning and response
- Understanding and communicating the health and well-being impacts of climate change
- Guiding climate adaptation actions

Further highlights from 2023 on the Climate Change and Health portfolio are outlined below.

### *2023 MHO Report on Climate Change, Health and Well-Being*

Interior Health Medical Health Officers (MHOs) are legislated to annually report on the health status of a population within the IH region. The report for 2023 is on Climate Change, Health, and Well-being. It includes reflections on the events and experiences of the 2023 heat and wildfire season and explores the climate hazards that are most likely to impact the region: extreme heat, cold, flooding, wildfire and smoke, and drought. The report includes stories of innovation and resilience to climate change that are intended to inspire action and creative solutions at the community level. When efforts to reduce climate risks are coordinated across sectors, there are many social, economic and cultural co-benefits that support individual and community health, as well as benefiting the health system and the environment.



## *Interior Indigenous Food Forum*

The Interior Region Indigenous Food Forum<sup>8</sup> was held in September 2023 on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory, co-hosted in a collaborative effort between IH and First Nations Health Authority. Through keynote presentation, discussion circles and workshops, 96 participants shared with and learned from each other about the ways in which climate change and community food systems and food security are entwined. Climate adaptation and mitigations were discussed, including upholding First Nations rights to the land and traditional practice, and innovative ways to share knowledge and resources between communities.

## *Seasonal Readiness Planning and Response*

With a newly formed Interior Health Seasonal Readiness Committee, IH coordinated and implemented response activities to the record-breaking 2023 heat and wildfire season. This included coordinating actions aligned with [BC Heat Alert Response System](#) during heat events and then supporting the evacuation of 10 long-term care sites (988 long-term care residents) during the wildfires August–September 2023.

The Seasonal Readiness Committee also played a role in coordinating action during an unprecedented cold snap in January 2024. In alignment with the newly released [Public Health Recommendations to Reduce the Impacts of Exposure to Winter Weather on People Experiencing Homelessness in British Columbia](#), Interior Health worked with local government and community partners to focus on supporting those who were most vulnerable to the exposure to the cold weather, primarily people experiencing homelessness. The Seasonal Readiness Committee is improving plans and processes based on learning from these events to improve readiness in the future.

---

[8] Learn more about the [Interior Indigenous Food Forum here](#)

2023 Interior Region Food Forum (Shelanne Justice, 2023)





# 4

## Health System Transformation

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| System-Level Enablement | 32 |
| Clinical Advancements   | 33 |
| Food                    | 36 |
| Waste and Materials     | 38 |
| Our Champions           | 40 |

It takes collective effort, both at a systems level and at a clinical, front-line level for environmental change to occur. In 2023, Interior Health implemented many initiatives to transform our health system. This includes changes to strategic priorities for the organization, changes to how we approach clinical care and the management of foodservices and waste.

## System-Level Enablement

With the announcement of the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, and the release of the Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap, we have aligned action throughout the organization to address climate change and sustainability.

### *2024 – 2027 Strategic Priorities*

As part of IH's new strategic priorities for 2024-2027, a new strategic priority *Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability* has been announced. The inclusion of this priority ensures that environmental sustainability and climate action will continue to be embedded across the organization in years to come.

### *Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap*

In 2023, IH released the Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap. The Roadmap is a strategic document that provides overarching strategy to help guide Interior Health towards a more sustainable future as an organization, health-care provider and key community member. Some of the highlights from the inaugural year of implementation include:

- Establishment of the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Committee
- Formation of the IH Seasonal Readiness Working Group to coordinate activities related to extreme heat, cold weather and air quality events
- Completion of 30+ speaking engagements to educate, and share information on the Roadmap with staff, physicians and communities



## Clinical Advancements

For clinicians, they play an integral part in day-to-day decision-making related to patient care. Specifically, clinicians are leaders, drivers of procurement, decision-makers of resource utilization, prescribers, patient educators, and most timely, they are key environmental advocates.

### *Greening the Labs Opportunity Investigation*

The Greening the Labs Opportunity Investigation, completed in 2023, set out to identify environmental improvement opportunities for the Laboratory Program without compromising test quality or patient outcomes. The clinical laboratory plays a critical role in the delivery of health care, performing an integral function in diagnostic and clinical decisions. Recent instrument expansion and net new technology are rapidly growing and adding to the complexity of the environmental footprint.

Through collaborative planning, the IH Environmental Sustainability team worked with the Laboratory Program to identify future opportunity areas to reduce its environmental footprint. Several opportunity areas were identified including procurement, water usage, waste reduction, appropriate testing and green chemistry. As part of the Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap implementation, the Laboratory Program will establish a Greening the Lab Action Plan for fiscal 2024-2025 with quarterly evaluations to ensure successful implementation of efforts regionally.



Roxanne  
Suchan



Chandra  
Hauer

Roxanne Suchan is based out of Nelson, and is the professional practice leader for multiple sites in the Kootenay Boundary region. Chandra Hauer is the molecular technical lead for Kelowna General Hospital. Both supported the Greening the Labs Opportunity Investigation.



## *Climate Conscious Inhalers*

Metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) are currently the most widely prescribed treatment option for respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. On a global level, 18 million MDIs are prescribed yearly releasing nearly 13 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents<sup>9</sup>.

More environmentally sustainable inhaler alternatives to those currently in widespread use are available and can help lessen the health sector's contributions to climate change. A regional pilot to understand the prescribing behaviours, use and environmental impacts of MDIs at multiple sites in the Southern Interior is underway.

Dionne Martyn, Morgan Flynn, Laura Beresford and Dr. Nicola Tam are some leaders at Interior Health identifying areas of opportunity to reduce the use of MDIs. Dionne is an acute care pharmacist for Vernon Jubilee Hospital (VJH) and is an advocate on the VJH Environmental Sustainability Committee. Morgan is a primary care pharmacist based in Kelowna and is an active member of the Central Okanagan Environmental Sustainability Committee. Laura Beresford is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Pediatrics/Neonatology based at Kelowna General Hospital. Dr. Nicola Tam, a family physician located in Kelowna, sits on the Central Okanagan Division of Family Practice Climate Action Committee and the Interior Regional Planetary Health Table.



Dionne Martyn,  
Acute Care  
Pharmacist



Morgan Flynn,  
Primary Care  
Pharmacist with her  
two children



Laura Beresford,  
Clinical Pharmacy  
Specialist



Dr. Nicola Tam,  
Family Physician

[9] [Medical and Chemicals Technical Options Committee: 2018 Assessment Report \(unep.org\)](#).

## *Quality Improvement*

In 2023, the Environmental Sustainability team partnered with the Quality Improvement (QI) team to update IH's QI curriculum to include environmental sustainability. In partnership with Dr. Ilona Hale, IH's environmental sustainability manager was recently added to the teaching faculty for IH's Physician Quality Improvement program. She's been teaching participants on how to include environmental measurement for past, present and future QI projects.

## *Anesthetic Gas Recovery Technology*

In 2022, IH became the first health authority in B.C. to implement anesthetic gas recovery technology with a pilot project at Royal Inland Hospital. With expansion to this project in the past year, the technology is now in place in 24 operating rooms (ORs) at IH. This includes 11 ORs at Royal Inland Hospital, and 5 ORs at Vernon Jubilee Hospital and 8 ORs at Kelowna General Hospital. Each year, IH recovers anesthetic gases greater than IH's entire fleet emissions for a year – this is equivalent to taking more than 280 cars off the road every year. In 2024, the technology will be expanded to three additional IH sites.

Anesthetic Assistants at Royal Inland Hospital who support the Anesthetic Gas Recovery Program



## Food

Food is medicine and our diet serves as a powerful tool for optimizing health, and preventing and managing disease. Educating patients and clients about food and nutrition choices that help them achieve their health goals is a priority for IH. We offer 30 plant-forward menu options through Interior Health's Healthy Choice Menus that can be incorporated into daily menus at our hospitals and long-term care sites. By incorporating more plant-based products, there's less dependence on livestock, a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions.

IH's spending on locally sourced food accounted for 25.6 per cent of the food budget. We continue to identify opportunities to increase local food and beverages. In addition to using locally sourced products, ordering practices within Food Services have changed to order products in larger cases to reduce the amount of smaller pack sizes. IH has started purchasing from vendors that use less material or material that can be fully recycled.

### *Traditional Indigenous Meals*

IH has been expanding the Traditional Indigenous Foods program over the last few years. The regional production kitchen supplied more than 14,000 traditional meals,



sourcing local and traditional ingredients. Acute and long-term care sites provided traditional food entrees, soups, salads and desserts on National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2023, and on Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30, 2023.

## *Plant-Based Medicine for Chronic Kidney Disease*

Kelowna-based registered dietitians Jean Gibson and Marie Goyet received funding from the BC Renal Agency to improve the quality of life for those with chronic kidney disease (CKD) through culinary medicine interventions. Blending nutrition, medicine and the culinary arts, Jean and Marie developed a Renal Culinary Medicine project to help patients access, cook and eat kidney-protective meals at home.

For the project, individuals living with CKD participated in a focus group, and two patient advocates learned practical ways to incorporate more plant-based protein into their diet. From this work and collaboration, an interactive, [public website](#)<sup>10</sup> was launched to not only support those with CKD, but anyone who would like to add more plant-based protein into their diet but aren't sure where to start.

---

[10] [Plant-Based Medicine for Chronic Kidney Disease](#)



## Waste and Materials

Interior Health diverted a total of 2,540 tonnes of waste from entering our landfills in 2023. This is thanks to our efforts in recycling and composting, and further diverting e-waste, increasing battery recycling and reducing our use of single-use products. Our 2023 non-hazardous waste (general waste, recyclables, organics) yielded an annual diversion rate of 33 per cent. (Figure 5)

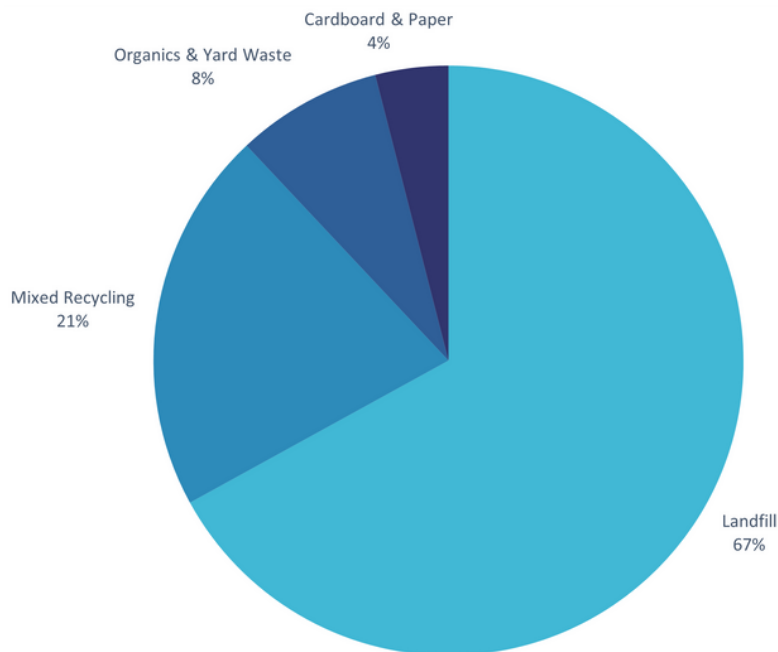


Figure 5 - 2023 IH waste composition



Cameron Lock

As the Waste Management Lead, Cameron is on the Support Services team and directs region-wide waste management initiatives. Cameron is the chair of the newly instated BC Provincial Waste Management Tech Team which brings together representatives and content experts from B.C.'s health organizations. He's the recipient of the 2024 Stephanie Davis Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Award and Scholarship.

### Biomedical Waste Diversion

Over the past year, the Sharpsmart program has been implemented across 16 major acute facilities to increase Interior Health's diversion efforts and safe handling procedures when disposing of sharps. As a result of this program, more than 50 tonnes of single-use plastic sharps containers will be diverted from landfills annually as each container can be reused upwards of 500 times.

The Pharmacy team expanded and implemented Stericycle's CsRx disposal containers across IH's long-term care, hospice and mental health and substance use facilities. These containers will be operational in more than 80 additional IH facilities, significantly contributing to community safety by preventing medication diversion and reducing the environmental impact of medication waste.

## Electronic Recycling

There are several sources of electronic waste diversion implemented at IH. This includes 43 sites across the region that have a battery recycling program, resulting in 1,695 kg of single-use and recyclable batteries being recycled responsibly.

Digital Health contributes significantly to electronic waste diversion. As part of routine infrastructure upgrades, electronic hardware is recycled throughout the region. In 2023, approximately 23,500 kg of electronic waste has been recycled through the Electronic Recycling Association and the CISCO takeback and recycling program. That's equivalent to the weight to **67 grizzly bears**.

## PPE Recycling Program

In 2021, Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) was selected by the Ministry of Health to participate in a pilot initiative to recycle Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Due to the success of this initiative, the Ministry of Health is providing provincial funding to all of the health authorities through the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) to incorporate PPE Recycling in all acute care sites.

The PPE Recycling Program will expand across IH's acute care facilities in a phased approach over the course of 2024-2025. This new program will accept more products than were included in the pilot for collection such as surgical procedure masks, masks with visors and disposable respirators, nitrile gloves, disposable gowns, hairnets, shoe covers and more.

## Single-Use Plastics Ban Implementation

Under the Federal *Single-Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations*,<sup>11</sup> over the last year Interior Health worked closely with vendors and the PHSA to remove all single-use plastic foodservice ware products. These products are single-use plastic cutlery (spoons, forks, knives), takeout containers, checkout bags, stir sticks and straight drinking straws. As of March 2024, all prohibited products have been removed from IH's supply chain.

## Reusable Linens

IH uses more than 80 reusable laundry items including wash cloths, isolation and surgical gowns, and bed linens in our urgent and primary care clinics and acute sites. By using these products, IH is implementing the principles of a circular economy. We are also minimizing risk when it comes to health-care supply chain disruptions as experienced by climate related events or supply chain delays.

Reusable isolation gowns are in use at 103 sites, including all acute care sites. The gowns can be reused up to 150 times, undergoing thorough cleaning and sanitization processes without compromising safety standards.

---

[11] Learn about the [Single Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations](#) here

In 2023, Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH) launched an initiative to standardize how beds are made up throughout the site. Within the first 90 days, PRH's initiative reduced daily linen usage by 45 kgs, leading to a significant decrease in transportation of soiled linen and curbing carbon emissions associated with logistics.

## Our Champions

### *Regional Planetary Health Table*

Formed in 2023, the Regional Planetary Health Table is a partnership between physicians, Facility Engagement (Doctors of BC), the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer and Population and Public Health, and the Environmental Sustainability team. This Table includes physician representation across 10 medical staff associations in the Southern Interior region. It provides a unique opportunity for physicians to collaborate regionally, and to share and spread their local efforts to other sites, as well as work alongside IH leaders to advance climate change action.

The Table was recently recognized for an Excellence in Partnership award through Facility Engagement, showcasing the strong relationships between physicians and health authority staff in leading environmental initiatives at IH.

Members of the Regional Planetary Health Table receiving the Excellence in Partnership Award



## *Environmental Sustainability Committees*

The Sustainability Engagement Program at IH provides strategies for engaging staff on local, site-level initiatives and larger regional initiatives. Currently there are seven Environmental Sustainability Committees: five are site-specific committees and two are regional committees encompassing acute sites and community care.

The program hosts 12 champions who lead the regional committees, and 50 advocates who hold a variety of professional roles and allied health positions across several departments, including administration, support services, facilities management and clinical operations.

These committees have seen great successes over the past year in implementing environmental improvements at their sites. From paper reduction initiatives, zero-waste lunches, GoByBike events, education campaigns, Environmental Sustainability Committees are influencing a culture of sustainable action, and continue to make significant improvements across IH.



Environmental Sustainability Champions

## *Invermere's Go By Bike Week*

Invermere's Environmental Sustainability Committee challenged their community to GoByBike as part of B.C.'s GoByBike Week from May 29 to June 2, 2023.

Staff at Invermere and District Hospital, Invermere Medical Clinic (Team Invermere Mighty Clinic) and Chisel Peak Medical Clinic (Team Chiseled Peakers) were encouraged to use non-motorized methods of transportation throughout the week. The committee wanted to encourage staff to pursue a healthier lifestyle and active transportation choices, while minimizing the production of greenhouse gas emissions produced by driving to work.

Invermere's IH sites formed seven teams with 71 riders, which included 63 first-time participants. With 2,189 km biked, Invermere saved 475 kg of greenhouse gases.

Invermere Go By Bikers with their award certificate





## 5 Setting Direction for the Future

In 2023, IH made significant progress in advancing its energy, climate resilience and sustainability portfolios. With the launch of the Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap, IH will continue to implement the 20 comprehensive actions and fulfill its commitments.

IH will continue to focus on establishing governance and accountability structures within the organization, minimize climate risk to IH facilities and infrastructure, and increase climate resilience through assessments and tactical plans. IH will also focus on actively supporting our leaders in integrating environmental sustainability practices into clinical operations and service delivery. IH will continue to engage and collaborate with community partners, local governments and Indigenous partners on actions to respond, adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts.

In 2024, IH looks forward to working across all departments and portfolios to advance low-carbon, energy-efficient, climate resilient and sustainability initiatives in our operations and beyond.

## Concordance Table

| Reporting Requirements, in accordance with the <i>Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA)</i> , section 8.1 and the <i>Carbon Neutral Government Regulation (CNGR)</i> . |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Health's Report                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Required Section                                                                                                                                                          | Title                                                              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Section                                                                                                  |
| Title                                                                                                                                                                     | 2023 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Cover page, Climate Action Secretariat approved title alteration                                         |
| Organization                                                                                                                                                              | Organization Name                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Cover page                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                           | Declaration Statement                                              | This PSO Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 summarizes our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions we have taken in 2023 to minimize our GHG emissions, and our plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Declaration Statement, <b>page 6</b>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                           | Emissions Reductions Actions & Plans                               | Describe the actions taken by your organization in the 2023 calendar year to minimize emissions and your plans to continue reducing emissions in future years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Energy and Carbon, <b>page 8 - 21</b>                                                                    |
| Part 1. A                                                                                                                                                                 | Stationary Sources (e.g., buildings, power generation)             | Please describe actions taken by your organization in 2023 to minimize emission reductions from stationary sources and plans to continue reducing those emissions in 2024 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Building Emissions, Energy Conservation and Management, <b>page 13 - 18</b>                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    | Describe plans to continue reducing those [stationary source] emissions in 2023 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Plans for the Future, <b>page 19</b>                                                                     |
| Part 1. B                                                                                                                                                                 | Mobile Sources (e.g., fleet vehicles, off road/portable equipment) | Describe actions taken by your organization in 2023 to support emission reductions from mobile sources and plans to continue reducing those emissions in 2024 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Fleet Emissions, <b>page 20 - 21</b>                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    | Clean Fleet Plan: If your organization has a Clean Fleet Plan, please provide a high-level summary and indicate if you have provided (or intend to provide) a copy of it to the Clean Government team at CAS, through your 2023 PSCL Survey or otherwise. A Clean Fleet Plan is an actionable, multi-year plan that outlines how organizations will transition their light duty vehicle fleets to cleaner options and align charging and refueling infrastructure deployment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Fleet Electric Vehicle Transition Plan, <b>page 20 - 21</b>                                              |
| Part 1. C                                                                                                                                                                 | Paper Consumption                                                  | Describe actions taken by your organization in 2023 to support emission reductions from paper supplies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Paper Emissions, <b>page 22</b>                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    | Describe plans to continue reducing those [paper] emissions in 2024 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Paper Emissions, <b>page 22</b>                                                                          |
| 2022 GHG Emissions Offsets Summary Table                                                                                                                                  | [Organization name] 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table   | Complete table per CGRT and include table from template in report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Interior Health 2023 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary Table, <b>page 6</b>                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                           | Retirement of Offsets Statement                                    | In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, [Organization Name] (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2023 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization's behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST. | Retirement of Offsets Statement, <b>page 6</b>                                                           |
| Part 2. A                                                                                                                                                                 | Climate Risk Management                                            | Describe actions taken by your organization in 2023 to manage risk related to the changing climate and plans to continue managing those risks in 2024 and beyond.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Climate Risk Management, Adaptation and Resilience <b>page 23 - 30</b>                                   |
| Part 2. B                                                                                                                                                                 | Other Sustainability Initiatives                                   | Describe any other initiatives in your organization that support sustainability in general.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Health System Transformation, <b>page 31 - 42</b>                                                        |
| Part 2. C                                                                                                                                                                 | Success Stories                                                    | Describe any success stories that your organization would like to highlight whether related to reducing emissions or preparing for/adapting to a changing climate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Climate Risk Management, Adaptation and Resilience and Health System Transformation, <b>page 23 - 42</b> |
| Executive Sign-Off                                                                                                                                                        | Executive Sign-Off                                                 | Signature by a senior official such as CEO, COO or Superintendent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Executive Sign-Off, <b>page 6</b>                                                                        |