

Executive Summary

To advance health-focused sustainability and climate change adaptation action in the Southern Interior of British Columbia (BC), Interior Health (IH) has developed a *Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap*. The Roadmap builds on direction from the provincial government, action already taking place within IH, and the increasing impacts of climate change on BC, and beyond.

Direction for the future

The long-term direction for sustainable progress and climate change action, developed collaboratively through the planning process:

Interior Health is committed to being a leader in initiating change towards a healthy and resilient healthcare system that equitably contributes to the well-being of our populations, staff, and communities, and the sustainability of our planet. It is a key element in proactively preparing for and mitigating the health impacts of a changing climate.

Introducing the Roadmap

The Roadmap serves as a cohesive overarching strategy to guide population-based climate action and internal corporate sustainability action across the organization. Through a suite of guiding principles, goals, and 20 comprehensive actions, a clear path forward has been developed to reach IH's desired future state. The Roadmap will support IH in building an environmentally sustainable healthcare system that:

- reduces greenhouse gas emissions and negative environmental impacts
- strengthens the healthcare system to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts
- supports local and Indigenous communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts

The Roadmap is the product of many years of interest and shared effort across the organization to advance sustainability and position IH to respond effectively to the threat of climate change.



Direction for the future

A concise and compelling description of the ideal state for the sustainable future of IH

Guiding Principles

The central principles which guide decision-making for Roadmap design and implementation; these were developed in accordance with IH's strategic priorities

Areas of Focus

A clear and complementary delineation of climate change and sustainability

Goals

Meaningful climate change and sustainability ambitions that connect the direction for the future to the actions

Actions

Detailed actions that are specific, measurable, and time-bound which support sustainable change and climate change action across IH

Areas of focus and goals

Climate change and sustainability are large, complex, and often complementary terms. The terms are often used in concert with each other and so the distinction between the two is often lost. To ensure the terms of climate change and sustainability are properly scoped and defined, the following focus areas and goals have been developed.

SUSTAINABILITY

Natural environment

- **Goal S1.1:** Evaluate and reduce the environmental impact of Interior Health operations
- **Goal S1.2:** Bolster healthy built, natural, and social environments within local communities to support healthy community development

Social

- **Goal S2.1:** Commit to purchasing and investments for Interior Health programs and services that align with circular economy principles, and climate change and sustainability goals
- **Goal S2.2:** Increase support for local community businesses and resources through decision-making and purchasing processes

Governance

- **Goal S3.1:** Establish accountability for climate change and sustainability action at all levels of the organization
- **Goal S3.2:** Increase internal resourcing for sustainability and climate action initiatives

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mitigation and greenhouse gas reduction

- **Goal CC1.1:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from capital assets and operations
- **Goal CC1.2:** Work with suppliers and other partners to develop and implement an indirect emission (Scope 3) monitoring and reduction plan

Adaptation and resilience

- **Goal CC2.1:** Collaboratively improve climate-resilient infrastructure and operations
- **Goal CC2.2:** Create a resilient health care workforce with the capacities and supports to respond to climate impacts
- **Goal CC2.3:** Build capacity and develop partnerships to support emergency response and adaptation within the communities IH serves
- **Goal CC2.4:** Support Indigenous-led climate adaptation knowledge and capacity-building
- **Goal CC2.5:** Grow and align collaborative partnerships with local and Indigenous communities and service providers to enhance the adaptive capacity of the region
- **Goal CC2.6:** Champion and support Indigenous ways of knowing and being to enhance the adaptive capacity of all communities
- **Goal CC2.7:** Improve the health and preparedness of populations experiencing vulnerabilities as it relates to climate action and health equity

Guiding principles

The IH Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap integrates planetary health through a commitment to six key guiding principles.

- Working together
- Health equity
- Preparing and responding
- Reducing climate risk
- Leadership and governance
- Learning and advancement

ROADMAP FRAMEWORK

Key roles for Interior Health

The Roadmap informs—and is informed by—the different roles IH plays.

IH acts as an **organization** with operational responsibilities to its staff, as a **healthcare provider** with clinical responsibilities to those seeking care, and as a **community member** with social responsibilities to community members, different levels of government, and other partners across BC's Interior.