

2.3 AREAS OF FOCUS AND GOALS

Icons are included with each action in [section 3.2](#) to show how each action aligns with the 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.

The focus areas are built upon the *CASCADES Organizational Readiness for Sustainability* domains of concern, a framework that is being adopted across the health care sector in BC.

The domains presented by CASCADES have been adopted and modified to reflect the IH organizational context within the focus areas of climate change and sustainability, as seen below:

CLIMATE CHANGE

CC1 Mitigation and greenhouse gas reduction

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from health care

- **Goal CC1.1:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from capital assets and operations
- **Goal CC1.2:** Work with suppliers and other collaborators to develop and implement an indirect emission (Scope 3 ► [see APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS](#)) monitoring and reduction plan

CC2 Adaptation and resilience

Develop resilience to climate shocks

- **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 CC 2.5:** 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

SUSTAINABILITY

S1 Natural environment

Restore, maintain and protect nature

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

S2 Social

Support and empower the people of IH and the communities we serve.

- **Goal S2.1:** Commit to purchasing and investments for IH 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

S3 Governance

Align processes, structures and resources to meet the needs of climate change and sustainability.

- **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

CASCADES is a Canadian collaborative partnership of universities and advocates that supports Canada's health care community to transition towards an environmentally sustainable (net zero carbon emissions) and resilient health system.