


STANDARD OPERATIONAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES



TOPIC	Environmental Sustainability – SOPP 72.49		
RESPONSIBILITY	All Areas		
AUTHORISATION	Director Support Services		
SIGNED		DATE	8/06/2022
VERSION	1.5	LAST REVIEWED	May 2022
EFFECTIVE	April 2016	NEXT REVIEW	May 2025

1. PURPOSE

Recognising the link between the health and wellness of people and the health and wellness of the environment, and in keeping with the EGHS mission statement EGHS will, *“improve community health outcomes and quality of life by forming partnerships which encourage health lifestyle choices and by maintaining and improving health and wellness in response to changing needs and priorities”*.

2. POLICY OUTCOMES

The health service is committed to:

Protection of the environment:

- Operate in a manner which protects the environment, especially the health and safety of staff, patients, residents, clients and visitors
- Identify, review and manage potential risks
- Employ best practices to prevent any potential damage and injury resulting from the storage, use, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials

Compliance and reporting:

- Be aware of and monitor environmental legislative obligations
- Strive for best practice methods

Education:

- Ensure that staff, patients, residents, clients, visitors and the community are made aware of EGHS environmental values
- Promote the efficient use, reuse and recycling of resources and the minimisation of waste
- Provide information and support to contractors

Minimisation of waste:

- Minimise waste to landfill by encouraging reuse, recycling and reduction in use and purchasing
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions by the reduction of electricity consumption
- Reduce the consumption of water and gas



Integrity



Excellence



Community Focus



Working Together



Learning Culture

- Reduce paper usage

Procurement:

- Where possible ensure that goods and services purchased are manufactured, delivered, used and managed at end of life in an environmentally responsible manner

Monitoring of impacts:

- Monitor environmental impact of new construction and renovation. Investigate where possible the reuse of materials, alternative methods of waste disposal and use of environmentally responsible new materials as necessary
- Ensure new equipment is designed to have as low as carbon footprint as possible

Quality improvement:

- Review action plan at each committee meeting

3. PROTOCOLS

Education:

- Staff will receive education on the EGHS environmental policy at induction and at in-service education sessions
- Articles on waste minimisation in staff newsletter
- Articles in local newspaper as relevant
- Staff surveys conducted to assess staff knowledge of sustainable environment issues

Ensure all building and infrastructure works adhere to Victorian Government guidelines.

Report to Improving Performance Committee bi- monthly:

- Committee activities through the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting minutes.

Procurement: Where possible purchase environmentally responsible products.

Annual Sustainability Report to be published on EGHS internet / intranet site annually and tabled at Board Meeting.

4. REFERENCES

Hepburn Health Service policy 20.01 Environmental Management

Victorian Department of Health Resourcesmart Healthcare Program

www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_government_4168.html

Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. Aged Care Quality Standards. July 2018. (Standard 5 & 8)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. 2nd ed- version 2. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2021 (Standard 1)

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Substances - SOPP 72.38](#)

[Occupational Health and Safety - SOPP 72.09](#)

[Waste Management - SOPP 70.08](#)