



East Grampians  
Health Service

*improving the health  
of our community*

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2024-2027





## Acknowledgement of Country

East Grampians Health Service acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagalk and Eastern Maar peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our health service operates. We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present and recognize and value the contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make in our society. Like Aboriginal culture, the EGHS Environmental Sustainability Plan aims to tie together our people, our community, our land and our environment in a way that will ensure a better and sustainable outcome for the future.

## Acknowledgement of Support

East Grampians Health Service would like to acknowledge and thank the numerous and diverse range of staff and consumers who contributed ideas and comments in the development of this plan. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by all those consulted has been invaluable and we will continue to work closely with staff, consumers and partners in implementing the plan and further developing our work to support Environmental Sustainability.

## Report Boundaries

Data presented in this report was provided by staff, suppliers, contractors, utility invoices, sub-metering and the Victorian Department of Health.



# TABLE OF



# *Contents*



**01** Chief Executive Message

**02** Background

**03** Leadership, Governance and Reporting

**04** Environment Policy

**05** Baseline Environmental Performance

**06** Environmental Targets and Key Projects

**07** Action Plan

**08** Communications Plan

**09** Appendix I

# 1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



The Board and staff recognise the importance of environmental sustainability and are committed to meeting the challenges posed by climate change and take the responsibilities of a public funded agency seriously.

I would like to sincerely thank the many people who have contributed to the development of this important plan. The deep engagement demonstrated through this process reflects a genuine commitment to ensure East Grampians Health Service (EGHS) continues to thrive and achieve great success into the future.

The Victorian Government has set a target to be net carbon zero by 2050 and we will contribute to reaching this target by embedding environmental sustainability within our business practices.

To support this target our plan will highlight opportunities for improved environmental performance, pursue new and innovative ways to minimise our impact on the environment and invite staff to embrace excellence in environmental sustainability.

Guided by our Environmental Sustainability Committee, who report to the Board, we will monitor our environmental footprint, seek best practice systems, communicate with our staff and community, improve our performance by encouraging environmentally aware practice, invest in energy efficient infrastructure and set targets for improved sustainability.

We will report our environmental performance annually on our website and in the Annual Report, and quarterly in the internal Performance Indicator Report.

I encourage all staff, contractors, business partners and volunteers to support the plan by recognising its importance and committing to sustainable environmental management by reducing landfill waste, reducing energy usage and promoting energy efficient behaviours.

Nick Bush



## 2 BACKGROUND



### Introduction



All Victorians have a role to play in making Victoria a more sustainable state for future generations and maintaining our status as one of the world's most liveable places. Victorian Government departments and agencies, including health services, have a key role to play by integrating the environment into its planning, operations and policy decisions.

The Department of Health and EGHS recognise the link between the health and wellbeing of Victorians and the health and wellbeing of the environment. Climate change is a significant threat to public health, the health system and the social determinants of health and wellbeing.

The Environmental sustainability strategy sets out the government's commitment to improve the environmental sustainability of the health system and to adapt the health system so it is resilient in the face of climate change. Our Environmental Management Plan is aligned to the government's strategy.

Responding to this challenge we have made a commitment to reducing our environmental impacts through our environment policy, setting key objectives and targets, developing an environmental management strategy to achieve our goals, and monitoring and reporting our achievements.

### About East Grampians Health Service

East Grampians Health Service is a rural health service that is continually developing to meet the changing needs of our community. Located at Ararat and Willaura in Western Victoria, we are an integral part of a thriving community and committed to quality healthcare that provides for the health and wellbeing of people of all ages.

We provide the following health services (amongst others): Acute Care, Aged Care, Community Nursing, Dental, Dietetics, Health Promotion, Home Care Packages, Home Support, Medical Imaging, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Oncology / Chemotherapy, Palliative Care, Planned Activity Group (Patricia Hinchey Centre), Perioperative, Podiatry, Physiotherapy / Exercise Physiology, Speech Pathology, Social Work, and Urgent Care.

## Our Vision

To improve the way we operate for the benefit of the environment and future generations and be active in encouraging our staff to do the same.

## Our Purpose

To meet people's health needs through leadership, strong partnerships and wise use of resources.

## Our Value Statements



### INTEGRITY

We value integrity, honesty and respect in all relationships



### EXCELLENCE

We value excellence as the appropriate standard for all services and practices



### COMMUNITY

We respect the dignity and rights of our community and acknowledge their beliefs, regardless of their cultural, spiritual or socioeconomic background



### WORKING TOGETHER

We work together in a positive, supportive manner and value all people who make contributions to EGHS to achieve shared goals.



### LEARNING CULTURE

We strive to continually learn and develop through research, education, training, mentoring and by teaching others

## Scope of the Environmental Management Plan



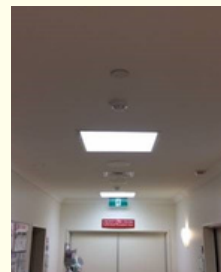
This plan addresses all relevant aspects of the operations of EGHS including all sites, agency activities and service delivery.

## Existing and Previous Improvements

We have made numerous improvements to reduce our impact on the environment, both those requiring large investment and those that required only a desire for change. We are proud of our achievements, and have been recognised for our leadership in the East Grampians Business Wards through the GWM Water Sustainability Award). Below are some examples of improvements made:

- Solar panel implementation at Ararat and Willaura.
- Tank water collection from 70 Lowe Street and the community centre used for gardens, fleet car washing and fire emergency. EGHS has one well to utilise water for gardens.
- Used printer cartridges are sent for recycling.
- Policies have been switched from a paper based format to an electronic format and stored on the intranet.
- A water efficient pot washer in the main kitchen.
- Garden waste is reused as mulch or taken to the transfer station green waste centre.
- Waste stream systems: landfill, clinical, confidential, PVC and recyclable are identified and disposed of in the appropriate manner.
- All waste streams are identified at the point of disposal and in holding areas.
- The Ararat site is inspected every morning for litter accumulation.
- Native gardens have been planted in newly established areas. Drip irrigation in use for all gardens.
- A free bus service is provided for clients of Day Centres in Ararat and Willaura.
- Teleconferencing and video conferencing facilities to minimise car usage.
- The monthly newsletter ECHO promotes environmentally friendly strategies such as energy and paper reduction.
- End of life furniture and fittings are sold at auction.

- Incoming cartons are reused for outgoing goods or for storage internally.
- Equipment is repaired on site where possible.
- Bicycle racks are provided for staff who ride to work.
- Biodegradable rubbish bags.
- Lights that switch off automatically (CBUS System).
- The on-site café uses Keep Cups for take away coffee and crockery for coffee consumed on premises, repurposes coffee grounds as mulch for gardens, separates comingled recycling from general waste and provides Bamboo products (instead of plastic/Styrofoam containers and utensils).
- Batteries are collected in battery buckets and then sent to be recycled.
- Plastic straws have been replaced with paper straws.
- Procurement purchase equipment with the lowest energy/water consumption where possible.
- Perioperative staff conserve water by no longer using water for surgical scrubbing. This has been substituted with an alcohol based hand rub product.
- Perioperative staff collect and repurpose single use bowls and other receptacles that are not used during surgical procedures and donate these to kindergartens.
- Sterile stock which is past its expiry date is repurposed in the education department.
- E-waste recycling program with disposal at the local transfer station
- Photocopy paper made from 100% recycled materials.
- Toilet paper and paper towel made from recycled materials.
- Small recycle bins in offices.
- Intranet site with sustainability information for staff.
- Microfibre cleaning systems reducing the consumption of portable water and chemicals.
- Waste posters to enable staff to identify waste streams.
- A PVC recycling program.
- Leasing hybrid vehicles.
- LCD televisions in areas to reduce electricity costs.
- LED lighting.
- Individual gas boilers.
- Reuse of project materials such as timbers and door



## 3 LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & REPORTING



### Key strategic goals



We are committed to working toward the delivery of environmentally sustainable outcomes and to achieving continual improvement in environmental performance. Key areas of focus are to:

#### 3.1 Provide leadership and engagement

- Ensure environmental sustainability is part of organisational decision making.
- Create working parties for projects.
- Improve communication and support staff to reduce environmental impacts.
- Create, promote and communicate an environmentally sustainable and responsible culture across the Ararat and Willaura community.
- Regularly consult and communicate with staff and relevant stakeholders on environmental matters.
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulatory requirements whilst aspiring to higher standards.
- Design a program for regular review of environmental aspects of our business, conducted through our action plan to manage environmental risks.

#### 3.2 Improve environmental performance

- Reduce resource consumption.
- Reduce and segregate waste.
- Continuously reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- Continuously reduce water usage as far as practicable.
- Substitute harmful chemicals with safer alternatives.
- Continuously reduce waste and conserve resources through adopting sustainable purchasing principles where clinically appropriate and commercially viable and encouraging suppliers and contractors to address environmental management and performance.
- Incorporate sustainability principles wherever practicable in building design and refurbishment and evaluating whole-of-life savings of investing in plant infrastructure and equipment.

#### 3.3 Adapt to a changing climate

Climate change affects health in many ways. Our goals of climate change adaptation are to reduce risk and vulnerability, strengthen resilience, enhance well-being and build the capacity to anticipate, and respond to change. In order to achieve this through our staff and community engagement programs, we will continue to build a culture of environmental awareness with good practices to improve on our past and future activities. We will continue to monitor and update environmental management measures and goals to meet the environmental challenges of today.



## Governance



Governance is critical to addressing evolving environmental sustainability priorities and expectations. It is fully embedded through the organisation and executive portfolios and they have the responsibilities for the delivery of the plan, related goals, actions and other relevant deliverables of reporting.

The following governance structure and mechanisms support this Environmental Management Plan across the organisation's operations, monitoring of commitments, targets and activities.

Board – Chief Executive / Directors - Department Managers - Environmental Sustainability Committee

### Roles and Responsibilities

Board: Endorse the Environmental Management Plan and review our overall environmental performance.

Chief Executive / Directors / Department Managers: Support and guide the development and implementation of the Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Sustainability Committee: Monitor the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan, ensuring the appropriate support and coordination is in place to efficiently deliver it.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the Terms of Reference – Environmental Sustainability Committee



## Reporting



The Environmental Data Management System generates (EDMS) generates reports for energy, water and waste that can be used to report performance at the organisation and/or facility level. These are used to inform internal and external reporting. This reporting includes:

Report	Regularity and key dates	Responsible
Departmental KPIs	Monthly	Managers and Executive
Environmental Action Plan	Bi Monthly	Environmental Sustainability Committee Chair and Executive
Board	Monthly	Chief Executive
Annual Report	Annual	Chief Executive
Environmental Sustainability Plan	2024 / 2027	Executive

## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



We have a number of policies developed to support our Environmental Sustainability. Our overarching Environmental Sustainability – SOPP 72.49 is available on our corporate website.

# 5 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Our health service uses an Environmental Data Management System (EDMS) to manage environmental data. The data from the 2022/23 financial year represents the baseline data from which performance of this plan will be measured.

## Energy performance data table



### Greenhouse gas emissions

Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Scope 1	646		
Scope 2	1,359		
TOTAL	2,005		

Normalised greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Emissions per unit of floor space (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup> )	129.1474		
Emissions per unit of separations (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/separations)	316.7274		
Emissions per unit of bed day (LOS + aged care OBD) (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/OBD)	51.4403		

## Stationary energy

Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Cogen electricity	N/A		
Electricity	5,755		
Liquefied petroleum gas	1,212		
Natural gas	7,325		
Steam	N/A		
TOTAL	51.4403		

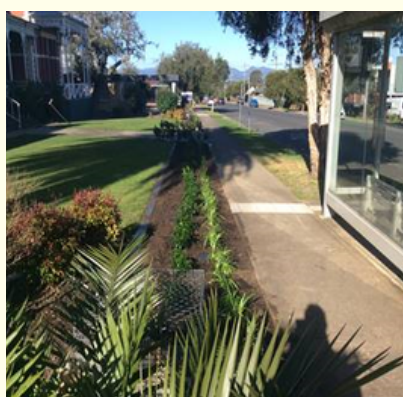
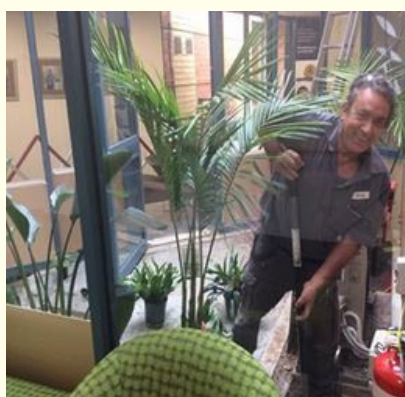
Normalised stationary energy consumption	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Energy per unit of floor space (GJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.9206		
Emissions per unit of separations (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/separations) f separations (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/separations)	2.2577		
Energy per unit of bed day (LOS + aged care OBD) (GJ/OBD)	0.3667		

## Embedded Generation

Total embedded stationary energy generated by energy type (GJ)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Solar Power	1,909		
TOTAL	1,909		

## Normalised Embedded Generation

Normalised Embedded Generation	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Embedded generation per unit of floor space (GJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.1230		
Embedded generation per unit of Separations (GJ/Separations)	0.3017		
Embedded generation per unit of bed-day (LOS+Aged Care OBD) (GJ/OBD)	0.0490		





## Water consumption

Total water consumption by type (kL)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Class A recycled water	N/A		
Potable water	15,592		
Reclaimed water	N/A		
TOTAL	15,592		
Normalised water consumption (potable + class A)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Water per unit of floor space (kL/m <sup>2</sup> )	1.0044		
Water per unit of separations (kL/separations)	2.4633		
Water per unit of bed day (LOS + aged care OBD) (kL/OBD)	0.4001		
Water re-use and recycling	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Re-use or recycling rate % (class A + reclaimed / class A + reclaimed)	N/A		

## Waste and recycling

Total water consumption by type (kL)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Total waste generated (kg clinical waste + kg general waste + kg recycling waste)	227,118		
Total waste to landfill generated (kg clinical waste + kg general waste)	151,990		
Total waste to landfill per patient treated ([kg clinical waste + kg general waste]/PPT)	3.3548		
Recycling rate % (kg recycling / [kg general waste + kg recycling])	36.1883		

## Paper

Paper	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Total reams of paper	1,103		
Reams of paper per FTE	N/A		
Rate recycled paper % (0–49)	80.0912		
Rate recycled paper % (50–74)	N/A		
Rate recycled paper % (75–100)	19.9088		

## Transport

Corporate transport	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Reported vehicle kilometres	N/A		
Tonnes CO2-e per Corporate transport	136.3921		
Tonnes CO2e per 1,000 reported kms			
Non-emergency patient transport	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Reported vehicle kilometres	N/A		
Tonnes CO2-e per Corporate transport	N/A		
Tonnes CO2e per 1,000 reported kms	0.0000		
Other transport (tonnes CO2)	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Short-haul air travel	N/A		
Medium-haul air travel	N/A		
Long-haul air travel	N/A		
Taxi travel	N/A		

## Other emissions

Medical gases	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Kilograms CO2e per patient treated	0.7647		

Refrigerants	Year 1 2022/2023	Year 2	Year3
Kilograms CO2e per patient treated	1.5560		



## 6

# ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS AND KEY PROJECTS



## Overview



We will strive to achieve the following:

### Management and communications

- Develop targets for improving environmental performance for waste, energy and water reduction by 2027 against the 2023 baseline.
- Increase our ability to measure our environmental impacts by establishing data collection systems or processes before November 2023.

### Greenhouse gas emissions (pledge)

- Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 10% from 2023 baseline by 2026.

### Energy efficiency

- Reduce stationary energy intensity per floor area / bed-day by 10% from 2023 baseline by 2026.

### Water efficiency and potable water consumption

- Reduce potable water intensity per floor area / bed-day by 5% from 2023 baseline by 2026.
- Reduce overall potable water consumption by 5% from 2023 baseline by 2026

### Waste generation

- Undertake biannual audits to assess contamination of waste streams.
- Reduce clinical waste generation by 5% from 2023 baseline by 2026.

### Purchasing

- Promote and organise performance for sustainable products and service to reduce the carbon foot print.
- Identify and establish purchasing arrangements with approved suppliers.



# Key Projects



## Electric cars and charging stations

Hybrid cars will be introduced through the vehicle fleet and then electric cars. The charging network will accommodate the diverse car fleet which facilitates intercampus travel to Willaura and the community for staff.



## Mixed recycle bins

New bins will be purchased across the site including solar bins that provide levels of rubbish and a compacting option so the bins do not need emptying as much. They also allow for education materials.



## Theatre medical waste treatment system

A new theatre medical waste treatment system to treat sharps and infectious waste on site. The residue liquid used is biologically degradable and can be exposed to the environment and go down normal drains without causing harm.



## Natural environments

Integration of planting schemes will be adopted considering indigenous species, with a preference for drought-resistant species. An indigenous garden will be developed.

# Key Projects



## Education

An Environmental Sustainability education program will be established to support staff to implement sustainability in their work areas. Topics may include:

- Biodiversity and indigenous gardens
- Composting and worm farms
- Energy efficiency and water saving.



## Project builds

When undertaking new builds, first consideration will be to:

- UV paint used for outside surfaces
- Double glazed windows.
- LED lighting
- Reuse timber and fittings when possible
- Use of structure and landscape to provide light and shade



## iClean Environmental Services

Paperless system for maintaining cleaning records to replace the current paper-based system.



## Energy

More solar panel areas developed on carpark shelters and roofing areas. This also includes batteries to store solar energy.

# 7 ACTION PLAN



## ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN



Activity	Estimated Completion Date
Introduce eco-friendly rubbish bags	June 2024
Introduce organic waste bins in kitchenettes	June 2024
Engage the Aboriginal Health Liaison Team in planting schemes and complete an indigenous garden	December 2024
Consider computer screen savers with sustainability and green footprint ideas	December 2024
Identify the Health Share Victoria (HSV) sustainable supplier options	December 2024
Investigate returning to re-usable theatre surgical instruments and hot packs	December 2024
Investigate options for recycling of water used in dialysis	December 2024
Introduce a paperless system for maintaining cleaning records	December 2024
Formalise the process for considering equipment energy ratings when purchasing	December 2025

## ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Activity	Estimated Completion Date
Transition to battery powered garden equipment	December 2025
Establish an Environmental Sustainability education program	December 2025
Upgrade outside mixed recycling bins to be able to indicate the level of rubbish and compact waste	December 2026
Install energy saving light switches in store rooms / plant rooms	December 2026
Switch to 25% of fleet vehicles being hybrid and increase the number of electric vehicles	December 2026
Complete the water saving shower head replacement program	December 2026
Purchase a theatre medical waste treatment system	December 2026
Introduce a paperless system for maintaining cleaning records	December 2026
Install more solar panels and batteries	December 2026

## Other potential actions include to explore:



- Reusable PPE and reusable curtains;
- Recycling of soft plastics;
- A compost area built for gardening waste and purchase of a garden mulcher;
- Alternatives to, or uses for, the waxed boxes used for fruit and vegetable deliveries;
- A reduction in night time lighting;
- Reduced packaging for deliveries received by EGHS; and
- Solar bin lifter





# 8 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN



Our Communications Plan details the actions that will be undertaken over the life of the plan. It will help to engage staff and stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the health service's commitment and expectations, as well as their responsibilities to sustainability activities.

## Annual Activity Plan



Initiative	Month	Message	Activities	Target audience
Launch of Environmental Management Plan	Jan	Achievements to date. Future direction. Commitment of Executive.	Article on intranet. All staff e-mail.	All staff. Key stakeholders.
Sustainable transport	Feb	Consider sustainable transport options, including the benefits such as being physically active, reducing environmental impacts and personal cost savings.	Sustainable transport promotion.	All staff
Water efficiency	Mar	Water achievements to date. Amount and cost of water used per bed-day. Top tips for water efficiency.	Article on intranet. All staff e-mail. Information poster or signage on water use in relevant areas.	All staff

Initiative	Month	Message	Activities	Target audience
Nature week	Apr	The natural environment is a place to enjoy, play, imagine, relax and explore.	Article in the Echo Newsletter.	All staff
Composting awareness	May	Check gardens for composting uptake.	Article in the Echo Newsletter.	All staff
World Environment Day	Jun	Encourage action to protect our environment. Key message according to the theme that year.	Article in the Echo Newsletter - How effective is our solar?	All staff
Plastic free	Jul	Between up to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic pieces are dumped into our oceans yearly.	Bin audits to determine how much single-use plastic is used within the organisation	All staff
Landcare week	Aug	“Ecosystem Restoration” Trees absorb odours and pollutant gases and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.	Facebook / Newspaper article. Free plants/ seedlings for staff.	All staff

Initiative	Month	Message	Activities	Target audience
Buy Nothing New Month	Oct	Reuse is an important strategy to reduce environmental waste.	Article in the Echo Newsletter. A stall for purchase of second hand goods.	All staff
Clean up	Nov	Organise a team and collect rubbish around the site and surrounds.	Article in the Echo Newsletter.	All staff
Sustainable festive season	Dec	Encouragement of strategies for a sustainable festive season.	Article in the Echo Newsletter. Festive themed sustainability activities.	All staff

## *Review and Progress Reporting*

This plan will be monitored by the Board, Improving Performance Committee and the Environmental Sustainability Committee and reviewed on an annual basis to track progress and ensure it remains current and adapts to any changes in our internal and external operating environment.

Performance progress and key achievements to be reported publicly through annual report and on the EGHS website.

## 9

## APPENDIX I



## TERMS OF REFERENCE – 6.38 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTIANABILITY COMMITTEE



<b>PURPOSE</b>	The Committee is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and review of systems, standards, policies and procedures relating to Environmental Sustainability.
<b>DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	'Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' as defined by the United Nations.
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate the Environmental Sustainability program to ensure a high quality of client care and staff safety.</li> <li>2. Minimise and/or eliminate risks to clients and staff arising from incorrect or inadequate disposal of waste.</li> <li>3. Provide education to staff and clients in areas of Environmental Sustainability.</li> <li>4. Provide public Annual Report on East Grampians Health Service Sustainability</li> <li>5. Provide information and support to contractors, linked facilities and related organisations in Environmental Sustainability.</li> <li>6. Monitor the ecological footprint of EGHS including resource usage, analyse collected data and develop strategies to reduce consumption.</li> <li>7. Monitor Sustainability aspects of proposed new buildings and equipment.</li> <li>8. To develop and review policies and systems to support Environmental Sustainability.</li> <li>9. Undertake quality activities consistent with legislation, standards and guidelines</li> <li>10. Provide Public Annual report on Energy Usage and Environmental Sustainability.</li> <li>11. Monitor and advise on future sustainability adaptation for East Grampians Health Service base on climate change predictions.</li> </ol>
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Governance Committee
<b>MEMBERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Development and Improvement</li> <li>• Director Support Services</li> <li>• Support Services Compliance Coordinator</li> <li>• Infection Control Coordinator</li> <li>• Perioperative Unit Representative</li> <li>• Acute Area Representative</li> <li>• Supply Department Representative</li> <li>• Support Services Administration assistant</li> <li>• Catering and Environmental Coordinator</li> <li>• Dialysis Representative</li> <li>• Training and Development Representative</li> </ul> <p>Invited to attend</p> <p>The committee may invite any person to attend a committee meeting at the request of the chair.</p>
<b>CHAIR</b>	Director Development and Improvement
<b>FREQUENCY</b>	Every second month
<b>QUORUM</b>	Five members, must include management representative
<b>DATE RATIFIED</b>	February 2012
<b>DATE REVIEWED</b>	February 2023
<b>NEXT REVIEW</b>	February 2024