The Green Health Care Report 2020-21
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- Ressources naturelles Canada
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- Santé Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
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- Collège Canadien des Leaders en Santé
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- ieso
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How you want to be treated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message From the Board Chair and Executive Director</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21 At A Glance</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Trends In Green Health Care</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Sustainability Champions</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Next Generation</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect With Us</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Stakeholders:

2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic but it will also be remembered as the year that population health became the predominant focus of health care in Canada. The health care system needs to adopt the same focused intention and innovative collaborations that it has during the pandemic to fight the more far-reaching threat of climate change. We need the same level of cooperation among all levels of governments and health care institutions, we need the same sense of urgency. And we need to know whether or not we’re winning the fight. This report highlights the work of the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care and identifies the 10 top trends in green health care this past year. You will note that in spite of the pandemic, the Coalition has had a multitude of significant achievements. As well, the Coalition celebrated its 20-year anniversary and is building on a strong foundation of environmental stewardship in health care. But we need to do more. We need to focus our attention on building a climate-resilient, net-zero health system and create the capacity for our health care system to continually transform itself to a future-driven, resilient population-focused example for all Canadians. This report highlights some the work that we and our partners have been doing towards that aim. We’d like to thank our dedicated staff (see Get in Touch) who have gone above and beyond. We’d also like to thank our volunteer Board members, Jessica Heiss, Jerome Ribesse, Mauricio Acosta, Peter Rowles, Reynold Peters and Harry Van der Meer for giving so generously their time and expertise this past year.

Harry Vandermeer
Board Chair

Neil Ritchie
Executive Director
2020 At A Glance
January

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Awareness Initiative: The project objective was to advance awareness and use of lower-carbon transportation options, such as energy-efficient technologies and practices and lower-carbon vehicles and fuels in Canada. By embracing Canada’s health sector, the project team would incite sector stakeholders to adopt ZEVs and ZEV technology. Furthermore, the project team worked with multiple stakeholder groups including senior administrative leaders, medical staff, support staff such as facility/engineering/energy champions/purchasing and finance, visitors and patients as well as vendors and contractors of Canadian health care organisations to provide opportunities and resources to enhance understanding and adoption of ZEV technology.

April

Circular Economy and Health Care: The Coalition, along with Vancouver Coastal Health and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, presented a webinar on the state of the Circular Economy and Health Care in Canada. Topics discussed were:

• Overview of health care resource use - waste, water, energy, GHGs

• Opportunities for a new business model - Circular Economy
• Health care environmental sustainability concerns
• Examples of current circular economy initiatives in health care
• How health care can encourage circular economy initiatives in our supply chain
• Federal government purchasing language
• Zero plastic waste initiative

May

Philips circular economy webinar: The Coalition co-hosted The Circular Economy Imperative: How Philips is introducing new business models to benefit health care and the environment webinar with Philips Canada to talk about the growing demand for health care from an expanding population, overconsumption of resources, waste, pollution, climate, are putting unsustainable pressure on our ecosystems. This discussion was aimed at helping create awareness among the health sector players and paving the way for deeper dialogue on the circular economy in the Canadian health sector.

July-August

New hires! The months of July and August marked the Coalition’s focus on team capacity development through new hires funded by the Canada Summer Jobs
Program. The summer hires, Krishna and Ozora, initially focused on market research and have since been heavily involved in the Coalition’s growth and advancement!

September

Energy Lite Online Training: Held over the course of September and October, the Energy Lite training was focused on having subject matter experts share in-field concepts with the audience while offering case studies, toolkit and guidance documents, and targeted networking opportunities for those in smaller, more remote communities. This online training program saw an amazingly positive response from over 40 attendees from across Canada and beyond including Trinidad and Tobago, the Ivory Coast and the USA.

October

Green Health Care - How health care systems will adapt to new challenges by embracing circularity: This webinar was hosted in partnership with the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Toronto as part of their series “Making the Circular Economy Real” and involved speakers from Vancouver Coastal Health, Philips, and Floow2 Healthcare Netherlands. This international cross collaborative effort resulted in a very useful dialogue around the circular economy and how it impacts health care organisations’ financial outlook, their ecological footprint and climate change resiliency. Key to the conversation was the impact on the supply chain, procurement policies and competitive business models and how these different components could be leveraged. The panel discussion offered many valuable points of view.

20th anniversary month celebrations:
The Coalition celebrated its 20th anniversary in October 2020, and to celebrate, we planned a month of celebrations through some new initiatives and activities! We posted weekly trivia on our social media channels to raise awareness about green health care and our work dedicated to greening health care. In addition, we introduced a new webinar series geared to bridging the gap between the current industry leaders and the newer generation of professionals in the health sector.

November

Next generation of sustainability webinar: The Next Generation of Sustainability is a new series of webinars that was launched in late 2020. This
webinar is unique in that the hosts, co-hosts and speakers are all “future leaders” of the health sector. The first webinar was held during the Coalition’s celebratory “Anniversary month” to mark the 20th anniversary of the Coalition and had quite a bit of success and positive reception which encouraged us to turn it into a webinar series. We are constantly looking to collaborate with others to educate the health sector on the importance of sustainability, and to provide potential solutions to tackle problems relating to sustainability in the health sector.

**Championing Green Health Care podcasts:** The Championing Green Health Care is a new podcast series that we introduced as part of our 20th-anniversary celebration. In this podcast series, we spoke to champions of green health care, not just as a result of their role or organisation but also their personal practices and beliefs. We delved into their careers and projects, how their industry was embracing sustainability and why sustainability in health care is so important. Our first episode was hosted in November 2020, and can be accessed here: [https://greenhealthcare.ca/championing-green-health-care-podcast/](https://greenhealthcare.ca/championing-green-health-care-podcast/)

**December**

**Green Hospital Scorecard (GHS) Awards:** The Green Hospital Scorecard is one of our flagship programs and in mid-December, we hosted the Awards ceremony, sponsored by Medtronic and the Independent Electricity System Operator of Ontario (IESO). In addition to the awards presented, it was also a great way for the winners to showcase their many accomplishments in greening health care and provide insights on how they achieved a high performance on the GHS. We had a total of six hospitals present during our webinars, and it made for a wonderful learning opportunity for the audience.
10 Trends in Green Health Care
The GHS is a national program that acts as a benchmarking tool for hospitals’ performances across a variety of categories such as energy, water, waste, pollution prevention and leadership. We have identified 10 trends in health care based on the data collected in the 2019 GHS.

1. **Corporate Leadership**: This section of the GHS measures an organisation’s commitment to a culture of environmental sustainability and integration of green objectives into corporate planning and regular business, with the presence of a policy indicating a corporate commitment. One of the aspects of this section in the GHS is the presence of dedicated green teams at the site. Our survey revealed that only 56% of the participants had a dedicated green team. On average, only about 50% of the participants had a budget for staff engagement and outreach programming in areas such as energy conservation, water conservation, and waste management. However, this is an increase over the past GHS and indicates that we can expect to see leadership play a more prominent role in hospitals’ commitment to environmental sustainability.

2. **Energy use intensity (EUI)**: This metric captures a building’s annual energy use as a function of its size. It is a measure that determines the building’s energy performance and is useful for benchmarking and setting targets. The highest EUI was found in Community hospitals, at 3.8 GJ/m²/year, followed by Academic hospitals at 2.5 GJ/m²/year. The EUI had shown a gradual decline until 2017, followed by a jump in 2018.

3. **Energy Behaviour**: This is defined as the engagement of individuals or groups in minimizing the use of energy produced via the consumption of fossil fuels while supporting the transition to more sustainable energy development through their thoughts and actions at work and at home. The latest GHS survey showed that 58% of the participants had energy behaviour initiatives at their respective facilities. Webinars were indicated as the most common source for knowledge at 71%.

4. **Water Use Intensity (WUI)**: With a similar premise to EUI, WUI captures a building’s annual water use as a function of its size. It is a measure that determines the building’s water performance and is great for benchmarking and setting tangible targets. WUI has been fluctuating over the past few years, with a range of increases and decreases. The average WUI in the 2019 GHS was calculated to be 1.9 m³/m²,
with the highest WUI found in community hospitals, followed by small, academic, and non-acute hospitals in order of WUI magnitude.

5. Waste intensity (WI): This is a metric that captures a site’s annual waste generation as a function of various metrics, as explained below:

- It was calculated at an average of 0.02 metric tonnes/m² in the latest GHS survey, it is an increase from the previous year’s value of 0.014 metric tonnes/m².
- Looking at the waste generated per bed, we calculated an average of 4.92 metric tonnes of waste generated per bed, which is a notable increase from the previous year’s 3.31 metric tonnes of waste per bed.
- Finally, taking into account the inpatient days and outpatient visits, average waste intensities were calculated to be 0.014 metric tonnes per inpatient day (a decline from the previous year) and 0.007 metric tonnes per outpatient visit (an increase from the previous year)

This goes to show that overall, waste intensity performance has not improved from 2017 to 2018. Moreover, waste recycling also needs to see further improvement.

6. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Pollution prevention emphasizes selecting less toxic and more environmentally preferred materials for use within the hospital, and considering the impacts of building construction on the environment and within the hospital. Based on the information from the latest GHS survey, about half of the participants have a policy for environmentally preferable purchasing, but only 20% have actively implemented such a policy.

7. Transportation: This new GHS category focuses on the policies, and infrastructure to support active and clean transportation. It has become an integral part of our lives but at the same time, contributes to much of the pollution. Low emission vehicles are the alternative to the traditional combustion engine vehicles, and include hybrid-electric vehicles and full-electric vehicles. Our data revealed information regarding hospitals’ infrastructure for electric vehicles and showed that 82% of respondents do not have electric vehicle charging stations.

8. Food: The latest GHS survey confirmed that health care facilities have begun to adopt policies and practices to support a healthy food system. This is a system that includes environmental sustainability, improves nutritional quality,
supports a shift to low-carbon foods, builds healthy communities, and supports culturally-appropriate and sustainable foods. Based on the GHS survey, 67% of the participants indicated that they purchase local foods. On average, 55% of the participants indicated that they have a healthy food policy, and that they include sustainable purchasing criteria in contracts.

9. Climate Change: The climate change section of the GHS survey was aimed at learning more about the impacts of various climate change events on hospitals. The latest GHS survey indicated that 55% of participants had someone assigned to climate change responsibility. On average, just 23% of the participants indicated that climate risks have been identified in specific policies, and that climate risks have been acknowledged in strategic plans. Despite the low numbers with policies and formal recognition of climate impact, our survey showed that over 50% of the participants experienced extreme weather events, with extreme cold, extreme heat or rain and floods being the top reported events. Furthermore, our findings indicated that as a result of these climate events, the top three impacts were damage to infrastructure, reduced access to critical care, and health care worker impacts. This clearly illustrates the importance of policies on climate change, and the need for action from leaders, to deal with the impact of climate change.

10. Anaesthetic Gases: The 2019 GHS is the first GHS survey to collect data on anaesthetic gases. Data gathered in this section is of paramount importance since such information is not something that is readily available in Canada. We still do not fully know the quantity of anaesthetics used. However, we did collect very useful data pertaining to the number of bottles purchased for the most common anesthetic gases. For instance, only 46% report using Desflurane, which means that the majority have started to consciously eliminate it! Moreover, 71% of the participants indicated that Desflurane usage has been reduced in their anesthesia department, with 24% specifying that Desflurane has been eliminated from clinical practice.

In conclusion, it is evident that the 10 trends above provide a great level of insight into green health care in Canada. Although incremental improvements are seen in most aspects year over year, it is of paramount importance for all trends to see significant improvements in order to have a notably positive impact on Canadian health care and the natural environment. 

Stay up-to-date on the GHS though our website: https://greenhealthcare.ca/ghs/
10 Trends in Green Health Care Capacity Building
Green Hospital Scorecard (GHS):
In addition to helping us identify the trends in green health care, the GHS enables participating hospitals to report on their environmental and sustainability initiatives through a questionnaire and receive a personalized scorecard summarizing their environmental performance relative to their peers in five areas: Energy, Water, Waste, Pollution Prevention, and Corporate Leadership.

*Note: Participation in this program is free for hospitals, and we are very proud that this program has grown from being a province wide initiative to a national initiative!*

HealthCare Energy Leaders Canada (HELC):
The HELC program is an innovative resource designed to improve energy efficiency in Canada’s health care facilities. With a team of seasoned energy and facility managers, HELC, previously known as HELO (HealthCare Energy Leaders Ontario), has been helping reduce energy consumption and demand at sites across the province since January 2014. Developed by the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care, together with the Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society, HELC was designed from the inside out by a team intimate with the daily challenges and opportunities faced each day within a health care setting. In its first 12 months, HELC not only met, but exceeded the demand and energy savings targets it set out to achieve. Completed projects have already saved 1.1 MW of electricity demand and 4.6 GWh of energy, while projects in the design and construction stages will save an additional 4.9 MW and 41.7 GWh of energy. If fully implemented, projects would save the Ontario health care sector $15 M annually in utility costs, and gain an additional $22 M in incentives.

Energy Lite Online Training: This program was organized in partnership with Trane Canada, Ecosystem Energy Services, and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to educate health care energy and facility managers on efficient energy management, and to provide technical perspectives on the latest in energy management tools including the RETScreen Clean Energy Management Software, ENERGY STAR®, and others. One of the main objectives of Energy Lite training was to have subject matter experts share contemporary, in-field concepts with the audience. In addition, the training program also offered case studies demonstrating sound business case methodologies, toolkit and guidance documents, targeted networking opportunities for those in smaller, more
remote communities, and knowledge-sharing awareness collateral. This online program was a tremendous success with over 40 attendees from Canada and beyond, including Trinidad and Tobago, the Ivory Coast and the USA!

**How Health Care Systems Will Adapt to New Challenges by Embracing Circularity:** This webinar was hosted in partnership with the **Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Toronto** as part of their series “Making the Circular Economy Real” and involved speakers from **Vancouver Coastal Health**, **Philips**, and **Floow2 Healthcare Netherlands**. This international cross collaborative effort resulted in a very useful dialogue around the circular economy and how it impacts health care organisations’ financial outlook, their ecological footprint and climate change resiliency. Key to the conversation was the impact on the supply chain, procurement policies and competitive business models and how these different components could be leveraged. The panel discussion offered many valuable points of view.

**Health-Share Online Asset Sharing Platform:** In 2020, we collaborated with **Floow2 Healthcare**, an organisation from the Netherlands that specializes in building online sharing marketplaces, to work on an online asset sharing platform for health care, known as Health-Share.ca. Our vision for the platform was refined over the course of the 2020, and is now focused on helping hospitals manage their PPE supplies by using the platform to interact with local suppliers and procure the required PPE. With the second wave, this sharing platform has even more added value than before. As a free-to-use platform during the pandemic, we hope to develop it into something that can encourage the habit of online asset sharing. In doing so, the health sector can reduce the negative impacts of traditional procurement practices and move to a more sustainable procurement model. Health-Share is our way of encouraging the resale of used equipment, sale of excess equipment and materials, or sharing and swapping items to promote a circular procurement model. Explore Health-Share here: [https://www.healthshare.ca/home.html](https://www.healthshare.ca/home.html)

**GHG+H2O Green Facility Toolkit:** Health care facilities are major producers of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and are often the most intensive users of water (H2O) in their communities. In spite of this, many organisations do not rigorously monitor or limit their GHG emissions or water use, and many health care professionals are not aware of the
environmental impact their work can have. Health care facilities' responsibility to deliver high quality health services makes minimizing environmental harm from GHG emissions and water overuse uniquely challenging, and demands a specially tailored approach. To improve awareness of these challenges and encourage adoption of better environmental practices, the GHG+H2O Green Facility Toolkit provides health care organisations with a specialised package of educational materials, awareness tools, and technical resources. GHG+H2O offers practical recommendations and in-depth information from a wide range of sources, reviewed and presented by facility operations experts from leading Canadian health care organisations. Visit our website to explore the GHG+H2O Toolkit: https://greenhealthcare.ca/ghgwater/

The Health Care Facility Climate Resiliency Toolkit: While facilities worldwide are recognizing the need to adapt to a changing climate and the need to become more resilient, a growing number of North American facilities have already faced adversity due to climate change-related events resulting in service delays and costly repairs. The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, co-developed the Health Care Facility Climate Change Resiliency Toolkit that health care facilities can use to assess their resiliency to climate change. Some of the key reasons for using this climate resiliency are as follows:

- Identifying facilities’ current climate change related risks
- Learning what other facilities are doing to become better prepared
- Using the checklist to benchmark progress against the original answers over time
- Using the checklist to benchmark progress against other like facilities in the future
- Helping start the national conversation on climate change-resiliency with hospitals across Canada

Visit our website to explore the Climate Resiliency Toolkit: https://greenhealthcare.ca/climate-change-resiliency-toolkit/

Green Office Toolkit – For Clinicians and Office Managers: The Green Offices Toolkit is designed to simplify and inspire the ‘greening’ of health care practices. This toolkit outlines practical and affordable ideas to make eco-friendly office improvements, and real life examples, with the ultimate goal of helping health professionals support the health and wellbeing of patients, while respecting the
foundations of health for present and future generations. Health care is estimated to cause between 6-10% of all environmental harm (and ensuing illness) from Canadian society. However, an increasing number of clinics and health institutions across Canada and the world are looking at how they can have more positive impacts on the planet we depend on. Having a green office doesn’t have to be costly. In fact, the benefits of a green office can include cost savings, which mainly result in reduced waste and improved efficiency. Visit our website to learn more about the Green Office Toolkit:

https://greenhealthcare.ca/green-office-toolkit/
Corporate Sustainability Champions
Organisations participating in the Corporate Sustainability Champions program have made a serious corporate commitment to making health care more sustainable. Organisations big and small can benefit from being recognized as a Sustainability Champion; current champions include Blue Zone Technologies, Dreison Health, Ecosystem Energy Services, Philips Canada, and Trane Canada. Read on to find out how these organisations are playing their part in helping make the health sector environmentally sustainable.

**Blue-Zone Technologies** is a Toronto based company, with proprietary and globally patented technologies to capture and recover halogenated anaesthetic drugs, that has dedicated itself to tackling the challenging problem of anaesthetic gases and the pollution they cause. In North America alone, there are approximately 60,000 operating rooms releasing anaesthetics into the environment. This equates to the emissions of over one million cars, and these emissions are predicted to double over the next few years. Blue-Zone is already implementing circular economy solutions in order to solve the anesthetic gas pollution problem and make the Canadian health sector more environmentally sustainable. The Coalition hosted a podcast back in November 2020 to speak with Dusanka Filipovic, Founder and Co-inventor of Blue-Zone technologies. It was a very interesting session and yielded insightful dialogue regarding Dusanka’s journey, the idea behind Blue Zone, and environmental sustainability as a whole.

**Ecosystem Energy Services** first collaborated with the Coalition, in October 2020, on the Energy Lite Online Training Program by presenting a module that focused on “what’s next” in energy management. Ecosystem’s presentation on its case study regarding an integrated, outcome-based approach at the Quebec University Hospital Centre (CHU) proved to be very insightful, resulting in a positive reception from the audience. The presentation also managed to delve into addressing energy costs and carbon footprints while maintaining resiliency and renewing assets. The success of the Energy Lite module saw Ecosystem collaborate with the Coalition again, in February 2021. This webinar saw Ecosystem build upon the Energy Lite module presentation by exploring the technical details of the Quebec University Hospital Centre (CHU) deep energy retrofit. The presentation also dove into details on how the CHU retrofit optimized the project budget and replacement of equipment
while maximizing incentives, how it broadened the project scope by allowing for the inclusion of renewables, thereby creating a greater impact on sustainability, and how these retrofits are effective not only in large facilities, but also in smaller facilities with less energy-intensive systems.

GE Healthcare recognizes that being a sustainability leader is more than creating products that provide environmental and operating benefits to its customers. GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies, diagnostic imaging agents and services that are shaping a new age of patient care. Most importantly, the company is strengthening its commitment to sustainability and setting a goal to become carbon neutral in its facilities and operations by 2030. There are currently over 30 products in the GE Healthcare sustainability portfolio, providing a range of environmental benefits that include reducing energy use, greenhouse gases, chemical use, water use and waste, while at the same time providing operating benefits to its customers such as improving total cost of ownership or clinical efficiency. Most recently, GE Healthcare’s Pharmaceutical Diagnostics division launched a pilot project in Canada to recycle unused contrast media to save and extract Iodine, a highly essential and non-renewable resource. With the anticipated success of the pilot program, the goal is to expand the collection of left over and uncontaminated GE Healthcare iodine-based contrast media for recycling purposes across Canada over the next several months. The organisation’s broad expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, pharmaceutical diagnostics, patient monitoring systems, performance improvement and performance solutions services help customers to deliver better care to more people around the world at a lower cost. In addition, GE Healthcare partners with health care leaders, striving to leverage the global policy change necessary to implement a successful shift to sustainable health care systems.

Philips Canada has long been one of the global leaders of sustainability, with a host of different initiatives that are designed to move the organisation towards sustainability and circularity. The Coalition has collaborated with Philips on many occasions to educate the Canadian health sector about the circular economy and discuss the importance of adopting a circularity. Philips Canada co-hosted the Circular Economy Imperative: How Philips is introducing new business models to benefit health care and the environment’ webinar with the Coalition to talk about the
growing demand for health care from an expanding population, overconsumption of resources, waste, pollution, climate, are putting unsustainable pressure on our ecosystems. Philips embraces the concept of circularity and embeds it into its business models, meaning Philips has developed programs and initiatives that encourage its customers to be part of the circular economy, thereby designing out waste and controlling raw material usage.

**Stryker's** Sustainability Solutions division is the leading provider of reprocessing and remanufacturing services for single-use medical devices. Hospitals utilize the company’s advanced collection system to collect devices. Stryker inspects, cleans, tests, sterilizes, and packages medical devices for repeated, safe clinical use. Millions of devices across our Patient Care, Vascular and Surgical portfolios are collected and reprocessed, diverting the waste from landfills, helping to support a circular economy. Over the past five years, Stryker’s ‘Sustainability Solutions’ has helped customers save $988 million and divert 25 million pounds of waste from the landfill.

**Trane** is committed to helping build a sustainable future by ensuring it is doing everything in its power to enable both the business and the customers in having a healthy triple bottom line. Trane’s 2030 sustainability targets are a perfect demonstration of its work towards pursuing a sustainable and healthy triple bottom line for all. Trane recently announced its first ever commitment to reduce customers’ carbon footprint by one gigatonne of emissions, and is the first industrial company to set a goal this substantial and looks to lead not just its industry but all industries in committing to something this meaningful in tackling the challenges of climate change.
The Next Generation
The younger generations are ultimately the future of humankind and it is of paramount importance that their voices are heard, especially when it comes to green health care. The Coalition believes in the power of youth and to that end, has collaborated with a growing number of student groups to promote green health care practices and talk about the importance of environmental sustainability for planetary health. Climate change is very real and we believe that the future generations are on the right track, with their efforts to understand this global problem and look for ways to solve it. This section will highlight some of our notable collaborations with student groups, as well as a glimpse at our future plans.

**Project Green Health Care**: In September 2020, Neil Ritchie, Executive Director of the Coalition, was the keynote speaker for the Canadian Federation of Medical Student's (CFMS), Health and Environment Adaptive Response Taskforce (HEART) virtual conference on Planetary Health Action. This conference set the stage for the launch of their newest initiative, Project Green Healthcare/Projet Vert la Santé. Teams of medical students are empowered with a national community of practice and a financial grant of up to $2,000 to partner with their local hospital systems to design and execute green quality improvement projects across Canada. Dr. Jacob Carson, a first-year pediatrics resident at Queen’s University, and Owen Luo, a second-year medical student at McGill University, are the co-founders of this initiative. “The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care are leaders in driving change towards a net-zero healthcare service in Canada. As health care trainees, our perspective of health care-related emissions lies mainly at the patient interface, where our frustrations of the inconsistent recycling practices on the hospital wards and in operating rooms and the dependence on single-use health care items have motivated us to take action and inspire other Canadian medical students to build a greener health care system. Our partnership has enabled us to inspire many future health care leaders on the importance of environmental sustainability. It goes to show that collaborations between a driven team of health care trainees such as ourselves and a network of health sector leaders in the coalition has the capacity to elicit significant green change and motivate others to do the same.”
Niève Seguin and James Linton - Co-leaders of the Planetary Health Interest Group (PHIG) University of Ottawa:
The students of the Planetary Health Interest Group at the University of Ottawa and their enthusiasm towards learning about environmental sustainability and potentially using that knowledge in their respective fields provided a unique opportunity for the Coalition to propagate knowledge and educate the student group on the circular economy, climate change and relevant United Nations (UN) Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).

"Collaborating with the Coalition was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about the current scope of climate action in health care, as well as the concrete actions being taken in hospitals and other clinical settings to reduce their ecological footprint. Following the presentation, our student body was eager to engage in projects to reduce our footprint; we have successfully encouraged our faculty to implement PPE recycling on campus, we are in the process of ratifying guidelines for sustainable student event for our student union, and we are developing a handbook for students to guide their efforts in reducing their ecological footprint. We have also engaged our students in discussions to explore environmental discrimination and the inequities of climate change."

Mackenzie Cey - Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare (ELESHe) Alberta:
Health Science students at the University of Alberta are making tremendous strides towards pushing environmental sustainability into the spotlight among nursing students. The student group has been collaborating with the Coalition to craft a course for nursing students, dedicated to environmental sustainability. 

"In collaboration with the CCGHC, several students and I at the University of Alberta (UofA) have started a chapter of a student-run organization called 'Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare' (ELESHe Alberta). The Coalition has provided our club with resources, ideas, and mentorship to help engage the UofA student population in the importance of environmentally sustainable health care," says Mackenzie. "I was interested in involving the Coalition because I saw the work that is being done across Canada and I wanted to bring their energy and potential
to the Health Science students at the UofA. Currently, one of our goals as a club is to create a curriculum for a course to be implemented across health science disciplines at the university, focusing on planetary health and green healthcare. Thank you CCGHC for being an awesome mentor!”

Shayna Moore - Registered nurse and University of British Columbia (UBC) Graduate: Shayna’s practice as a Registered Nurse has highlighted the need for sustainable and environmentally responsible practices for the delivery of health care services in Canada. “During my graduate studies at the University of British Columbia, I had the opportunity to collaborate with the Coalition on work to encourage the adoption of a circular economy model for health care by identifying the added value of a circular approach that is more socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable.” Says Shayna. “Being part of the next generation of health care professionals, I feel it is my responsibility to address practices in health care that fail to recognize the link between environmental sustainability and robust and resilient population health. I encourage both the current and next generation of health care leaders to promote green health care practices on a local and global scale.”

Joanna Law - Registered nurse and UofA Graduate student: Joanna is a graduate student with the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, working on a practicum project with the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment. “My project is to develop a national picture of healthcare Green Teams which will inform, inspire, and create networking opportunities. The Coalition’s work with health care facilities to decrease carbon footprints and their Hospital Scorecard program made them a natural partner. I reached out to Kent Waddington, who was enthusiastic and encouraging about the project and my education. The team at the Coalition was integral in kick starting the project through their network and hosting a Green Team interactive map on their website,” said Joanna. “Through the project, the Coalition facilitated my professional introduction into the field of health care sustainability. I hope to have the opportunity to work with the Coalition again in the near future.”
Connect With Us

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care
Coalition canadienne pour un système de santé écologie

www.greenhealthcare.ca
Get In Touch

Feel free to address questions and comments to any of our wonderful team members, who also helped design and bring this report together!

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Learn More

Use the resources listed below to learn more about green health care, climate change, planetary health and more.

- http://synergiesanteenvironnement.org/
- www.sustainablehealthsystems.ca
- https://cape.ca/
- https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/
- https://www.sduhealth.org.uk/
- https://nordicshc.org/
- https://noharm.org/
- https://practicegreenhealth.org/
- http://healthcareclimatechallenge.org/
- http://www.healthierhospitals.org/