



Environmental Sustainability Strategy

A vision of “caring for our
environment together”

2021 - 2024

Contents

Contents.....	2
Foreword.....	3
Executive Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 About the organisation	4
1.3 Prior actions and achievements	5
2. Environmental Sustainability Policy	7
3. Baseline Environmental Performance	8
4. Communications Plan	9
4.1 Background	9
4.2 Objectives	9
4.3 Target audience.....	9
4.4 Key messages.....	9
4.4 Communication activities	9
4.6 Evaluation	10
5. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement	11
5.1 Monitoring schedule	11
5.2 Review and progress reporting.....	11

Foreword

That the environment has an impact on health outcomes of people is evident in the research data. Our health relies on a supportive environment and therefore the influence of the environment and the impact of climate change must be recognised as an influence on health status. As a health service we should be a leader in this area, take an active approach and model, where possible, best practice.

There has been a commitment by Tallangatta Health Service since the Board approved the inaugural plan in 2014. This latest plan builds on the good work already undertaken and looks forward to future opportunities.

Tallangatta Health Service holds environmental sustainability as a priority for our community and the broader society. It is a social conscious initiative that contains a vision of "caring for our environment together" influenced by Government policy and worldwide initiatives.

Tallangatta Health Service has become a member of Global Green Healthy Hospitals and our 'Green Turtle' environmental sustainability program has realised tangible benefits.

Our intent is ongoing continuous improvement in environmental sustainability with initiatives that focus broadly on:

- Decreasing our carbon footprint;
- Decreasing negative environmental effects from our activities;
- Championing our staff to be environment friendly;
- Encourage our staff to advocate this approach in their families and communities; and,
- Recognise their efforts in making a difference

It is with good social conscious and commitment to positive health outcomes that we approve our environmental sustainability strategy.

Ann Eagle
Chair
Tallangatta Health Service Board

Denise Parry
Chief Executive Officer
Tallangatta Health Service

February 2021

Executive Summary

The Board and executive have made a commitment to apply the principles of environmental sustainability to the functions of the health service and this commitment flows down to each member of staff.

Tallangatta Health Service continues to recognise that its greatest opportunities to demonstrate a commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices are reliant on minimisation of energy, fuel and water use, and the responsible management and minimisation of waste.

To facilitate the achievement of our strategy Tallangatta Health Service will:

- Develop an action plan (Appendix 1) that will monitor key aspects of the strategy to ensure that we are continually realising our strategy and seeking opportunities;
- Use environmental standards, asset management and social procurement frameworks to guide our operations and enable environmental sustainability;
- Review our operations and focus on areas that are reasonable and practicable for us to achieve positively within the core areas of energy, water use and waste management;
- Empower staff to care for the environment by engaging them with our strategy and providing opportunity for innovation;
- Provide leadership within our community by communicating effectively on our initiatives and seeking feedback and support.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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 is embedding sustainability principles in its activities and is committed to embedding sustainability within the broader Victorian public health system. A Sustainability in Healthcare - Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-19 to 2022-23 has been developed by the Department and supports our strategy. The Department strategy sets out the State Government's commitment to "...further improve the environmentally sustainability of the health system and to adapt the health system so it is resilient in the face of climate change." An integral part of embedding sustainability within the public health system is the adoption of appropriate environmental management planning processes at the health service level, such as this environmental management plan for Tallangatta Health Service.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements under the Department of Health Policy and Funding Guidelines.

1.2 About the organisation

1.2.1 Overview of organisation

Tallangatta Health Service is located on one site above the Lake Hume foreshore in Tallangatta within the Towong Shire.

Summary of Demographic Data

2016 Census of Population and Housing

The Towong Shire has an estimated resident population of 5,973 made up of 3031 males and 2,872 females as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2016. The median age of 50 is greater than the Australian median age of 37.2. 25.3% of the population is aged over 65. 16.9% are aged between 55 and 64 years being the largest cohort. People aged under 34 make up 33.8%. The median equivalised household weekly income is \$683 compared to Australia median of \$877. The proportion of people who have completed year 12 is 32.4% compared to Australia wide figure of 51.9%. The number of people who need assistance with core activities of daily life is 5.7% compared to Australia 5.1%.

Summary of Services Delivered

Acute Services consist of 15 beds for Sub-acute, Palliative Care, Rehabilitation, and Transition Care Program.

Community Health is 'on the road' and consists of a fleet of 10 motor vehicles travelling over 1000 kms per week.

Aged Care Facilities include 15 beds of high care in Lakeview and 36 beds of ageing in place in Bolga Court.

Primary Health is delivered within our medical centre and through health professionals in the health service-based community services.

THS employs approximately 170 staff and over 40 volunteers.

1.2.2 Scope of the Environment Sustainability Strategy (ESS)

The intent of this strategy addresses all relevant aspects of the operation of Tallangatta Health Service including all sites, agency activities and the delivery of services, including but not limited to:

- acute and residential aged care services;
- corporate offices and facilities;
- support services (e.g. catering and cleaning);
- education;
- delivery of campaigns, programs and events;
- community based health services;
- facilities operations;
- new capital works; and,
- co-located facilities auspice by Tallangatta Health Service

1.3 Prior actions and achievements

THS has been committed to improving its Environmental Performance for many years.

Environmental achievements of THS since 2010 have included:

- conducting energy audits to identify key opportunities for energy saving;

- improving energy efficiency by installing a solar hot water service in residential care and the acute service;
- reducing waste to landfill by increasing weekly recycling capacity;
- onsite laundry upgrades;
- collecting environmental data and reporting to the Department of Health on an annual basis since 2005-06;

and, more recently:

- installing of LED lights throughout the facility;
- moving to smaller more energy efficient vehicles;
- reviewing of garden and landscaping to be more water efficient;
- recycling printer cartridges and raising organization wide awareness on becoming less paper dependent;
- upgrading air conditioning;
- upgrading chemical dispensing systems;
- conducting clinical waste audits;
- installing more efficient ovens and cooking processes during 2012-2013;
- participating in the Green Turtle Program;
- becoming a member of Global Green Healthy Hospitals
- considering environmental impacts in all aspect of procurement

2. Environment Sustainability Policy

Tallangatta Health Service has an Environmental Sustainability Policy that outlines the commitment to environmental sustainability and applies it to all staff, students, visitors and contractors within the organisation.

The policy is referenced by:

1. Environmental Protection Act 1970
2. www.health.vic.gov.au/sustainability
3. http://stat.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary®ion=26670&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2016&geoconcept=LGA_2016&maplayerid=LGA2016&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS2016&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2016®ionLGA=LGA_2016®ionASGS=ASGS_2016
4. Social Procurement Framework
5. Asset Management Accountability Framework

3. Baseline Environmental Performance

Baseline data from the previous financial year will inform measurement of the performance of this strategy. It will inform our decision making on actions to achieve success.

The size and configuration of our buildings means that Tallangatta Health Service data collection may be aggregated and may not be able to be broken down to enable understanding of individual area or department results.

4. Communications Plan

4.1 Background

This communications plan has been prepared to promote the environmental commitment of Tallangatta Health Service to its staff and stakeholders. It is supported by our Communication Strategy.

4.2 Objectives

The communications plan is aligned to the Environment Policy, scope of this Environmental Sustainability Strategy and agreed actions. The objectives of the plan are to:

- communicate to staff the environmental achievements to date,
- secure support of the executive to improve the organisation's environmental performance,
- the role of staff in implementing specific actions,

4.3 Target audience

The target audience is all staff and stakeholders across the organization.

4.4 Key messages

The key messages of the communication plan are aligned with the Environment Policy, scope of the strategy and agreed actions. The key messages are both overarching, for example lower operating costs equals more funds for patient care, and specific to particular environmental impacts, for example shutting down computers.

The key messages of this communications plan are:

- the environmental achievements to date;
- the future environmental direction and commitment;
- that environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility;
- the promotion and fostering of an environmental ethos and sustainable practices through training and education of staff, students and contractors;
- the promotion of our efforts to minimise our ecological footprint by reducing pollution, environmental harm, greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation and energy and water consumption; and,
- improving efficient use of resources in a practical and sustainable way.

4.5 Communication activities

The following table outlines the communication activities to be undertaken, the key messages and target audience

Issue	Month	Message	Activities	Target audience
Launch of revised environment sustainability strategy	March 2021	Achievements to date Future direction Commitment of Executive and Board	Memo Staff Newsletter THS Website /Facebook THS Intranet	All staff Key stakeholders
Energy efficiency	July January	Energy achievements to date Top tips for energy efficiency	Staff Newsletter THS Website /Facebook THS Intranet OHSE Committee	All staff
Water efficiency	July January	Water achievements to date Top tips for water efficiency	Staff Newsletter OHSE Committee THS Website /Facebook THS Intranet	All staff
Waste management	July January	Top tips for reducing waste to landfill – link with halve waste Waste achievements to date - Waste audits and presentation of results to staff Importance of proper waste segregation	Staff Newsletter THS Website /Facebook THS Intranet OHSE Committee	All staff

4.6 Evaluation

The communications plan will measure effectiveness of the plan and behavior change activities through a key set of indicators. These indicators include:

- the environmental outcomes achieved across the organisation;
- the number of activities such as newsletters and staff presentations and number of staff reached across all departments;
- staff feedback, such as number and types of queries and staff suggestions;

- staff surveys before and after campaigns; and
- consumer feedback.

5. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement

5.1 Monitoring schedule

What	How	How often	Records	Who
Carbon	Energy bills	Monthly	Energy data / carbon conversion factors	DCS
Energy use	BMS / energy bills	Monthly	Energy data	DCS
Water use	BMS / water bills	Quarterly	Water data	DCS
General waste	Contractor data	Quarterly	Spreadsheet	DCS
Clinical waste	Contractor data	Quarterly	Invoice/ report from contractor	NUM
Paper use	Purchase records	Quarterly	Reports from invoice system	DCS
Green purchasing	Recorded through purchase order forms	Quarterly	Spreadsheet showing % of total purchase	DCS
Fuel use	Monthly bills and vehicle fleet log records	Quarterly	Spreadsheet	DCS
Staff Culture	Engagement with vision	Annually	Survey	CEO

5.2 Review and progress reporting

The progress of the strategy will be through an action plan reviewed by the Leadership Team Quarterly and data by the Occupational Health Safety and Environment Committee as scheduled.

Progress in implementing the strategy through activities in the action plan will be reported to the Board annually.

Performance progress and key achievements will be reported publicly through the annual Quality Account and Quality and Safety screens.

The strategy is a living document and as such will be updated as indicated by activities or changes in legislation.

Appendix 1