

Nisga'a Valley Health Authority - 2009 Carbon Neutral Action Report

Executive Summary

Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) was formed on April 25, 1984 at a Nisga'a Tribal Council (now Nisga'a Lisims Government) convention in Gingolx, BC.

NVHA is comprised of four (4) health centres located in each of the Nisga'a communities in the very beautiful and picturesque Nass Valley. The main centre, the James Samuel Gosnell Memorial Health Centre (named in honour of the late James Gosnell) is located in New Aiyansh, BC. The remaining centres are located in Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx.

NVHA is built on Nisga'a culture, and traditional healing practices teaching that listening, learning, and choosing healthy lifestyles result in health of mind, body, and spirit. We are committed to collecting and sharing the traditional wisdom of Nisga'a Elders pertaining to overall health and vitality. We strive to integrate these traditional ways with present day practices.

Our ultimate goal is to work in a healthy environment in partnership with each Nisga'a citizen and each person living on Nisga'a land supporting, and being supported by, healthy families and communities.



Overviews

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2009

In 2009, NVHA took a number of steps to reduce the carbon emissions associated with their fleet vehicles, buildings, and paper usage – all of which are outlined in this report.

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2010 – 2012

Going forward, NVHA will look for other opportunities to reduce their carbon pollution and contribute to a healthy environment.

On January 6, 2010, NVHA started a 12 passenger bus service to transport patients to the hospital and care facilities, rather than require them drive in their personal vehicles. Due to NVHA's initiative, roughly 9 cars are taken off the road every day since, on average, 9 passengers are picked-up and dropped off per trip. Further, materials and supplies are also collected along the way and pharmaceuticals are delivered to community members that may have difficulty getting to the pharmacy.



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Actions Towards Carbon Neutrality

The actions listed below contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from sources for which public sector organizations are responsible under the carbon neutral government regulation of the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*.

Action	Status (as of 12/31/09)	Performance to Date (as of 12/31/09)	Steps Taken in 2009	Steps Planned for 2010 -2012	Start Year	End Year
Mobile Fuel Combustion (Fleet and other mobile equipment)						
Vehicle fuel efficiency						
Replace vehicles with more fuel-efficient models	Ongoing/In Progress	5 % of vehicles are fuel- efficient models	Toyota Prius purchased in 2008. No vehicles were purchased in 2009.	Will continue to consider efficient vehicle models for future purchases	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Replace larger vehicles with smaller models according to fleet "right-sizing" principles	In Development			Right-sizing principles will be considered, going forward, as current leases expire.	2010	No End Date (Continuous)
Perform regular fleet maintenance to improve fuel-efficiency	Ongoing/In Progress	100 % of vehicles are subject to regular maintenance for fuel efficiency	Maintenance occurs every 5000 kilometres.	Continue maintenance practice	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Behaviour change program						
Introduce anti-idling policy and/or raise anti-idling awareness for fleet drivers (e.g., signs, stickers, messages)	Ongoing/In Progress		Through e-mail communication, staff encouraged to warm up vehicle engines only as long as necessary.	Continue idle-reduction communication.	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Encourage carpooling in fleet vehicles	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff are encouraged to carpool to facilities in the region.	Continue to encourage carpooling	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Stationary Fuel Combustion, Electricity and Fugitive Emissions (Buildings)						
Complete energy retrofits on existing, owned buildings	Ongoing/In Progress		Hot water tank replacement (see below).	Continue to look for energy efficiencies during equipment replacements or building upgrades/renovations.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Retrofitting owned buildings						
Upgrade mechanical systems (heating, cooling, ventilation) during retrofits	Ongoing/In Progress		Hot water tank replacement with efficient model.	Continue to look for energy efficiencies during future replacements.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Upgrade/adjust control systems during retrofits	Complete		Lighting is programmed for efficiencies and daylight hours		2009	2009
IT power management						
Implement server virtualization	Ongoing/In Progress		Servers are replaced on 4 year cycle. Information is consolidated on servers during replacements in a effort to minimize electricity load.	Next server replacement due in 2011	2007	No End Date (Continuous)
Apply auto-sleep settings on computer monitors and CPUs	Complete	100 % of computers have auto-sleep settings applied	Monitors have auto-sleep settings applied.		2009	2009
Remove stand-alone printers, copiers, and/or fax machines and install multi-function devices	Complete		Stand alone printers removed in 2008.		2008	2009
Replace computers with ENERGY STAR models during regular computer upgrades	Ongoing/In Progress	100 % of computers are ENERGY STAR rated	During computer upgrades, energy efficient models are purchased.	During computer upgrades, energy efficient models are purchased.	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Appliances and electronic devices						
Replace refrigerators with ENERGY STAR models or source ENERGY STAR models for future purchases	Ongoing/In Progress	100 % of fridges are ENERGY STAR rated	During appliance replacements, energy efficient models are purchased.	During appliance replacements, energy efficient models are purchased.	2000	No End Date (Continuous)

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Action	Status (as of 12/31/09)	Performance to Date (as of 12/31/09)		Steps Taken in 2009	Steps Planned for 2010 -2012	Start Year	End Year
Replace other appliances or electronic devices with ENERGY STAR models or source ENERGY STAR models for future purchases	Ongoing/In Progress			During appliance replacements, energy efficient models are purchased.	During appliance replacements, energy efficient models are purchased.	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Behaviour change program							
Ask staff to unplug electrical equipment or switch off power bars when not in use	Ongoing/In Progress			Staff encouraged to shut off computers	Continue to encourage this practice.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Provide reminders for turning off lights (e.g., signs, stickers, messages)	Complete			Signage in place.		2009	2009
Supplies (Paper)							
Printer/document settings							
Switch networked printers and photocopiers to automatic double-sided	Ongoing/In Progress	100	% of network printers or photocopiers are set to automatic double-sided	Double-sided setting applied when multi-function printers installed in 2008.	Any new printers purchased will had double-sided printing as a default setting.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Apply "print and hold" settings to networked printers to eliminate unclaimed print jobs	Ongoing/In Progress			This feature is applied confidentiality reasons but has the added environmental benefit of reducing unclaimed print jobs.	Any new printers purchased will had "print and hold" setting applied.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Electronic media in place of paper							
Install collaborative software for electronic editing (e.g. SharePoint, Groove, etc.)	Ongoing/In Progress			Software with shared access, such as Outlook is used for managing staff calendars etc.	Continue moving in this direction, where possible, to manage other work-related tasks.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Use electronic document library for filing common documents	Ongoing/In Progress			Staff have access to shared folders which house commonly-used documents such as policies, procedures, template forms, etc.	Continue moving in this direction, where possible, for other documents.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Post materials online that were previously printed	Ongoing/In Progress			Much information is now posted on the NVHA website instead of circulating hard copies. NVHA's newsletter (The Nisga'a Healer), for example, is now posted online.	Continue moving in this direction, where possible, for other documents.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Behaviour change program							
Encourage staff to hold paperless meetings or presentations (i.e., no handouts)	In Development			This practice was trialed in 2009 for board meetings.	Evaluate and look at areas for improvement.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)

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Actions to Reduce Provincial Emissions and Improve Sustainability

The actions listed below contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from sources that fall outside of the reporting requirements defined in the carbon neutral government regulation of the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*. Public sector organizations can optionally use this section to report on actions that will help British Columbia meet its provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets, engage the public, and improve environmental sustainability across all aspects of their organization.

Action	Status (as of 12/31/09)	Performance to Date (as of 12/31/09)	Steps Taken in 2009	Steps Planned for 2010 -2012	Start Year	End Year
Business Travel						
Virtual meeting technology						
Install web-conferencing software (e.g., Live Meeting, Elluminate, etc.)	Ongoing/In Progress	100 % of computers have web-conferencing software installed	All staff have access to web-conferencing software.	Ensure software is updated, as needed.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Install video-conferencing units in meeting rooms or provide mobile video-conferencing units	Complete		Video-conferencing, installed in 2008 is available at all of NVHA's 4 health centers.		2008	2009
Behaviour change program						
Train staff in web-conferencing	Ongoing/In Progress		One on one training was provided as needed.	Continue with training.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Train staff in video-conferencing or provide technical support for video-conferencing set-up	Ongoing/In Progress		One on one training was provided as needed.	Continue with training.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Encourage staff to consider virtual attendance/presentation at events where possible	Ongoing/In Progress		This message was reinforced through ongoing e-mail communication with staff.	Continue to encourage.	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Encourage carpooling to meetings	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff are encouraged to carpool between facilities in the region.	Continue to encourage.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Other Sustainability Actions						
Waste reduction/diversion						
Put in place an operations policy to facilitate the reduction and diversion of building occupant waste from landfills or incineration facilities	In Development			A paper recycling program is being established in 2010	2010	No End Date (Continuous)
Indoor air quality						
Enforce a scent-free policy (e.g., no strong perfumes, deodorants, etc.)	Ongoing/In Progress		Scent-free practices are communicated in the HR policy.	Monitor complaints.	2009	No End Date (Continuous)
Commuting to and from home						
Encourage commuting by foot, bicycle, carpool or public transit	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff tend to self-organize in this respect.	Continue to encourage.	2000	No End Date (Continuous)
Other Sustainability Actions						
Provide a bus service to bring patients from home to NVHA facilities	In Development			In January, 2010, NVHA started a 12 passenger bus service to transport patients to the hospital and care facilities, rather than require them drive in their personal vehicles. On average, 9 passengers are picked-up and dropped off per trip. Further, materials and supplies are also collected along the way and pharmaceuticals are delivered to community members that may have difficulty getting to the pharmacy.	2010	No End Date (Continuous)