

Bella Coola General Hospital - 2009 Carbon Neutral Action Report

Executive Summary



Owned and operated by the United Church of Canada and located in Bella Coola, Bella Coola General Hospital (BCGH) is a 2,089 square meter 15 bed facility comprised of 10 acute care beds, 5 residential beds and provides services of Acute/Emergency, Residential, Mental Health, Public Health, Home & Community Support, Addictions, and Transit to the whole of Bella Coola Valley (Population about 1,900). The Bella Coola Valley encompasses the settlements of Bella Coola, Lower Bella Coola, Hagensborg, Saloompt. Nusatsum. Firvale and Stuiie, and include nearby marine-access settlements such as Tallheo. The Nuxalk, an indigenous people of the area, where in the past referred to as the Bella Coola.

The Bella Coola General Hospital is affiliated with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and receives its funding for the core programs through VCH in keeping with the affiliation agreement.

Bella Coola General Hospital was constructed in 1979 and a number of renovations and upgrades that support and enhance the medical services, safety, and accessibility building and energy efficiency were implemented in 1998 and in 2002 and these include:

- Metal Roof Upgrade and Insulation in 1998. (A.2)
- New lab and radiology area renovated in 2002. (A.2)
- During a major renovation in 2002, approximately two thirds of the roof was replaced and reinsulated. (A.2)
- Exterior wood frame walls were seismically upgraded in 2002 . (A.2)
- Patient wards, public washrooms, the tub and shower rooms were upgraded to meet accessibility standards in 2002
- Fire protection was installed throughout in 2002.

- The HVAC and fire Alarm System were upgraded and a new generator installed in 2002.
- Some but not all of the building lighting was retrofitted from old and inefficient T12 fluorescent lighting and magnetic ballasts to energy efficient T8 fluorescent lighting and electronic ballasts in 2002. (A.2)

We are committed to develop and maintain the best possible practices and policies for the health and safety of our residents, our staff, our community and our environmental health. While we are also committed to implement sustainability and energy efficiency measures and develop collaborative partnerships with external agencies and service providers to reduce our Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and our Carbon Footprint in preparation for carbon neutrality in 2010, our remote and isolated community and lack of financial and staff resources and reduction of positions make it extremely difficult to meet our environmental obligations.

Overview:

Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions - 2009

No environmental and/or energy efficiency initiatives were implemented in 2009 to reduce Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) due to lack of financial and staff resources.

Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2010 – 2012

While no environmental and/or energy efficiency measures are planned for 2010-2012, due to lack of financial and staff resources, we will continue to encourage staff awareness to support energy reduction and sustainability activities. We will also implement other initiatives that will contribute to our goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and reduce our carbon footprint and to support our environmental commitments.

Our remote and isolated community and lack of financial and staff resources and reduction of positions to meet our allocated budget make it extremely difficult to meet our environmental obligations.

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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						
Perform regular fleet maintenance to improve fuel-efficiency	Ongoing/In Progress	100 % of vehicles are subject to regular maintenance for fuel efficiency	Maintenance Toyota Corrola vehicle (1) is regularly serviced by a certified mechanic. Vehicle is seldom used	Practice to continue	1991	No End Date (Continuous)
Stationary Fuel Combustion, Electricity and Fugitive Emissions (Buildings)						
Complete energy retrofits on existing, owned buildings	Ongoing/In Progress		1) The roof was replaced and insulated in 1998. 2) During the 2002 renovations, approximately two thirds of the metal roof was replaced and reinsulated 3) During the 2002 renovations, some but not all of the building lighting was retrofitted from old and inefficient T12 fluorescent lighting and magnetic ballasts to energy efficient T8 fluorescent lighting and electronic ballasts.	Energy efficient measures will be implemented should funding and resources become available for planning and implementation.	1998	No End Date (Continuous)
Retrofitting owned buildings						
Upgrade lighting systems during retrofits	Ongoing/In Progress		Some but not all of the building lighting lighting was retrofitted from old and inefficient T12 fluorescent lighting and magnetic ballasts to energy efficient T8 fluorescent lighting and electronic ballasts in 2002.	Lighting Retrofit to be implemented throughout the building should funding and resources become available for planning and implementation.	2002	No End Date (Continuous)
Improve building insulation (including windows) during retrofits	Ongoing/In Progress		1) The building metal roof was upgraded and insulated in 1998 2) During the 2002 renovations, approximately two thirds of the metal roof was replaced and reinsulated 2) Double paned insulated glass was installed in the windows	Building insulation to continue in the future should funding and resources become available for planning and implementation	1998	No End Date (Continuous)
IT power management						
Apply auto-sleep settings on computer monitors and CPUs	Ongoing/In Progress		Auto-sleep settings on computer monitors and CPUs are applied to all units at Bella Coola Hospital	Practice to continue	2005	No End Date (Continuous)
Remove stand-alone printers, copiers, and/or fax machines and install multi-function devices	Complete		Multi-function devices are currently in place and centrally located and shared by most staff except for some restricted units for confidentiality and privacy.	Practice to continue		No End Date (Continuous)
Apply auto-sleep settings on printers, copiers, fax machines, and/or multi-function devices	Complete		Auto-sleep settings on printers, copiers, fax machines, and/or multi-function devices are in place	Practice to continue		No End Date (Continuous)
Replace computers with ENERGY STAR models during regular computer upgrades	Ongoing/In Progress		In progress and implemented when replacing systems	Practice to continue		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		Purchase energy efficient models when replacement needed	Practice to continue		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		Purchase energy efficient models when replacement needed and where applicable	Practice to continue		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		Except for 24/7 Resident care areas, staff turn off all electric and electronic equipment after hours.	Maintain practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Ask staff to close blinds at end of work day to reduce heating/cooling demands	Ongoing/In Progress		Completed but not audited as to success of program	Continue to encourage staff to shut off power bars and other electrical equipment after hours		No End Date (Continuous)
Provide tips to staff on saving energy in the office while working outside of regular business hours	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff are requested to minimize their use of electric and electronic equipment in their work offices to the essential need equipment while working outside of regular business hours. Unnecessary energy using equipment are requested to be turned off.	Maintain practice	2010	No End Date (Continuous)
Encourage use of stairs instead of elevators	Ongoing/In Progress		All staff are encouraged to use stairs instead of elevators where practical and when they are not assisting elderly residents or delivering supplies	Maintain practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Provide reminders for turning off lights (e.g., signs, stickers, messages)	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff are requested to minimize their use of electric and electronic equipment in their work offices to the essential need equipment while working outside of regular business hours. Unnecessary energy using equipment are requested to be turned off.	Staff reminded during staff meetings. Practice to continue	2010	No End Date (Continuous)
Supplies (Paper)						
Electronic media in place of paper						
Use electronic document library for filing common documents	Ongoing/In Progress		Electronic document library for filing common documents is currently in place for authorized staff	Maintain practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Post materials online that were previously printed	Ongoing/In Progress		Various manuals and policies and procedures are currently available on-line	Maintain practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Behaviour change program						
Encourage re-use of scrap paper	Ongoing/In Progress		The re-use of scrap paper by staff has always been encouraged	Maintain Practice and encourage in staff meetings		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
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	Complete		Cardboard , aluminum and other metal cans and plastic containers recycling is in place. All paper is shredded for maintain confidentiality	Maintain Practice	2005	No End Date (Continuous)
Implement a hazardous waste reduction and disposal strategy	Ongoing/In Progress		Compliance for the safe disposal of all hazardous waste in place	Maintain current practice and compliance for the safe disposal of all hazardous waste		No End Date (Continuous)
Indoor air quality						
Enforce a scent-free policy (e.g., no strong perfumes, deodorants, etc.)	Complete		Maintain policy	Maintain policy	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Incorporate low volatile organic compounds (VOCs) standards into procurement policy for products such as paints, carpets, and furniture	Ongoing/In Progress		Maintenance services has standardized on water based paint and low volatile organic compounds (VOCs) Standards for their products	Maintain use	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Commuting to and from home						
Encourage commuting by foot, bicycle, carpool or public transit	Ongoing/In Progress		Staff encouraged to use alternative modes of transportation including carpooling or bicycling where practicable. About 6 staff bicycle to work, some walk and approximately 90 % of staff drive to work.	Maintain Practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Provide shower or locker facilities for staff/students who commute by foot or by bicycle	Complete		Shower facilities, change rooms, and locker facilities have been available to staff since the construction of the facility in 1979 and subsequent renovations. No Bicycle racks are available at this time	Maintain Practice		No End Date (Continuous)
Provide secure bicycle storage	Complete		A secure bicycle rack is available for staff	Maintain Practice. Currently 6 staff bicycle to work	2008	No End Date (Continuous)
Other Sustainability Actions						
Preventative maintenance of building systems in place	Ongoing/In Progress		Practice maintained	Maintain Practice	1998	No End Date (Continuous)
Cardboard , aluminum and other metal cans and plastic containers recycling is in place	Complete		Cardboard , aluminum and other metal cans and plastic containers recycling is in place. All paper is shredded to maintain confidentiality	Maintain Practice	2005	No End Date (Continuous)