

Island Health 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time.



Island Health

Report Prepared by:
Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department



Territorial Acknowledgement

Island Health offers services on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples. We also respectfully recognize the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people who have chosen to make Vancouver Island their home.

Before Canada and British Columbia were formed, Indigenous Peoples lived in deep connection and reciprocity with the land, air and waters. Their stewardship continues to be foundational to climate resilience and environmental health. We acknowledge the impacts of colonization and Indigenous-specific racism, and the resulting health disparities that are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

At Island Health, we affirm that healthy lands and waters support healthy people. We honour the knowledge and leadership that Indigenous Peoples have long demonstrated in protecting their territories, stewardship that is central to environmental and community well-being. It is with humility that we continue to seek opportunities to build these relationships and work alongside Indigenous communities to support climate action. As part of this commitment, we are working toward reducing our energy consumption, minimizing water use, and scaling down our consumption of natural resources in pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable future.

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

May 31, 2026

Related Reports

2025 Island Health Strategic
Energy Management Plan

2024 Island Health Climate
Change Accountability Report

2024 Climate Change and
Planetary Health Strategy

2024 Low Carbon Resilience
Roadmap Report



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Table of Contents

Executive Messages.....	4
1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements	6
1.1 Document Overview	
1.2 Declaration Statement	
1.3 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Table	
1.4 Retirement of Offsets Statement	
1.5 Climate Change & Planetary Health Strategy	
2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management	10
2.1 Emissions Overview	
2.2 Building Emissions	
2.3 Fleet Emissions	
2.4 Paper Emissions	
2.5 Refrigerants - Fugitive Emissions	
2.6 Out-of-Scope Emissions	
3 Owned Infrastructure.....	17
3.1 Building Emissions & Energy Management	
3.2 Capital Projects & New Construction	
3.3 Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap	
3.4 Continuous Optimization	
4 System.....	22
4.1 Materials	
4.2 Water	
4.3 Transportation	
4.4 Leadership & Engagement	
5 Climate Change & Health.....	27
5.1 Organizational & Community Risk	
5.2 Climate Resilience & Adaptation	
5.3 Population and Public Health	
5.4 Emergency Preparedness	
6 Celebrating Successes.....	31
7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details	34

A Message from Island Health's President and Chief Executive Officer

Climate change is already affecting the health of people and communities across Vancouver Island and the surrounding region, and these impacts will grow in the years ahead. It is increasing risk to individual and community health and is changing what is required of the healthcare system. This Climate Change Accountability Report reflects our responsibilities to respond with transparency, urgency, and care.

In 2025, Island Health's approach to climate action was shaped by a deepening understanding that we must both adapt and respond to climate change while also reducing our environmental footprint. Through our Climate Change & Planetary Health Strategy, meaningful steps were undertaken to strengthen resilience, lower emissions and integrate climate considerations into everyday work. This included strengthening preparedness for climate-related emergencies, rethinking how facilities are designed and operated, and working alongside partners to better protect the health and well-being of those we serve.

This report reflects both the progress made and the work that still lies ahead. Meaningful action takes time, commitment, and strong relationships. Island Health remains focused on learning, improving, and doing our part within the health system – recognizing the health of people and communities is closely connected to the health of the planet.

I feel both grateful and privileged to work alongside the staff, medical staff, partners, and communities who continue to support, champion, and advance this work. Together, we are building a more resilient and sustainable health system for today and for the generations to come.

Kind Regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy MacNeil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy MacNeil

*President and Chief Executive Officer
Island Health*



Island Health



A Message from Island Health's Vice President, Community Clinical Operations & Support Programs

This Climate Change Accountability Report (CCAR) presents the 16th annual overview of Island Health's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As our reporting practices continue to evolve, so does our commitment to a transparent and accountable measurement of our environmental performance. Over the past year, our sustainability initiatives have delivered tangible benefits, including reduced operational risk, improved system resilience, operational cost savings, and a growing organizational culture of environmental stewardship. These outcomes reflect our continued commitment to healthier patients, healthier communities, and a more sustainable health system.

Climate action is now visible across Island Health's complex operations. Guided by our Climate Change & Planetary Health Strategy, we are seeing the value of coordinated approaches across multiple units and departments. Staff-driven innovations and an expanding network of clinical partners demonstrate a strong sense of shared responsibility and a collective desire to modernize our health system through sustainability.

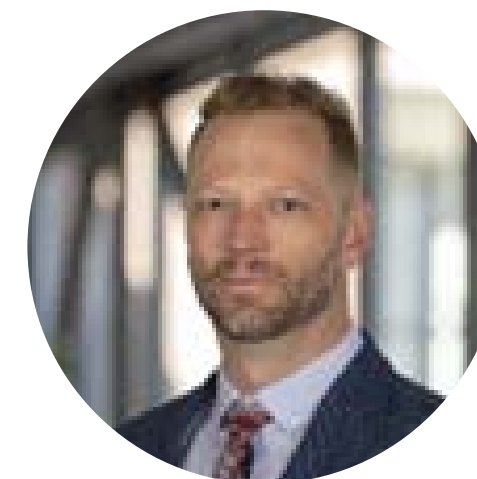
Since initiating carbon reporting in 2010, Island Health's commitment to reducing GHG emissions has continued to deepen and become firmly embedded within our Strategic Framework and Organizational Goals. Climate-action work is made possible by the dedication of staff across all levels of the organization and by our strong partnerships with the Ministry of Health, the Climate Action Secretariat, BC Hydro, and FortisBC. Moreover, the strength of our collaborative partnerships with peer health authorities across British Columbia are helping re-shape health care in Canada. These partners contribute essential policy guidance, technical expertise, and funding that support our emissions-reduction and environmental sustainability initiatives.

We remain committed to strategic energy management and targeted capital upgrades that are foundational to achieving our GHG reduction targets. Aligning with the provincial goal of a 50% reduction from 2010 levels by 2030, Island Health continues to integrate GHG-reduction strategies into capital project planning and delivery. Ongoing optimization of existing infrastructure will remain a priority, ensuring that our facilities operate as efficiently as possible while reducing emissions across our portfolio and improving patient comfort.

All new Island health capital projects – hospitals, long-term care homes, and cancer centres – are required to meet LEED Gold certification and incorporate low-carbon or net-zero carbon design principles.

As we continue to decarbonize our existing facilities, ensuring that new projects are aligned with our climate action commitments will be essential for long-term success.

Island Health also plays an active role in regional climate action, recognizing that environmental challenges and climate-related health impacts extend beyond organizational boundaries. Progress towards our 2030 and 2050 GHG reduction targets will require continued collaboration with partners, communities, and staff who share our commitment to a resilient, sustainable health system. Delivering excellent care for everyone, everywhere, every time depends on our ability to advance meaningful climate action now and in the years ahead.



James Hanson

*Vice President, Community Clinical
Operations & Support Programs*

Island Health

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

- ▶ **1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements**
 - 1.1 Document Overview
 - 1.2 Declaration Statement
 - 1.3 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Table
 - 1.4 Retirement of Offsets Statement
 - 1.5 Climate Change & Planetary Health Strategy
- 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management**
- 3 Owned Infrastructure**
- 4 System**
- 5 Climate Change & Health**
- 6 Celebrating Successes**
- 7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details**

01 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements



Overview

In 2025, Island Health continued to take meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase the organization’s resiliency to climate change, and protect both planetary and community health.

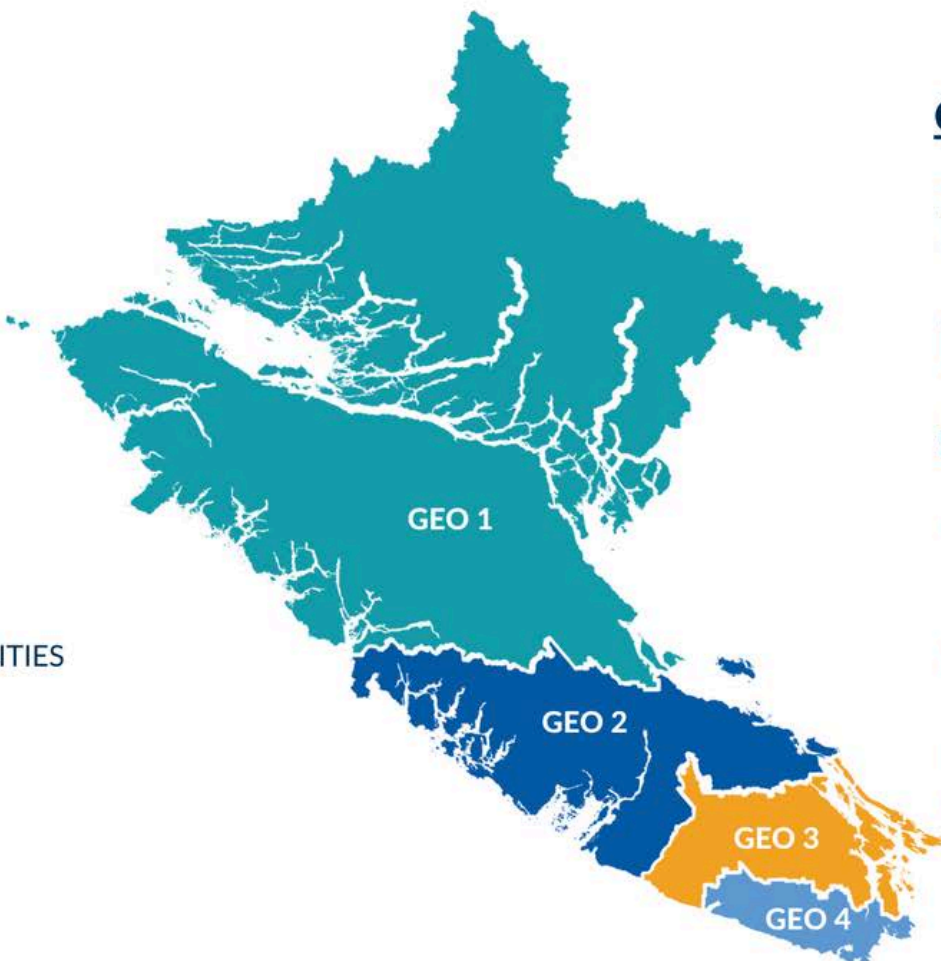
In alignment with provincial policy, the annual Climate Change Accountability Report outlines the actions taken by Island Health to reduce GHG emissions and address the impact of climate change on operations. This report provides an overview of the organizational emissions profile, progress toward reduction targets, climate adaptation initiatives, and key successes over the 2025 calendar year.

About Island Health

Island Health provides health and care services to more than 933,000 people on Vancouver Island, the islands in the Salish Sea and the Johnstone Strait, and mainland communities north of Powell River. With more than 32,500 health care professionals, technicians, and support staff, Island Health delivers a wide range of health services across a large and geographically diverse region — including public health, primary care, home and community care, mental health and substance use services, acute hospital care and more.

Key Figures

- ↑ **>933,000**
POPULATION
- ↑ **>32,500**
STAFF
- ↑ **1,926**
ACUTE BEDS
- ↑ **287**
SITES AND FACILITIES
- ↑ **641,599 m²**
FLOOR SPACE



Climate Impact

- 28,396 tCO₂e**
EMISSIONS OFFSET
- 89.7%**
BUILDINGS
- 5.5%**
FLEET
- 3.2%**
FUGITIVE
- 1.6%**
PAPER
- \$704,225**
OFFSET INVESTMENT



Legislative Reporting Requirements

Declaration Statement

This Climate Change Accountability Report for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, summarizes Island Health’s GHG emissions profile, the total offsets to reach carbon neutrality, the actions taken in 2025 to reduce GHG emissions, and plans to further reduce emissions in 2026 and beyond.

By June 30, 2026, Island Health’s final 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report will be posted to www.islandhealth.ca.

2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary

Island Health 2025 GHG Emissions and Offsets Summary	
GHG emissions for the period January 1 – December 31, 2025	
Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	30,191
Total BioCO ₂	1,795
Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e)	28,396
Adjustments to Offset Required GHG Emissions Reported in Prior Years	
Total Offsets Adjustment (tCO ₂ e)	-227
Grand Total Offsets for the 2025 Reporting Year	
Grand Total Offsets (tCO ₂ e) to be Retired for 2025 Reporting Year	28,169
Offset Investment (\$25 per tCO ₂ e)	\$704,225

To achieve carbon neutrality, Island Health invests in emissions reduction projects by purchasing B.C.-based offsets through the provincial government. The offset payments provide incentives to BC-based projects that reduce emissions through GHG removal or avoidance according to provincial regulations. These projects support British Columbia’s green economy and provide social, environmental, and economic benefits to all British Columbians. The offset projects can be viewed on the BC Carbon Registry.

Retirement of Offsets Statement

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Accountability Act and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation, Island Health (the Organization) is responsible for arranging for the retirement of the offsets obligation reported above for the 2025 calendar year, together with any adjustments reported for past calendar years (if applicable). The Organization hereby agrees that, in exchange for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) ensuring that these offsets are retired on the Organization’s behalf, the Organization will pay within 30 days, the associated invoice to be issued by the Ministry in an amount equal to \$25 per tonne of offsets retired on its behalf plus GST.



Climate Change and Planetary Health Strategy

The Island Health region is already facing the consequences of a changing climate. Extreme heat, wildfires and wildfire smoke events, extreme precipitation, and prolonged droughts have placed mounting pressures on staff, infrastructure, and public health. In response, Island Health has taken steps to address these challenges head-on and shift towards a system that withstands environmental pressures and contributes to planetary health.

Published in 2024, Island Health's Climate Change and Planetary Health Strategy is anchored by four key priorities:

- 01** Improve the climate resiliency, adaptability, and environmental sustainability of health-care services.
- 02** Create a culture of coordinated and effective climate action.
- 03** Build sustainable and climate-resilient health-care infrastructure and operations.
- 04** Build a shared path with partners and communities towards climate resilience.



2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements

▶ 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management

2.1 Emissions Overview

2.2 Building Emissions

2.3 Fleet Emissions

2.4 Paper Emissions

2.5 Refrigerants - Fugitive Emissions

2.6 Out-of-Scope Emissions

3 Owned Infrastructure

4 System

5 Climate Change & Health

6 Celebrating Successes

7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details

02 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management



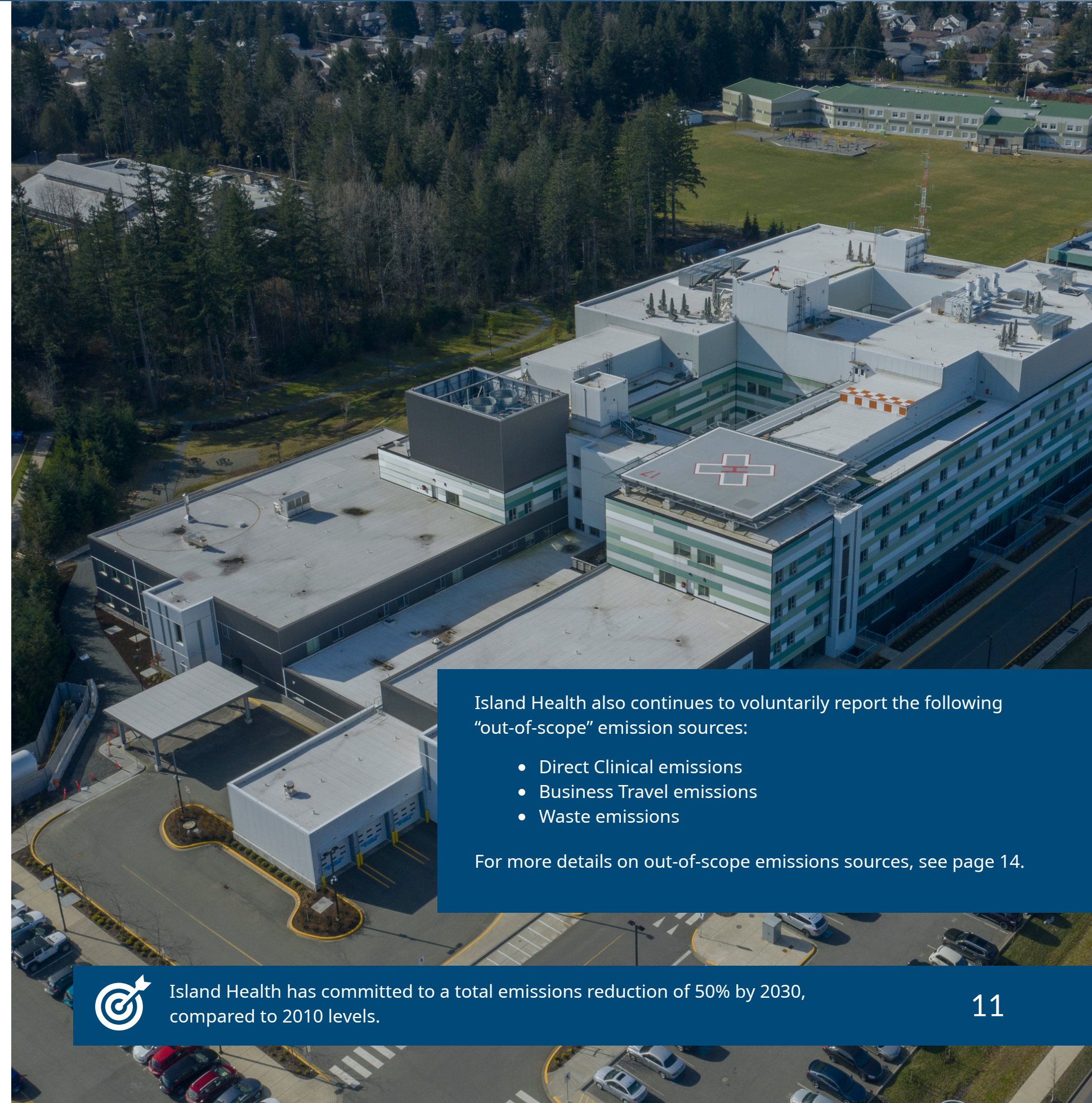
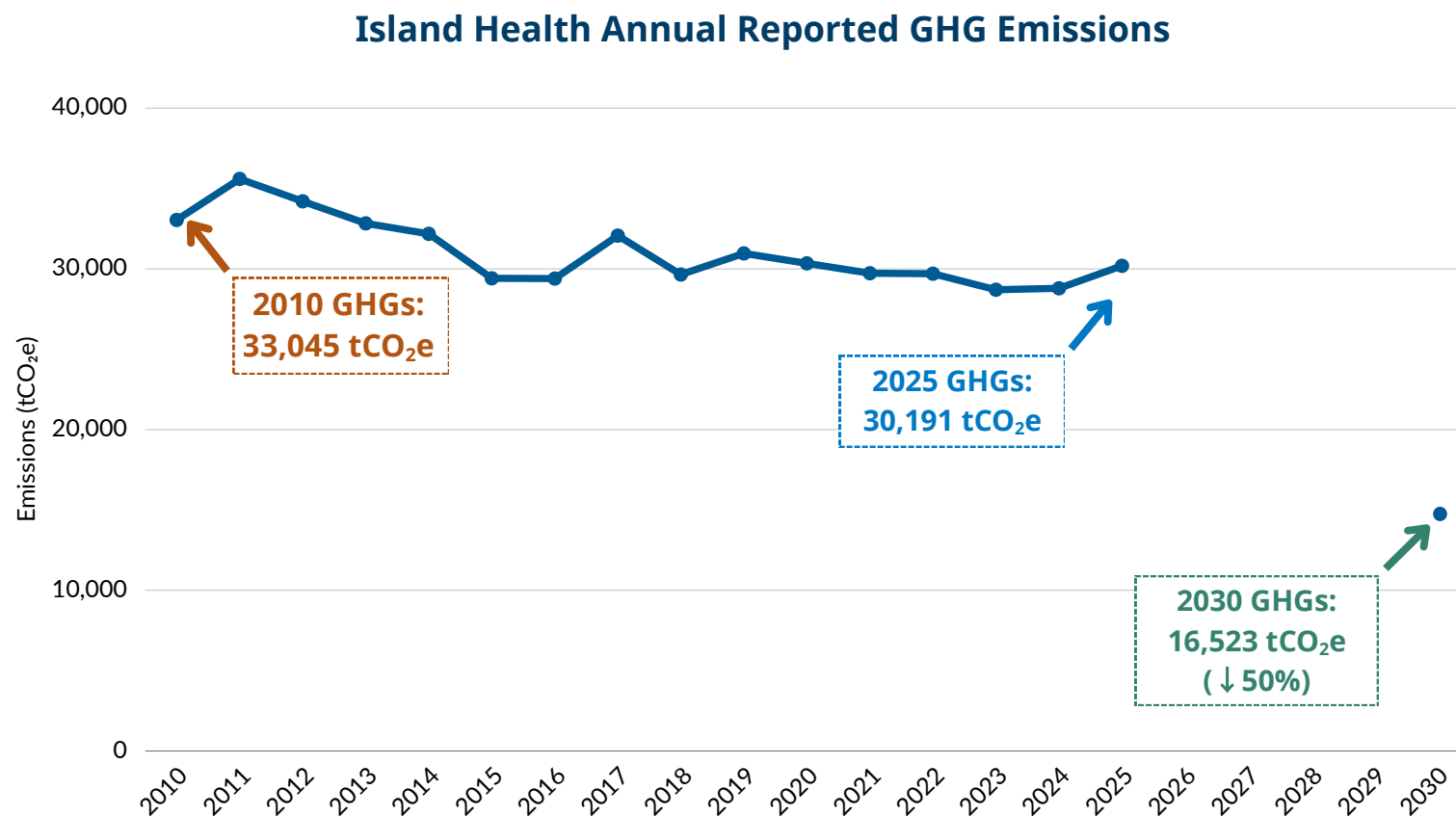
Emissions Overview

In 2025, Island Health’s total reportable emissions were 30,191 tCO₂e. This represents a 4.86% increase from 28,792 tCO₂e in 2024.

The overall increase was driven primarily by a substantial change to the purchased electricity emissions factor, which rose by 300% compared to 2024, significantly increasing estimated emissions from building energy. An emissions factor is a standard value used to estimate how much greenhouse gas pollution is produced for each unit of energy used. As a result of this change in emissions factor, in 2025, an overall lower amount of energy use resulted in significantly higher reported emissions from building energy. In addition, Island Health purchased less renewable natural gas (RNG) than in the previous year, which further increased stationary energy emissions.

Fleet emissions decreased in 2025, driven by the implementation of Geotab and improved monitoring of vehicle efficiency. Office paper emissions also saw a significant decrease, caused by a reduction of over 14,700 reams of paper purchased compared to 2024 and continued shifts in purchasing behavior towards 100% recycled products such as Sugar Sheet®.


Refrigerant emissions were reported in 2025, contributing 980 tCO₂e to Island Health’s total reportable emissions.



Island Health also continues to voluntarily report the following “out-of-scope” emission sources:

- Direct Clinical emissions
- Business Travel emissions
- Waste emissions

For more details on out-of-scope emissions sources, see page 14.

 Island Health has committed to a total emissions reduction of 50% by 2030, compared to 2010 levels.

Building Emissions

While Island Health achieved an overall reduction in building energy use in 2025, building energy-related emissions increased to 27,084 tCO₂e, up from 25,853 tCO₂e in 2024. As presented previously, the main contributors to this increase in emissions was the change in the electricity emissions factor combined with reduced purchase volumes of renewable natural gas.

Emissions from building energy made up 89.7% of Island Health’s reportable emissions in 2025. Major infrastructure upgrades are planned or underway at hospital sites and are expected to generate substantial emissions and cost savings in future years. For more details, see page 18.



Natural gas is used for space heating, water heating, sterilization, and humidification at most sites and represents the largest source of emissions from Island Health’s buildings. In 2025, Island health substituted 6.8% of its total conventional natural gas with renewable natural gas (RNG) derived from organic waste decomposition. Although RNG cannot be directed to a specific location, it can be purchased from FortisBC at a higher price point to reduce reported emissions and decrease mandatory carbon offset costs and support the emergence of cleaner fuel sources.

Island Health’s Continuous Optimization also reduced GHG emissions by 600 tCO₂e in 2025 across five critical facilities. Through targeted energy efficiency measures, the program was able to save over 1.3 million kWh of electricity and 12,600 GJ of natural gas. For more details on the Continuous Optimization Program, see page 21.

Fleet Emissions

In 2025, emissions from fleet vehicles totalled 1,655 tCO₂e, a 4% decrease from the previous year.

Island Health is working to reduce fleet-related emissions by transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and implementing strategies to improve overall fuel efficiency. The organization is committed to the CleanBC provincial mandate, ensuring 10% of light duty vehicle replacements are zero emission vehicles (ZEV).

This year, Fleet Services implemented Geotab across Vancouver Island with a 95% installation success rate. The system monitors fuel efficiency and vehicle idling, helping identify inefficient vehicles and reduce unnecessary idling.

Island Health’s vehicle procurement strategy has been aligned to prioritize electric and hybrid vehicles for new purchases, with 90% of vehicles procured in 2025 falling within these priority categories. Fleet Services replaced two medium-duty vehicles with fully electric trucks in 2025, resulting in a significant reduction in emissions over the lifetime of the vehicles.



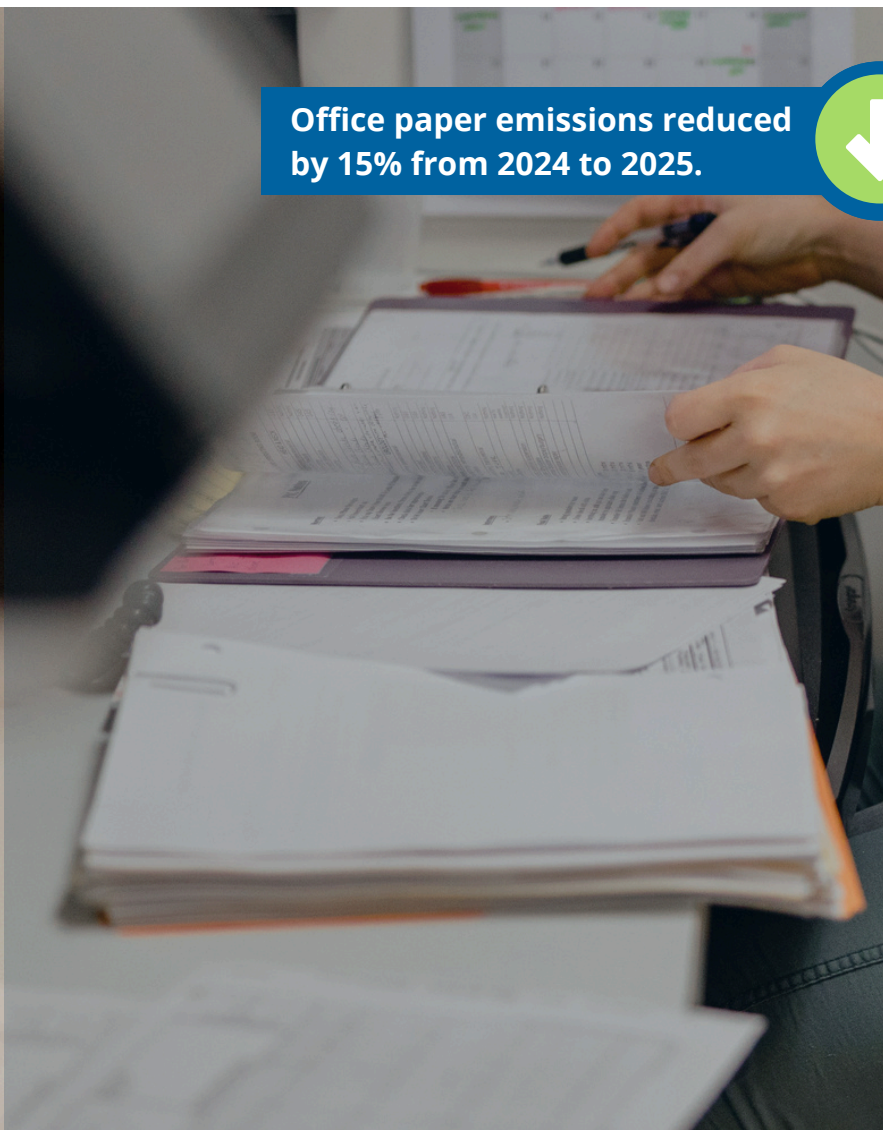
 **Fleet emissions reduced 4% from 2024 to 2025**

Reducing fleet emissions requires considerable planning, resourcing, and investment, especially as fleet growth increases organizational emissions. Additional challenges include limited electrical capacity in older and leased facilities for charging infrastructure. A Green Fleet study is planned for 2026 to assess electrification feasibility and identify infrastructure and planning needs. Island Health’s Fleet Services, Parking Services, Facilities Maintenance & Operations (FMO), and the Energy, Environment & Climate Change (EECC) Department continue to collaborate to identify charging infrastructure opportunities and to advance fleet electrification.

Paper Emissions

In 2025, emissions associated with office paper totalled 472 tCO₂e, representing a 15% decrease from last year’s 555 tCO₂e. Office paper accounted for 1.6% of Island Health’s reportable emissions.

Paper purchasing patterns in 2025 demonstrate a continued shift toward products with higher recycled content. Across all paper types, 90% of paper products ordered contained 100% recycled content. Purchases of paper with 0% recycled content declined by 36%, while purchases of 30% recycled content paper declined by 45%.



This transition reflects the effectiveness of initiatives designed to promote alternatives that generate lower emissions. Island Health’s standard letter-sized paper is Sugar Sheet®, an alternative paper made from sugarcane waste byproducts. To reinforce the shift to this low-emissions product, certain high-emission paper types continued to be restricted from purchase in 2025.

The Sustainable Office Supply Guide was reissued in 2025 in collaboration with Staples Professional, supporting environmentally responsible staff purchasing by encouraging preferred products based on quality, sustainability, cost, and social responsibility.

Additionally, Island Health’s transition to electronic health records (EHRs) has significantly reduced the need for printed order sheets and requisitions at key sites. EHRs are now fully operational at 10 acute and long-term care facilities across the region, likely contributing to the overall reduction in paper use.

Refrigerant – Fugitive Emissions



Refrigerants, used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems, present a significant climate risk due to their high global warming potential (GWP). Island Health has systematically identified, quantified, and reported fugitive refrigerant emissions from a range of equipment, including ice and water dispensers, food service equipment, medical equipment, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Island Health reported 980 tCO₂e in 2025, which accounts for 3.2% of the organization’s reportable emissions. While these emissions are reported and carbon offsets payments are made, fugitive emissions from refrigerants are not included in Island Health’s 2030 emissions reduction target.

Out-Of-Scope Emissions

Island Health’s climate impact extends beyond the in-scope, or legislatively required, reported emissions sources of fuels from buildings, fleet vehicles, office paper, and fugitive emissions sources. Out-of-scope emissions sources are not included in the Carbon Neutral Government Regulation and are thus not formally reported nor require carbon offsets.

Island Health continues to voluntarily track, analyze, and report the following “out-of-scope” emission sources:

- **Direct Clinical Emissions**, which were 3,294 tCO₂e in 2025, a 10% reduction from 2024.
- **Business Travel Emissions**, which were 3,336 tCO₂e in 2025, a 4% reduction from 2024.
- **Waste Emissions**, which were 950 tCO₂e in 2025, a 13% increase from 2024.



In 2025, Island Health conducted an external validation of non-reportable emissions. Island Health has revised its out-of-scope reporting methodology in alignment with international standards and protocols. As our reporting practices continue to be refined, some changes in reportable figures will occur. Island Health is committed to remaining transparent of trends in non-reportable emissions categories as calculation methodology improves and evolves.

Island Health also became engaged in a province-wide initiative to expand out-of-scope emissions tracking and build a standard GHG methodology in collaboration with the other provincial health authorities. Categories planned for future emissions tracking are Purchased Goods and Services, Capital Goods, Upstream Transportation and Distribution, and Employee Commuting.

Direct Clinical Emissions

Direct clinical emissions are greenhouse gas emissions which are released directly into the atmosphere from the use of clinical materials under Island Health’s control. This emissions category includes anesthetic gases (desflurane, sevoflurane, and nitrous oxide) as well as metered dose inhalers (MDIs).

In 2025, direct clinical emissions at Island Health totalled 3,294 tCO₂e, which represents a 10% reduction from 2024 and a 64% reduction from the 2010 baseline year. Further reductions will require sustained collaboration with clinical partners to reduce desflurane use, address nitrous oxide leaks at key hospitals, and to prescribe, procure, and waste fewer MDIs where clinically appropriate.

Anesthetic Gases: Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a commonly used analgesic or adjunct anesthetic used in hospital settings. However, recent studies have shown that the vast majority of the N₂O delivered through central manifold systems is lost due to inefficiencies and leaks. In response, many hospitals and health systems, including Island Health, are transitioning to portable e-cylinder delivery solutions, decommissioning central manifold systems in existing facilities, and avoiding their installation in new builds.

Internal assessments suggest that waste from the manifold system is most significant at Victoria General Hospital (VGH), Island Health’s largest consumer of nitrous oxide. In 2025, Island Health successfully completed an e-cylinder pilot project in VGH’s Labour and Delivery unit and subsequently expanded the clinically accepted approach to additional delivery rooms. Planning also continued to enable the use of e-cylinders in anesthesia settings across all Island Health hospitals.

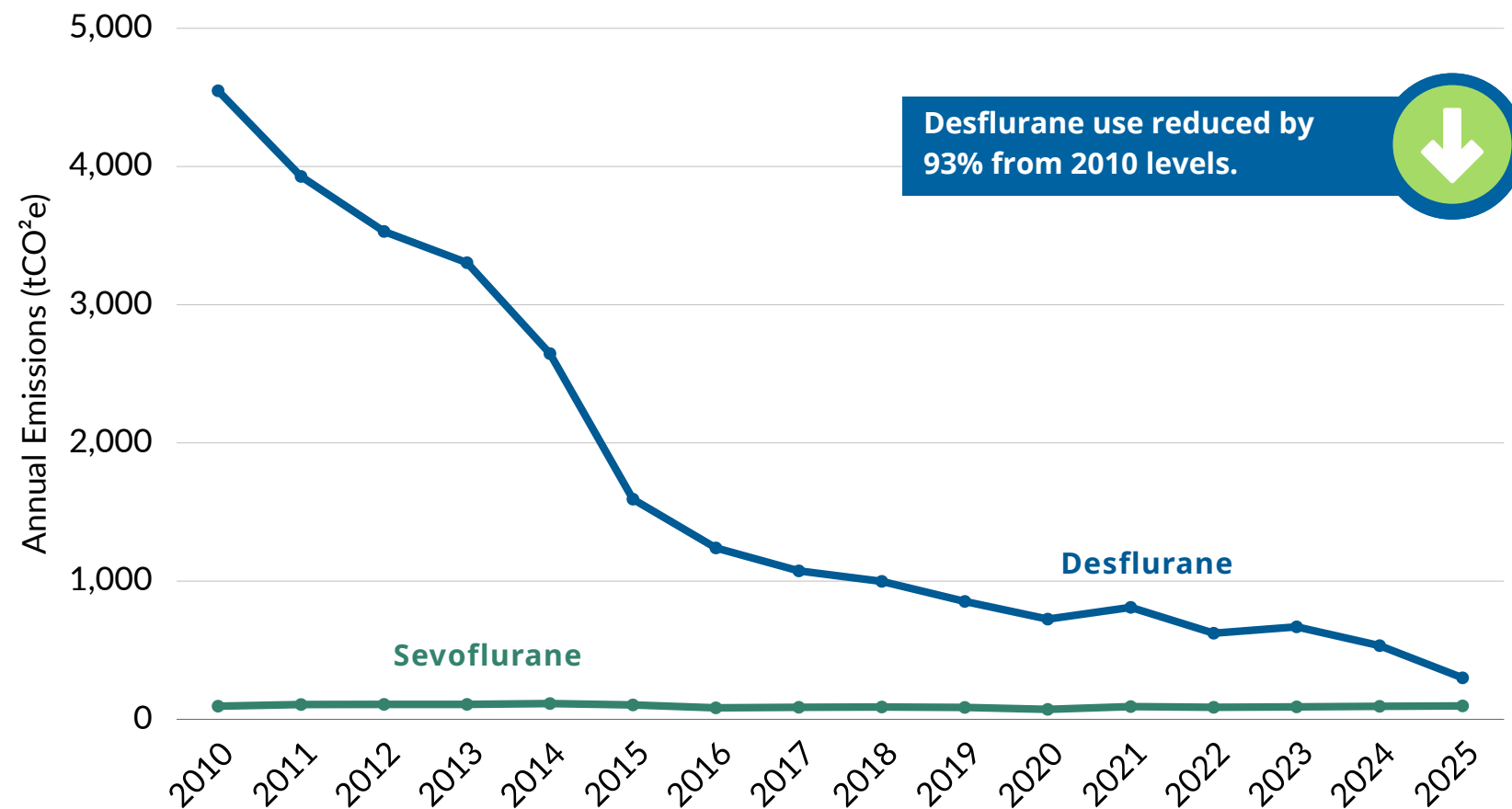


Anesthetic Gases: Desflurane and Sevoflurane

Island Health’s continued reduction in the use of desflurane, a commonly used anesthetic that is also a potent greenhouse gas, remains a key driver of declining direct clinical emissions. National and regional anesthesia organizations recommend avoiding the use of desflurane due to its well-known environmental effects, cost impacts, and efficacy of alternative anesthetic techniques.

In 2025, Island Health reduced the use of desflurane by 44% from the previous year, avoiding 233 tCO₂e from being emitted from Island Health hospitals. This marks the largest year-over-year drop in desflurane emissions in more than 15 years.

Desflurane and Sevoflurane Annual Emissions



Throughout the year, an Island Health working group of anesthesiologists and anesthesia assistants led a coordinated effort to build a clinical consensus to remove desflurane vaporizers across most operating room sites, making them available by request only. This shift not only reduced emissions, but also saved nearly \$28,000 in anesthetic gas costs, owing to the lower price and higher efficiency of desflurane's less-polluting alternative, sevoflurane. This change was achieved with no impact to quality or safety.

Metered-Dose Inhalers

Metered dose inhalers (MDIs) are essential medications in hospital settings and are emissions intensive, as they use hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) propellants that are potent greenhouse gases. Other inhaler types, such as dry powder inhalers, are available and have lower environmental impacts. At Island Health, MDIs directly procured by the health authority are a source of GHG emissions within the organization’s GHG boundary.

Emissions from MDIs decreased by 8% from 2024 to 2025, reflecting ongoing efforts to reduce inhaler-related environmental impacts.

Island Health's Dr. Valeria Stoyanova and Dr. Celia Culley continue to lead efforts to reduce inhaler-related emissions through the Critical Air Project. In 2025, the team won the Achievement in Sustainable Care award from Health Quality BC for their quality improvement initiatives, which focus on optimizing sustainable prescribing and inhaler waste reduction.



One source of avoidable waste identified was the maintenance inhalers stored in hospital unit ward stocks in automated dispensing cabinets (ADCs). Unlike rescue inhalers, which are required for fast-acting emergency use, maintenance inhalers are not intended for acute symptom relief. Maintenance inhalers sometimes go unused, or duplicates are unnecessarily removed from ADCs or dispensed from the hospital pharmacy dispensary the next day. The Critical Air team partnered with UBC Pharmacy students and the Saanich Peninsula Hospital interdisciplinary team, including Pharmacy, to remove maintenance inhalers from the hospital’s ward stock, while ensuring continued access from the pharmacy dispensary. This initiative is being explored at other Island Health hospitals.

Another quality improvement project to help reduce avoidable inhaler waste is in progress at Comox Valley Hospital. Interdisciplinary teams, led by an Island Health Pharmacy resident, have explored opportunities to enhance communication and other processes to reduce inhaler loss during patient transfers from the CVH Emergency Department to the adult medical ward.



An 80% reduction in direct clinical emissions is targeted by 2030, compared to 2010 levels.

Business Travel Emissions

Business travel emissions are indirect (Scope 3) emissions resulting from employees travelling for work purposes in vehicles not owned or controlled by the organization. At Island Health, business travel includes trips made using personal and rental vehicles, taxis and rideshares, ferries, airplanes and seaplanes, and buses.

In 2025, Island Health’s business travel emissions totalled 3,336 tCO₂e, a 4% decrease from 2024. As was the case in previous years, the largest contributor to 2025 business travel emissions came from reimbursed employee vehicle mileage, at 98% (3,269 tCO₂e). Reimbursed employee vehicle mileage continues to account for significantly more travel distance than Island Health’s in-scope fleet vehicles at 1,655 tCO₂e.

As part of its fiscal responsibility efforts in 2025, Island Health reduced business travel wherever appropriate, an approach that also contributed to a reduction in related GHG emissions. This experience reflects the interconnected nature of responsible financial management and reduced environmental harm.



Waste Emissions

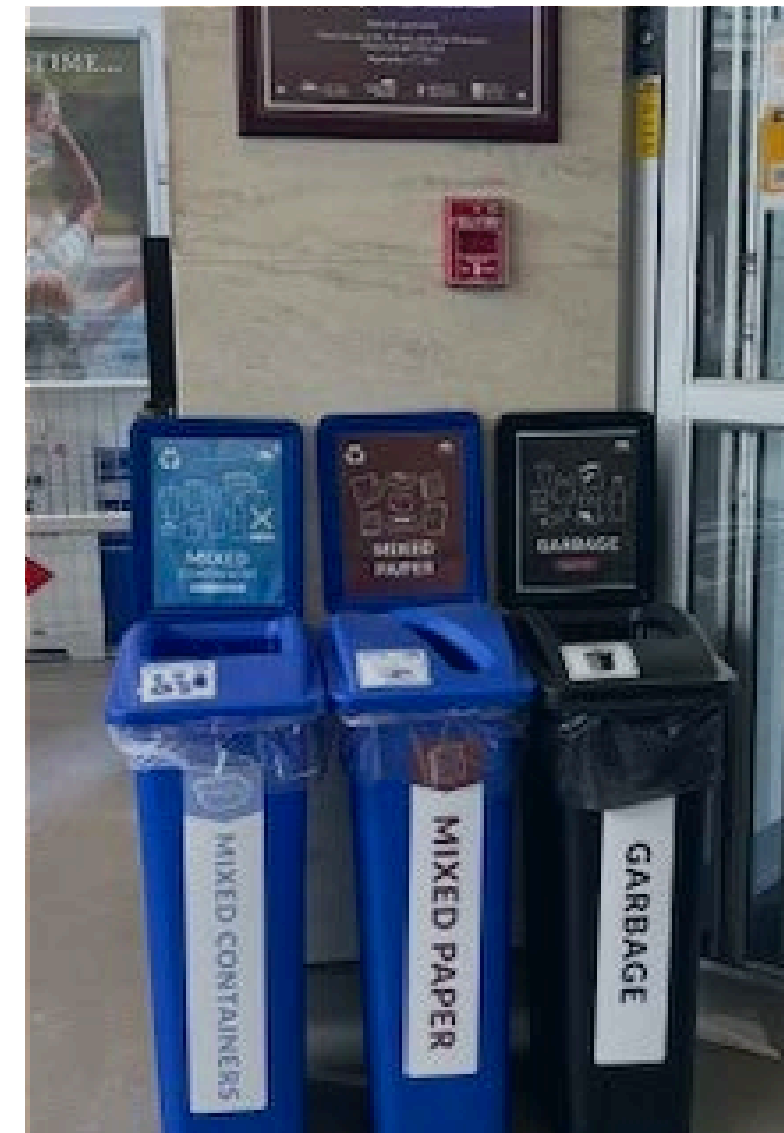
Waste emissions at Island Health encompass several streams, including landfill, recycling, organics, and biomedical waste. Emissions from waste are calculated using tonnage data collected from waste haulers, with stream-specific emissions factors applied to determine total impacts.

In 2025, Island Health’s total waste emissions were 950 tCO₂e, a 13% increase from 2024. This increase correlated with higher waste tonnage across all major waste streams, including landfill, recycling, organics, confidential shredding, and biomedical waste streams.

Despite the increase in waste emissions, Island Health diverted 43% of total waste from landfills in the 2025 calendar year, reflecting ongoing efforts to improve waste management and recovery across the organization.

Biomedical waste is the most emissions-intensive and costly waste stream due to high-emission treatments such as autoclaving and incineration, as well as longer transportation distances. Biomedical waste emissions saw an increase of 22% from 2024.

Waste is a complex space, which is influenced by education and targeted programming, making it difficult to clearly pinpoint the sources of gains and deficits. The increase in overall waste-related emissions in 2025 may be attributable to several factors, including increases in the number of patients served in 2025, leading to higher amounts of waste generated, as well as improved staff adherence to biomedical waste segregation and controlled substances protocols. Reducing unnecessary biomedical waste generation and improving waste segregation practices continue to present significant opportunities to lower both emissions and costs from waste.



Island Health has committed to achieving 70% waste diversion from landfills by 2030.

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management

▶ **3 Owned Infrastructure**

- 3.1 Building Emissions & Energy Management
- 3.2 Capital Projects & New Construction
- 3.3 Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap
- 3.4 Continuous Optimization

4 System

5 Climate Change & Health

6 Celebrating Successes

7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details



03 Owned Infrastructure



Building Emissions & Energy Management

To achieve the province's public sector emissions target for 2030, emissions from stationary sources will need to decrease significantly over the next five years. Since 2010, progress towards the provincial targets has been slow, despite efforts from various departments including Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Facilities Maintenance and Operations and Facilities Design & Construction (FDC).

Looking ahead, Island Health's strategy for achieving the 2030 reduction target will require a multi-pronged approach as follows:

01

Implementation of the Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap, developed in partnership with BC Hydro and FortisBC. The roadmap prioritizes capital projects based on technical viability and cost effectiveness to create a viable path to a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030, with considerations for the 2050 target of 80% emissions reductions.

02

Reduce heating demand and eliminate wasteful energy use through continuous optimization of existing assets.

03

Implement capital infrastructure upgrades with significant GHG reduction potential. Examples of current projects include:

- Building Automation System upgrades at West Coast General Hospital, Tofino General Hospital, Victoria General Hospital, Royal Jubilee Hospital and Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.
- Mechanical HVAC system upgrades at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital and the Summit Long Term Care Home to improve ventilation and cooling systems.
- Implementation of a battery energy storage system at Tofino General Hospital to serve the hospital during outages.

04

Design of highly efficient new buildings based on low temperature heating, including:

- Low temperature hydronic heating devices
- Ground or air source heat pumps
- Waste heat recovery

Capital Projects & New Construction

New construction and renovations offer a valuable opportunity to incorporate climate change resiliency measures into design. Traditionally, facilities have been designed using historical weather data, but this approach is no longer representative of the climate new facilities will operate in. Island Health now requires engineers and architects to use future climate projections to inform the design of building systems. Island Health has developed an extreme event screening tool that identifies potential climate hazards and associated risks at the outset of a project. This tool has been used to screen projects and adjust the scope of work to integrate climate resilience measures.

Design teams also follow the Low Carbon Resilience and Environmental Sustainability Guidelines for Health Care New Construction (the LCRES Guidelines) to inform the design of long-term care facilities from the planning stage onward. These guidelines include three pillars:

- **Low Carbon** – Shifting away from conventional fossil fuel-supplied energy systems to incorporate alternatives such as electrification, renewable fuels and low carbon district energy.
- **Environmental Sustainability** – Improve, maintain or restore health outcomes, while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.
- **Climate Resilience** – Facilities can anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from and adapt to climate-related stressors to bring ongoing and sustained health care to their populations.



The following major capital projects showcase how future Island Health facilities are integrating low-carbon, climate-resilient, and sustainable measures.

Quw'utsun Valley Hospital/ Quw'utsun Q'aq'i-ew't-hw

Scheduled to open in 2027, the new Quw'utsun Valley Hospital sets a new standard for low-carbon health care in Canada. Designed to be fully electric, the facility eliminates natural gas use through advanced heat recovery and high-efficiency systems. A large rooftop solar array will reduce grid demand, and the building is targeting LEED Gold certification while achieving the ambitious Zero Carbon Building standard, addressing both operational and embodied carbon. Beyond the building, Island Health achieved Salmon-Safe certification, marking a milestone as the first hospital in B.C. to achieve this recognition.



Nanaimo Cancer Centre

Opening in 2028, the Nanaimo Cancer Centre will deliver low-carbon, climate-resilient care for the Centre and North Island regions of Vancouver Island. The facility will operate with a fully electric thermal plant, while material choices such as lower-carbon concrete reduce embodied emissions by more than 12% from baseline. Targeting LEED Gold certification, the centre is designed to account for future climate conditions and will be the first Island Health facility to participate in BC Hydro's relaunched New Construction Program.



Western Communities and Nanaimo/Lantzville Long Term Care Centres

Construction on two new long-term care homes is expected to begin in 2026, with completion anticipated in 2029. Each facility incorporates high-efficiency building systems, low-carbon energy strategies, and planning for future climate conditions. Both projects are pursuing LEED Gold certification and leveraging detailed energy modelling and utility incentive programs to reduce emissions and support comfortable, resilient care environments.

Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap

The Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap lays out a path to transform Island Health’s infrastructure to be low-carbon and climate resilient by 2050. It offers a clear and prioritized list of capital projects and valuable insights to inform site master planning. It also increases access to funding from BC Hydro, FortisBC, and government programs, and supports collaborative solutions before infrastructure changes occur.

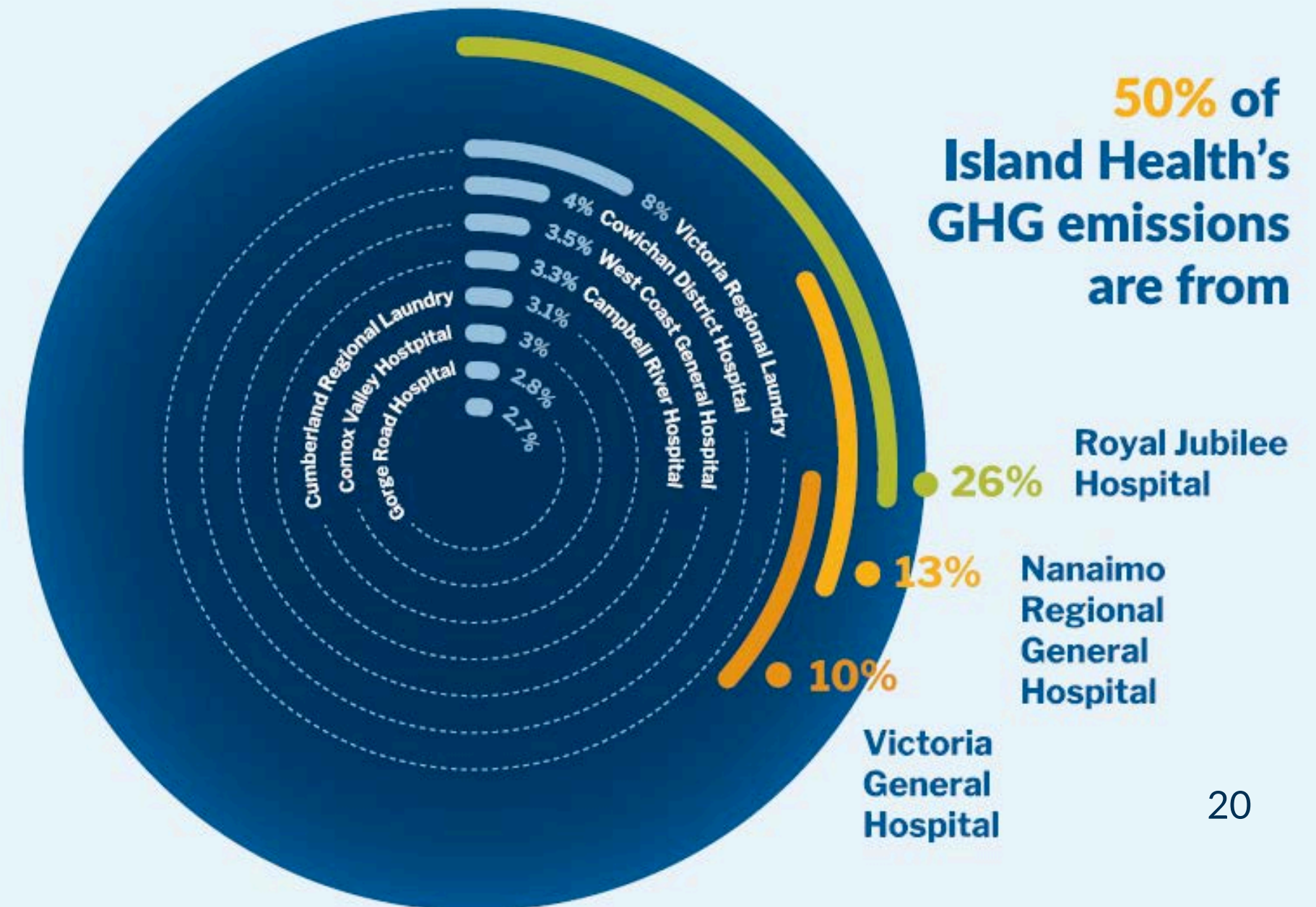
The Roadmap is an important step in reaching the organizational goal to cut GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. The plan focuses on reducing fossil fuel use in buildings by improving building systems, adding energy-saving upgrades, and using electric and renewable energy options. Upgrades recommended also address future climate demands while making improvements to indoor air quality.



Just 10 of Island Health’s buildings are responsible for over 80% of the organization’s total building emissions, with RJH, NRGH, and VGH representing a combined 50%. Because of this, most infrastructure upgrade plans are focused on our large acute hospitals and regional laundries. A separate process was conducted to create an infrastructure renewal plan for long-term care facilities, which together account for approximately 10% of the organization’s total building emissions.

Capital investments also consider the need for added cooling capacity to Island Health facilities in the face of hotter summers and prolonged heat events, paired with increased air filtration to address concerns as wildfire smoke events become more prevalent.

For more details on how Island Health is implementing the Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap, see page 32.



 A 33% reduction in building Energy Use Index (EUI - kWh/m²) is targeted by 2030, compared to 2008/2009 levels.



Continuous Optimization

An area where Island Health has achieved significant GHG savings and enhanced energy efficiency is through its internal Continuous Optimization Program. This program primarily focuses on modernizing building automation systems and optimizing the performance of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Continuous optimization enables the organization to consistently drive low-cost innovation and excellence in building performance.

The benefits of continuous optimization are extensive and multifaceted. Island Health aims to achieve between 5% and 25% energy and greenhouse gas savings in each facility through this program. Improved overall building performance also enhances patient experience by increasing comfort and improving indoor air quality.

In 2025/2026, the Continuous Optimization Program saved approximately:

- **1,300,000 kWh of electricity**
- **12,600 GJ of natural gas**
- **600 tCO₂e of GHG emissions**

These savings resulted from a coordinated set of initiatives – each of which was implemented at all four of the participating sites below:

- **Chemainus Health Care Centre**
- **Dufferin Place**
- **Aberdeen Hospital**
- **Royal Jubilee Hospital -
Diagnostics and
Treatment Centre**

Implementing high performance sequences of operation for ventilation.

Applying a dynamic hot water trim and respond program.

Expansion of SkySpark fault detection and analytics program.

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management

3 Owned Infrastructure

► 4 System

4.1 Materials

4.2 Water

4.3 Transportation

4.4 Leadership & Engagement

5 Climate Change & Health

6 Celebrating Successes

7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details

04 System



The health-care system is complex and resource intensive. Significant environmental impacts arise from the volume of materials used and discarded, the water demands of sanitation, HVAC, food services, and the daily transportation of patients, staff, and supplies. Within this complexity, however, lies a clear opportunity to drive environmentally responsible improvements that strengthen both care delivery and climate resilience.

Materials

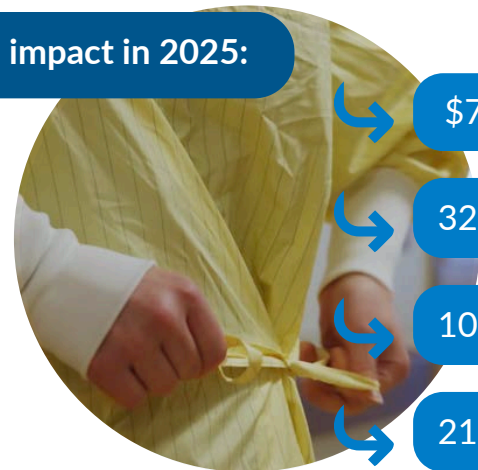
Island Health is advancing sustainability best practices by increasing the landfill diversion rate and reducing the volume and environmental impact of materials coming into the organization through improved procurement practices. In 2025, Island Health diverted 43% of waste from landfills and continues to pursue opportunities to improve waste management and recovery across the organization.

Reusable Gowns Program

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Island Health experienced a 463% increase in PPE gown usage. Simultaneously, the cost of disposable gowns also surged by 408%, placing significant strain on the health authority and contributing to substantial environmental waste.

To address these challenges, Island Health launched a program to replace disposable level 2 isolation gowns with a reusable, laundered alternative. With a lifecycle of 100 washes, reusable gowns offer enhanced protection for staff, improved control over gown supply chain reliability, and substantially reduced environmental harm. In 2025, Island Health conducted a wide rollout of the Reusable Level 2 Isolation Gowns Program across 50+ acute, long-term care, and community sites in the South Island region. In the first year of the program, the organization replaced an estimated 350,000 disposable Level 2 Isolation Gowns with reusables.

Program impact in 2025:



\$775,949 in estimated cost savings

32 tCO₂e in avoided emissions

10,655 litres of water saved

21 metric tonnes of solid waste avoided

Island Health plans to continue to support and expand this initiative in the coming years.

PPE Recycling Program

Usage of single-use personal protective equipment (PPE) has remained elevated since the pandemic. In response, the Utilization and Resources team launched the provincial PPE Recycling program in June 2024, a PHSA-funded initiative delivered in partnership with Vitacore, and Staples.

Since the PPE Recycling Program launched at Island Health in June 2024:

- 664 PPE recycling bins were installed in seven acute care sites.
- 108 metric tonnes of PPE has been recycled, equivalent to the weight of three gray whales.

This provincially funded PHSA initiative operates with a standardized scope and processes across participating health authorities. Strong engagement from Island Health staff has been central to its success, helping divert a high-volume PPE waste stream that was previously sent to landfill. This work supports Island Health's goal of diverting 70% of waste from landfill by 2030 and reflects the impact of coordinated, system-wide waste reduction efforts.



Waste Audits and In-Services

In 2025, the Utilization and Resources team conducted targeted waste audits in the Emergency Rooms, Intensive Care Units, Operating Rooms, Renal Units, Labs, and inpatient units across nine acute care and long-term care sites. The audits identified inconsistencies in waste segregation, infrastructure challenges and knowledge gaps across sites, units and overlapping and parallel departments. To address these findings, the team:

- Developed standardized waste in-service education aligned with provincial and national waste standards, focusing on garbage, recycling, and biomedical waste streams.
- Delivered more than 100 in-service education sessions to frontline staff and site leadership, reinforcing correct sorting practices, the impacts of improper disposal, and accepted items and common contamination examples for each waste stream.
- Partnered with clinical programs and support services to align waste standards across departments that share spaces and workflows, supporting more consistent waste practices across sites.
- Fostered ongoing staff engagement and feedback, leading to clearer, more relevant education materials and the emergence of unit-level waste champions supporting peer learning and accountability.
- Updated intranet resource pages with practical waste guides, infographics, printable posters, and staff-focused articles developed by the Utilization and Resources team to support ongoing learning.

Public Waste Stations

Access to convenient and clearly labelled recycling options in public spaces varied across Island Health facilities. To address this gap, the Utilization and Resources team led an initiative to improve recycling accessibility and visibility in public and shared areas across the island.

Since the Public Waste Stations initiative began:

- Recycling access was assessed in public spaces across more than 18 Island Health sites.
- Nearly 350 standardized public waste station bins were installed in acute and long-term care sites.
- Colour-coded signage with common accepted items was implemented on bin lids and fronts to improve visibility, accessibility, and ease of use, for both staff and the public.
- A standardized waste station ordering guide was developed and made available on the Island Health Recycling and Waste intranet page, enabling units to easily order approved bins, signage, and decals.

These ongoing efforts help maintain clean, well-labelled public waste stations, reinforcing confidence in recycling across Island Health and supporting continued progress in waste reduction and climate action.



Water

The Water Use Index (WUI) is a performance indicator that tracks water usage per m^2 of owned facilities. In 2025, Island Health's WUI was $1.70 m^3/m^2$, marking a 6% reduction from the 2018 baseline.

As climate change increases the frequency of drought, wildfire, and infrastructure disruptions, Facilities Maintenance and Operations has invested in an emergency potable water trailer fleet to strengthen short-term resilience during water outages and boil water advisories. The fleet, managed by the Facility Operational Resiliency Team (FORT) provides safe drinking water and limited operational support to sites during an emergency, helping protect patients and staff. However, it is not intended to fully sustain hospital operations during prolonged or high-volume water failures. To address major outage risk, FORT is advancing capital projects to develop high-volume, site-based water storage at Royal Jubilee Hospital, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, West Coast General Hospital, and Victoria General Hospital, ensuring stronger long-term water security for critical care delivery.



A 20% reduction in building Water Use Index (m^3/m^2) is targeted by 2030, compared to 2018 levels.

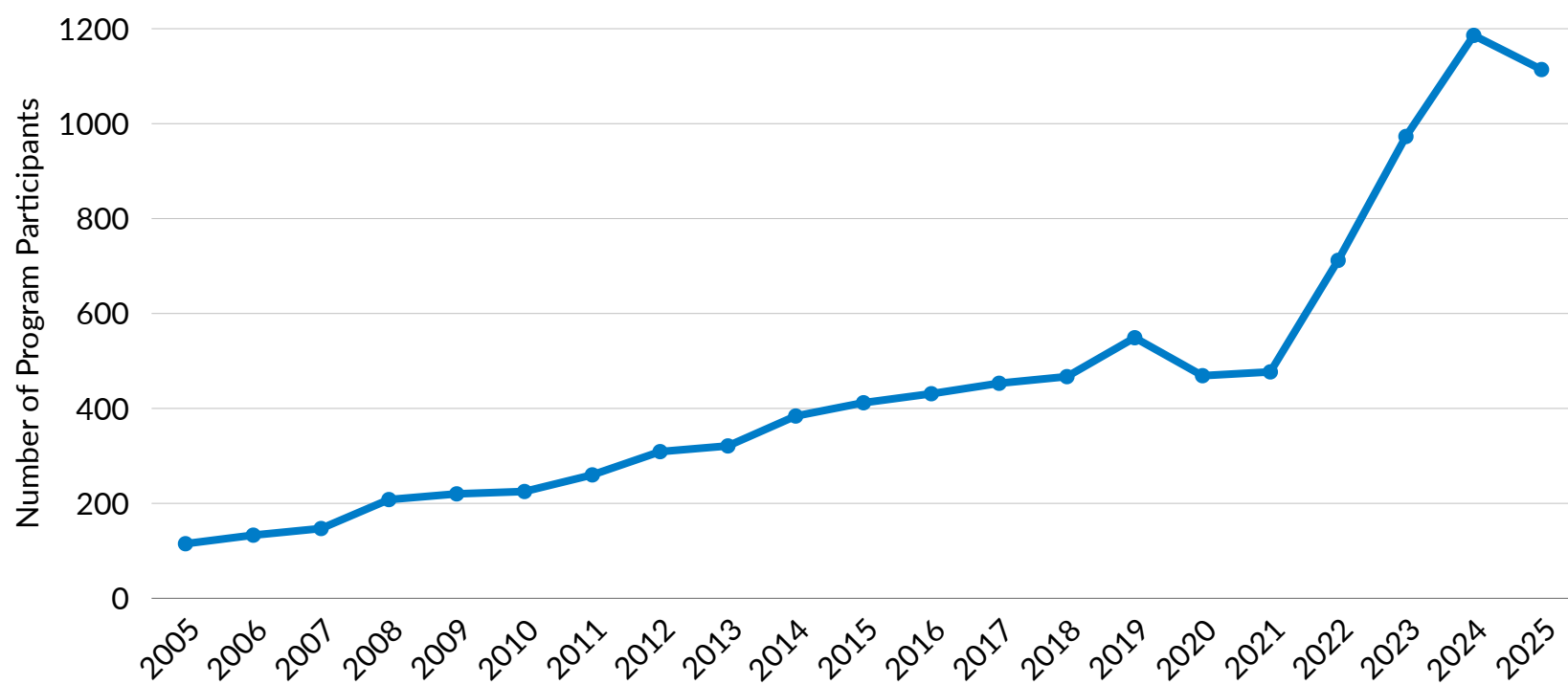
Transportation

Island Health acknowledges the health impacts linked to vehicle emissions arising from organizational operations, including fleet use, business travel, staff commuting, visitor transportation, and the movement of goods and services. To combat these transportation-related emissions, Parking Services offers alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel through secure bike storage, a centralized ridesharing platform, and subsidized BC Transit ProPASS enrolment.

A key focus of this year's transportation efforts was advancing opportunities identified through the 2024 Employee Commute Report, which gathered 1,128 survey responses. Results showed that 73% of respondents were willing to adopt more sustainable commuting habits. This informed efforts to strengthen transit programs and bicycle infrastructure.

In 2025, the Parking Services team participated in a Victoria regional transit planning workshop to help inform a 25-year vision for transit in the area. Discussion on increasing bus service to Royal Jubilee Hospital began and included the City of Victoria to explore potential bus layover locations. Additionally, eligibility for the ProPASS program at Island Health was expanded to include employees in the Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley transit areas. Despite significant growth in previous years, the ProPASS program saw a 6% decline in ridership from 2024 to 2025, caused by a pause in enrolment for several months in 2025. Beginning in 2026, staff in these regions will have access to the program and the subsidized transit fares, and with this expansion, ridership is expected to rebound.

Annual ProPASS Program Enrollment



Expanding Bicycle Parking Infrastructure

To address the need for more bicycle parking, funding was allocated to build additional secure bicycle parking structures at Royal Jubilee Hospital and Victoria General Hospital. These two sites were selected due to high levels of bicycle use, with survey results identifying a lack of secure parking as a key barrier. The initial project phases are currently underway, with completion anticipated in 2026.

Leadership & Engagement

Climate action is most effective when broadly supported. Island Health continues to integrate sustainability and planetary health into day-to-day operations and clinical care, while supporting leaders and frontline teams to take practical action within their areas of responsibility. By reducing barriers, sharing solutions, and recognizing staff leadership, the organization is building a culture where sustainability is visible, valued, and embedded in how care is delivered.

Green Teams Program

Green Teams help turn staff ideas into real, on-the-ground climate action. These voluntary, staff-led teams work within their own sites and units to identify practical ways to reduce waste, cut pollution, and strengthen climate resilience. The Environmental Sustainability Program supports teams with hands-on project guidance, learning opportunities, and access to tools and resources, while also connecting members to a growing community of practice that builds skills and career-relevant experience.

After a successful pilot in 2024, the Green Teams Program was formalized in early 2025 with twice-a-year onboarding cohorts and paid hours for clinical staff. By the end of 2025, 14 Green Teams were active across acute, community, long-term care, urgent and primary care sites, and specialized clinical settings. These Green Teams supported over 40 unique sustainability initiatives and completed an impressive 21 projects.



Green Operating Rooms Program

Operating rooms are among the most energy and resource intensive areas in health care – and sustainability improvements in these environments can also strengthen patient safety, care quality, and system efficiency. The Green Operating Rooms (ORs) Program was created in 2025 and provides OR teams with evidence-based tools, education, and hands-on guidance to help turn ideas into action. Multidisciplinary Green OR teams meet monthly, use an annual Green OR Scorecard to identify opportunities for improvement, and have access to up to five hours per month of paid, protected time for sustainability work completed outside regular shifts.

By December 2025, four operating room sites have participated in the program, embarking on more than 10 different sustainability initiatives. Early results include improved recycling workflows in OR theatres, increased use of safe and effective reusable supplies, and significant reductions in the use of desflurane, an anesthetic gas that contributes to climate change.

Climate-Resilient Island Health E-Learning Course

Climate-Resilient Island Health is a new four-module e-learning series that helps staff and medical staff understand how their work supports Island Health’s climate change response. Launched in December 2025, the course explores how climate change affects health and health-care operations in the region, and highlights practical, role-appropriate actions that respect staff time, expertise, and capacity.

The course brings climate and health concepts to life through real stories from Island Health teams, short videos, infographics, and interactive activities. It respectfully includes Indigenous Knowledge and highlights the strengths and leadership of local Indigenous communities in building climate resilience across the region.

The course was developed as a partnership between Island Health’s Energy, Environment, & Climate Change and Population & Public Health departments, with input from clinicians and a wide range of Island Health teams. It will continue to be promoted to staff throughout 2026 and will inform future sustainability-focused learning offerings.



Planetary Health Awards

In November 2025, Island Health hosted its first Planetary Health Awards to recognize staff and medical staff who are leading meaningful work to advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience across the organization.

Twenty-two individuals and teams were honoured at a virtual celebration, with representation from a wide range of roles: from nurses and anesthesiologists to facilities managers and community health staff. Their stories reflected the many ways sustainability shows up in day-to-day health care work, through their efforts to reduce single-use plastics, improve building efficiency, maintain healing gardens, and improve access to care during climate-related emergencies.

Two Excellence in Planetary Health Award winners were selected by a panel of judges, recognizing their outstanding impact, collaboration, problem-solving, and the integration of sustainability into day-to-day operations.

Overall, the awards program highlighted how climate action at Island Health delivers co-benefits such as improving quality, reducing costs, and strengthening access to care, while also helping build a culture where sustainability leadership is recognized and celebrated.

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management

3 Owned Infrastructure

4 System

▶ 5 Climate Change & Health

5.1 Organizational & Community Risk

5.2 Climate Resilience & Adaptation

5.3 Population and Public Health

5.4 Emergency Preparedness

6 Celebrating Successes

7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details

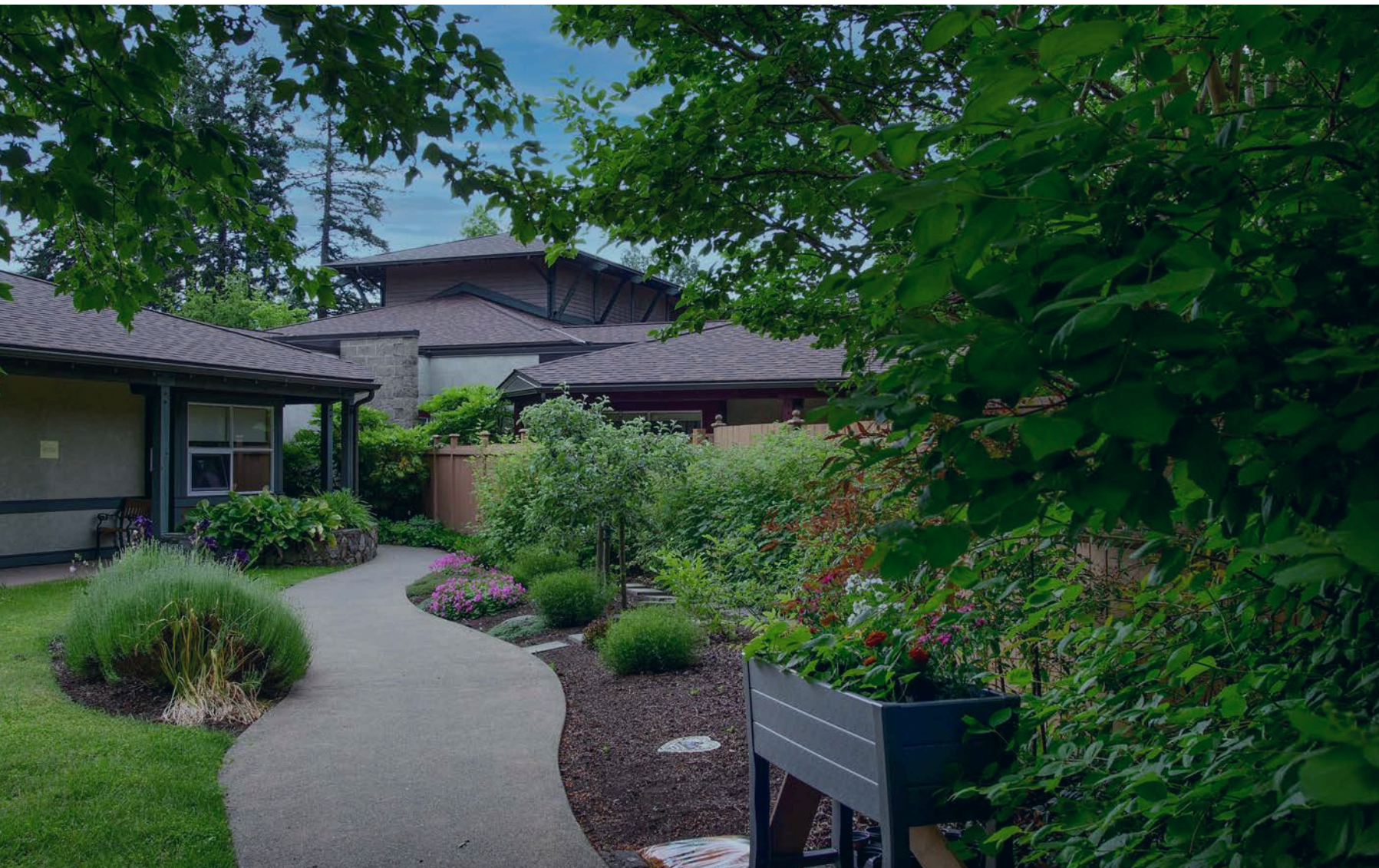
05 Climate Change & Health



Climate change continues to present risks for the health of local communities, health-care operations and facility infrastructure. While Island Health strives to minimize its climate impact, the Health Authority recognizes that building resilience within facilities is critical for maintaining health services as the climate changes.

Organizational & Community Risk

In 2019, Island Health identified lack of resilience to the changing climate as a top risk for the Health Authority, which resulted in the development of a risk profile in 2020. As climate change is an evolving challenge over a long time horizon, a wide range of controls will be required to reduce its impacts. The main control identified at this time involves resilience planning in new construction, so all facilities are developed to withstand climate extremes over their lifespan. Raising awareness about the impacts of climate change is also essential, enabling staff and communities to take preventative actions and incorporate climate change into decision-making. Many moving parts, alongside engaged and collaborative groups and departments, are working together to build a more climate-resilient Island Health.



Climate Resilience & Adaptation

Existing Facilities

Existing facilities make up the largest floor area within Island Health's building stock, contributing to 641,599 m² in floor space. Aging facilities are more likely to struggle with resilience to climate change because of the vulnerabilities of older infrastructure. Prior assessments indicate short-term impacts of climate change include extreme heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, and severe wind events. Facility operators have started to address these concerns, including stocking specialized air filters to be used on ventilation equipment during smoke events and expanding cooling capacity for long-term care sites. This provides an opportunity to use heat pumps, which can also reduce GHG emissions.

Public Education & Awareness

Island Health's Healthy Environments team promotes climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and healthy environments by addressing environmental determinants of health. Guided by the principle "Ecosystem is Our Health System," the team uses a systems-based approach to reduce environmental health impacts and integrate climate-health into local decision-making. Through partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, municipalities, and other stakeholders, they strengthen community capacity for equitable, sustainable health outcomes. This multidisciplinary team develops evidence-based strategies to support healthy community design and climate adaptation.



Population and Public Health

The primary goal of Population and Public Health (PPH) is to address the preventable causes of poor health and health inequities through policies, programs, and regulations that promote well-being and prevent harm. These causes, known as the social determinants of health, include factors like income, education, housing, and social support. In recent years, climate change, pandemic responses, and the toxic drug crisis have emerged as major health challenges. Climate change is now recognized as one of the most significant global health threats (PPH Strategic Plan 2023–2028).

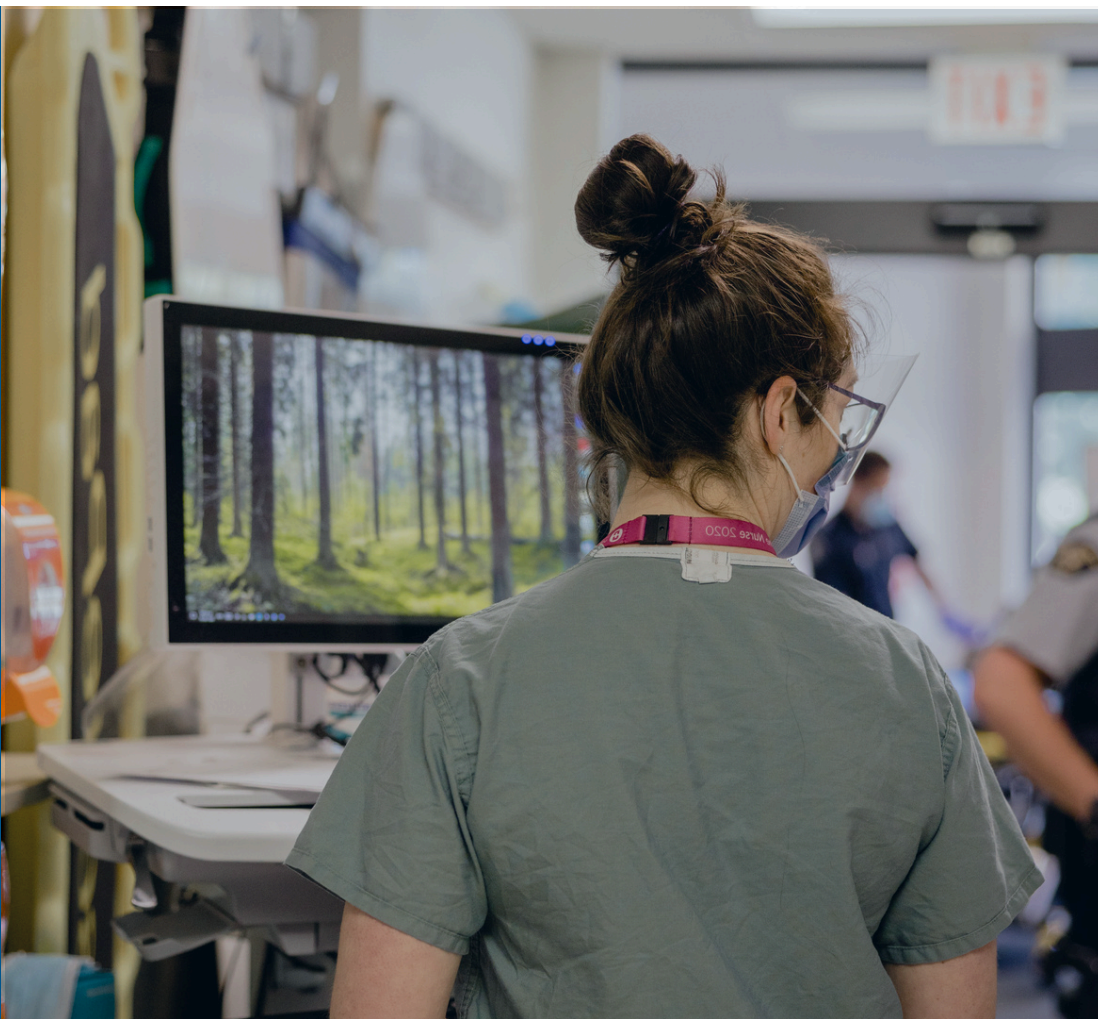


2025 Success Areas	Impact Details
Water Scarcity and Climate Adaptation	Supported water security with community and engineering for rainwater capture to meet drinking water standards for a health-care facility (Gabriola Community Health Centre).
Community Planning & Climate Preparedness	Supported Official Community Plans, local resiliency plans, and public preparedness through municipal events, youth outreach, and emergency fairs to promote heat and smoke readiness.
Public Health Messaging & Tools	Delivered joint communiques, outdoor safety tools, and DIY air cleaner promotion to support local governments and the public during heat and wildfire smoke events.
Climate-Integrated Health Systems	Embedded climate risk into public health planning, surveillance, and emergency response to address illness, mental health, food insecurity, and health inequities.
Targeted Monitoring & Support for Vulnerable Populations	Expanded indoor/outdoor air quality monitoring, initiated health checks during extreme heat, and monitored indoor temperatures for high-risk homecare clients.
Island Health Source and System Assessment tool for larger (SASA)	Over 85% of large water systems completed a sources and system assessment to identify vulnerabilities that may impact their systems' day-to-day operations, their routine and ongoing maintenance, and most importantly their susceptibility to climate change impacts.
Cross-Sector Collaboration	Used cross-departmental and community-guided approaches to create a resilience assessment framework.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a foundational element of Island Health's climate resilience efforts, as climate change increases the frequency and complexity of hazards such as extreme heat, wildfires, seismic events, flooding, and infrastructure failures. These climate-driven risks directly threaten the reliability of health-care infrastructure and Island Health's ability to provide safe, uninterrupted care to patients and communities.

Throughout 2025, the Island Health Facilities Management & Operations (FMO) Facility Operations Resiliency Team (FORT) focused on strengthening operational continuity for essential services. This work included advancing business continuity planning for major acute hospitals, as well as smaller acute and long-term care sites, with targeted attention on climate sensitive utilities such as power, potable water, heating, cooling, ventilation, medical gases, and wastewater systems. As local and global climate emergencies place increasing strain on interconnected infrastructure, FORT ensures Island Health's facilities are better prepared to withstand and recover from disruption.



Operational readiness was further strengthened through expanded training and the deployment of digital tools designed to support efficient and coordinated emergency response during disruptive events. These initiatives included the development of an AI support agent through Microsoft Copilot and an FMO Business Continuity Web/Mobile App, replacing the traditional reliance on printed documents with intuitive digital resources. Tools such as Copilot, SharePoint, Power Apps, and Power Automate enable more efficient operations by reducing reliance on paper-based systems and ensuring real-time access to current emergency plans.



Water and heat resilience remained key priorities for FORT in 2025. Emergency Management continued to lead emergency water continuity initiatives, including bottled water programs, water trailer operations, and support for onsite water storage projects. In parallel, extreme heat response guidance and mitigation strategies were developed and implemented for facilities not originally designed for rising temperature extremes. Modernization of crisis communications further strengthened climate resilience by improving post disaster connectivity between sites and enabling more effective coordination without increasing operational costs.

Island Health continues to work closely with Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) and health authority partners, providing advice on emerging infrastructure-related emergency preparedness issues and supporting a coordinated, climate-resilient health system across our owned and leased sites. Currently, FORT is collaborating with HEMBC on preparations for 2026 Accreditation and proactive planning for the upcoming drought and wildfire season.

2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

- 1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements
- 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management
- 3 Owned Infrastructure
- 4 System
- 5 Climate Change & Health
- ▶ 6 Celebrating Successes
- 7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details

06 Celebrating Successes



Celebrating Successes

Across Island Health, teams made significant strides in environmental sustainability this year, leading projects that reduced waste, improved energy performance and demonstrated the power of collective action. Here is a look at a few of the many initiatives driving climate action forward in our organization.

Designing Climate-Ready Care Through the Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap

The Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap creates a path to transform Island Health’s infrastructure to be net-zero carbon and climate resilient by 2050. Developed in collaboration with BC Hydro, FortisBC, and several Island Health departments, the roadmap lays out infrastructure planning in existing and planned facilities to achieve a portfolio of low-carbon, climate-ready buildings. Over 24 capital projects to improve infrastructure are underway.

One example is recovering heat generated by mechanical processes and repurposing it throughout a building. The system works by capturing heat before it leaves the building and redistributing it where needed, improving overall energy efficiency throughout the facility.

As a result, gas-fired heating boilers do not have to turn on. In addition to reducing heating demand, the process improves a building’s ability to reject heat, enabling it to be cooled more effectively during warmer weather without the need for expensive, single-purpose heat-rejection equipment such as cooling towers. These systems were implemented at West Coast General Hospital in 2025, resulting in more than 60% emissions reduction.

Other ongoing projects include implementing a battery energy storage system at Tofino General Hospital, upgrading the HVAC system in the In-Patient Tower at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, and retrofitting the air handling units at the Priory Long-term Care Home. The ability to advance multiple energy projects simultaneously supports Island Health’s progress toward building a low-carbon portfolio.



Sustainability in Motion at The Summit

At The Summit Long Term Care Home, environmental sustainability was a prominent theme in 2025, with the Green Team and the facilities department taking action to drive positive change.

Established in 2024 as one of Island Health’s first Green Teams, the cross-departmental group implemented several initiatives over the year, including reusable medication spoons and cups, improved recycling systems, the development of a new e-waste process, and a paper reduction campaign. The Summit also served as the pilot long-term care site for the Reusable Level 2 Isolation Gowns Program in development for the South Island. Through this pilot The Summit avoided 5,481 disposable gowns in 2025, resulting in the reduction of:

- 321 kgs of waste
- 497 kg of GHG emissions
- 166 litres of water
- And saving the organization \$12,000+

At the same time, the facilities team tackled energy use behind the scenes. They calibrated the building’s air flow sensors for the first time, ensuring the ventilation system accurately measures and responds to real conditions. They also reprogrammed ventilation controls so airflow adjusts based on need, rather than running at constant high levels designed for peak heating and cooling conditions. The project is in the final stages of commissioning. This work was supported by funding from the B.C. Government’s Carbon Neutral Capital Program and the local Regional Health District.

Together, these efforts improve indoor air quality and comfort for residents and staff while lowering energy use. This resulted in estimated annual savings of:

- 260,000 kWh of electricity
- 850 GJ of natural gas
- 45 tons of GHG emissions
- \$27,000 in utility costs

Efforts from both these teams demonstrate how coordinated action can deliver meaningful environmental and operational benefits, setting a strong foundation for continued progress.



Medical Imaging Launches Empty Contrast Glass Bottle Recycling Pilot

Hospitals generate a wide variety of waste streams, making opportunities to divert specific materials particularly valuable. In April, Medical Imaging units across eight hospital sites launched a pilot project to recycle empty contrast glass bottles. The initiative was developed to improve recycling practices by establishing clear, consistent pathways for materials that were previously disposed of as waste.

Over the first eight months, the pilot delivered strong environmental outcomes through collaboration between Medical Imaging staff, housekeeping, and the Utilization and Resources team, demonstrating how coordinated efforts at the unit level can drive meaningful change.



From April to December 2025, the pilot achieved:

- ↳ 3,146 kgs of empty contrast glass recycled
- ↳ 754 packages collected from Medical Imaging units across eight sites
- ↳ 1,660 kgs of GHG emissions avoided
- ↳ Estimated 2,981 kgs of CO₂ avoided

These results reflect the day-to-day commitment of frontline staff who adapted workflows, maintained proper segregation, and ensured material was captured consistently. Housekeeping teams played a critical role in supporting collection and transport, while the utilization and resources team provided program coordination and education.

This pilot highlights the success of targeted recycling initiatives in clinical areas and reinforces Island Health's continued progress toward waste diversion and emissions reduction through staff-driven solutions.

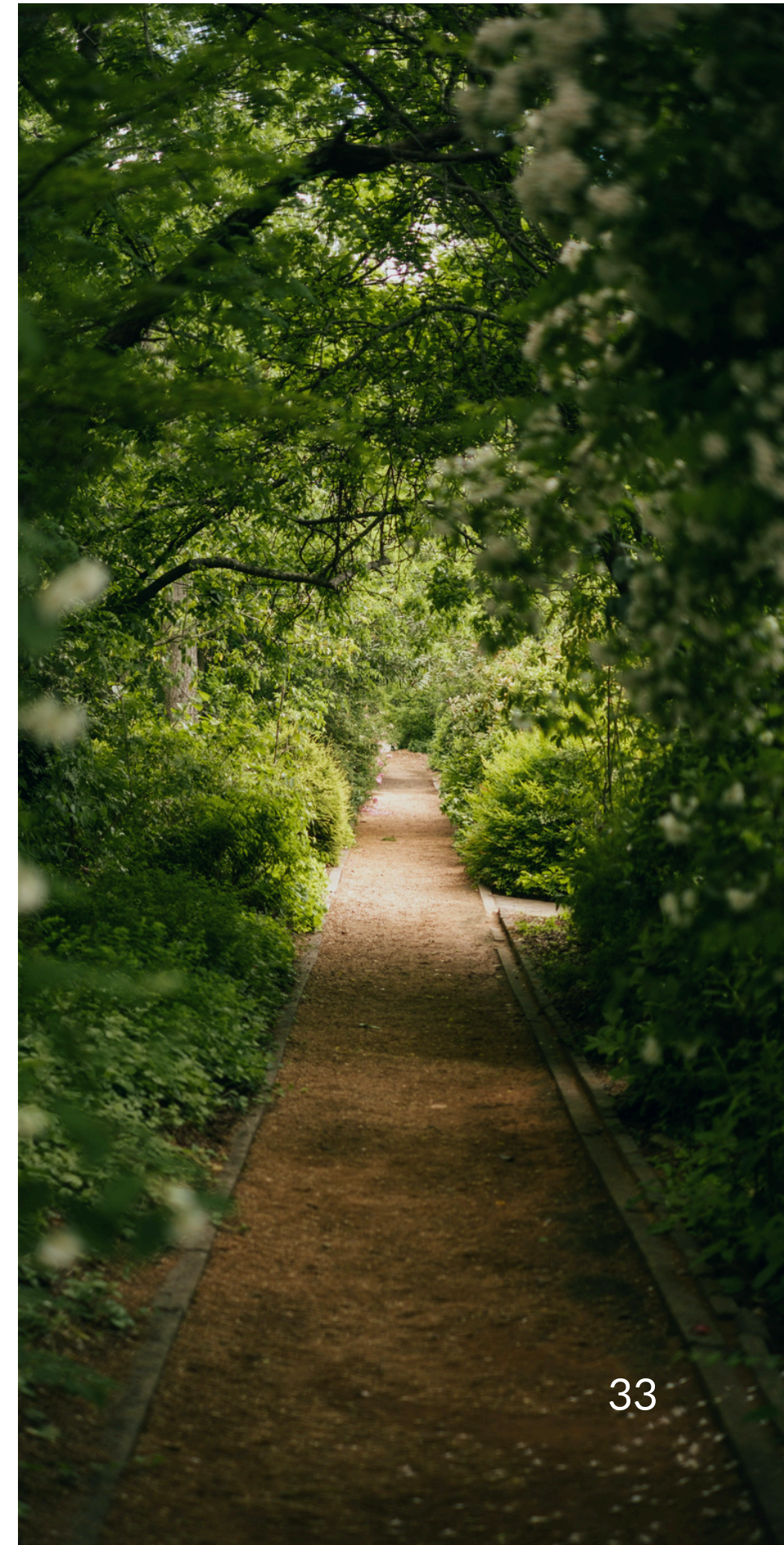
From Leadership to Legacy: Advancing Climate Action for the Future

Island Health's recent progress in climate action has been significantly advanced through the aligned leadership of Kim Kerrone, Vice President of Support Services and Chief Financial Officer, and Dean Anderson, Executive Director of Facilities Management and Operations. Together, they brought a depth of understanding in energy management, climate action, and environmental sustainability, helping to embed these priorities into organizational decision-making and shaping the development of the Climate Change and Planetary Health Strategy.

Kim demonstrated exceptional leadership by recognizing not only the operational and financial value of environmental initiatives, but also their role as important risk management strategies. By clearly linking energy efficiency, cost savings, and decarbonization, she strengthened the business case for sustainability and positioned energy management as a strategic investment across the health system.

Dean's leadership drove significant operational progress, including the establishment of a well-resourced energy management team and the launch of the first building systems optimization program of its kind in British Columbia's public sector. His commitment to innovation and system-wide transformation enhanced Island Health's ability to reduce emissions and improve building performance.

As Kim and Dean retire in 2026, Island Health expresses deep gratitude for their vision, teamwork, and lasting contributions. Their leadership created momentum that will continue to guide climate and planetary health efforts well into the future.



2025 Climate Change Accountability Report

Navigation

1 Overview & Legislative Reporting Requirements

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management

3 Owned Infrastructure

4 System

5 Climate Change & Health

6 Celebrating Successes

► 7 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details

07 Appendix - GHG Emissions Details



Appendix A: GHG Emissions Details

Reporting Year	Fleet [tCO ₂ e]	Office Paper [tCO ₂ e]	Buildings [tCO ₂ e]	Fugitive Emissions [tCO ₂ e]	Total Emissions [tCO ₂ e]	Exempt Emissions [tCO ₂ e]	Emissions for Offsetting [tCO ₂ e]	Offset Cost [tCO ₂ e]	Emissions per FTE [tCO ₂ e/ FTE]	Emissions Intensity [tCO ₂ e/ m ²]
2010	922	831	31,292	NA	33,045	61	32,984	\$823,025	2.91	0.065
2011	901	747	33,951	NA	35,598	58	35,540	\$880,125	3.09	0.070
2012	878	717	32,610	NA	34,205	51	34,154	\$855,025	2.84	0.065
2013	892	714	31,227	NA	32,833	53	32,780	\$801,025	2.72	0.062
2014	911	691	30,579	NA	32,181	55	32,126	\$774,850	2.64	0.061
2015	888	706	27,820	NA	29,414	866	28,549	\$702,275	2.22	0.055
2016	867	677	27,855	NA	29,398	873	28,525	\$706,925	2.14	0.056
2017	986	687	30,395	NA	32,069	869	31,199	\$775,875	2.28	0.055
2018	668	724	28,257	NA	29,649	861	28,788	\$723,425	2.00	0.050
2019	910	627	29,427	NA	30,964	551	30,414	\$764,425	2.00	0.053
2020	623	547	29,174	NA	30,344	52	30,292	\$755,775	1.85	0.054
2021	523	608	28,599	NA	29,729	54	29,675	\$732,325	1.68	0.047
2022	953	651	28,096	NA	29,700	65	29,635	\$738,025	1.64	0.046
2023	1,355	527	26,822	NA	28,703	81	28,622	\$715,475	1.49	0.045
2024	1,715	555	25,853	669	28,792	4,063	24,729	\$618,325	1.21	0.045
2025	1,655	472	27,084	980	30,191	1,795	28,169*	\$704,225	1.32	0.044

*An adjustment of -227 tCO₂e for calendar year 2024 has been deducted from the total emissions offset for 2025.