

Greening Health Care 2023: Program Overview

Greening Health Care (GHC) is a collaboration between leading healthcare organizations, governments, utility companies and industry, working together to achieve deep reductions in energy use, utility costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Founded in 2004, the program addresses the interrelated opportunities and challenges of new hospital developments and existing hospital infrastructure and operations. We engage with members in workshops, webinars and networking events, conduct applied research into identified knowledge gaps and provide information, best practice guides and other resources to help members plan for and meet their energy and environmental goals. Greening Health Care is building towards a sustainable future through:

- Utility data management and analytics to quantify savings potential, highlight the biggest savings opportunities in each facility and monitor actual savings over time.
- Evidence-based case studies, best practice guides, performance standards and tools to help every hospital identify and evaluate their full range of retrofit and operational improvement opportunities.
- Planning frameworks for low carbon and net zero emissions.
- Business case development for project investments, including grants and incentives and funding options.
- Research, pilot and cohort projects, bringing together hospitals with technical experts to develop and demonstrate new knowledge and best practices.
- Networking and knowledge sharing with like-minded organizations seeking to improve environmental performance.
- Recognition and celebration of top-performing hospitals and organizations.

Recognizing Successes

As governments and healthcare organizations commit to deep reductions in carbon emissions, Greening Health Care is celebrating the real, substantial energy and water savings being achieved by its member hospitals.

Despite the challenges faced by the healthcare sector in 2022, 58% of members recorded savings worth a combined total of \$4,850,000 compared against a 2017 baseline. Net greenhouse gas emissions reductions for the year topped 14,200 tonnes. Two hospitals saved over 20%, primarily through operational improvements.

The GHC 5% Club Award was achieved by 6 members, recording total energy reductions of at least 5% in 2022.

Top Savers in 2021 (% total energy vs 2016)

1. North York General – Finch RCC, Toronto; 28.5%
2. WOHS Peel Memorial, Mississauga; 21.1%



Peel Memorial - Top Saver in 2022

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The Program for 2023

Our priority for 2023 is to rapidly scale up utility cost savings and emissions reductions while laying strong foundations for all member hospitals to meet the emerging challenges and opportunities of the low carbon future. We will continue to work together on leading edge research and thinking around practical pathways to net zero emissions, and to support the necessary developments in facility management, capital planning and organizational alignment.

The 2023 program addresses issues which matter most to our members. We continue to study and learn from the growing number of top-performing hospitals as well as those recording savings and climbing up the benchmark chart. There will be hands on support for members needing assistance with planning and implementing improvements, with a focus on those recording emissions increases in 2022. The international search for the most energy efficient hospitals in the world continues, and we will be updating the top-20 leader board, along with lessons learned about their common characteristics, which can be applied by others to scale up emissions savings.

Greening Health Care research projects look to fill knowledge gaps in the sector by bringing together groups of hospitals with industry experts to develop and demonstrate best practices and share them widely to advance the common good. We consult with members and other stakeholders to prioritize identified needs. Projects continuing from 2022 and under consideration now include:

- New Hospital Performance: continuing to report on the energy performance and lessons learned from new hospitals across Canada and around the world, including geothermal and other renewable energy options.
- Greening the OR: engagement with surgical, IPAC and facilities staff to produce the definitive guide on safely setting back OR ventilation rates during unoccupied periods.
- LED Lighting and Controls: using datalogging and a new audit process to establish the best retrofit and controls solutions for energy savings, light quality and life-cycle costs.
- High-Performance Building System Metrics: new empirical standards for use by design teams in performance-based energy models, design and commissioning specifications.
- Thermal Recovery Wheel Optimization: identifying opportunities for big energy savings through improved controls, maintenance and airflow balances.
- Low Carbon Central Plants: planning the transition from existing steam-centric to future low carbon plants including new operational strategies for CHP plants.
- Strategic Energy Management: integrating data analysis, automation and system testing with the management practices necessary for achieving and sustaining deep energy and emissions reductions.
- Sustainability in healthcare: the broader view of environmental performance through the ESG lens of governance, harm mitigation and operational resilience.
- Hospital Accreditation and QI: leveraging established processes to drive new imperatives.

Join Us!

Each hospital that becomes part of the program benefits from the collective knowledge of all that has come before while adding its own experience and vitality to the mix. Together, we can deliver a decisive contribution to the global drive towards deep emissions reductions and a sustainable healthcare system.

For information on membership and sponsorships, please contact us:

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