

Fraser Health Planetary Health Strategy

2023-2028

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TERRITORIAL AND STEWARDSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Indigenous peoples have been stewards and caretakers of the lands, waters and ice and leaders in ecosystem conservation in what is now known as Canada since time immemorial. We recognize that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations and is home to six Métis Chartered Communities. We are committed to providing culturally safe care that is accessible and respectful for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Fraser Health region.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS

Our Plan for Planetary Health

At no other point in human existence has there been a rate of environmental change that so profoundly threatens the health of people and the planet. In recognition of this challenge and the unprecedented opportunities that are possible with concerted efforts, it is our pleasure to share our first organizational Planetary Health Strategic Plan. This five-year Plan outlines the priorities that will guide the work of Fraser Health to advance planetary health and identifies the essential actions that will make it possible to deliver on them. Underpinning this plan is our recognition that we have a tremendous opportunity to harness the passion and energy of our staff, medical staff, and volunteers to improve the health of our planet and the people we serve.

Under the guidance of the Planetary Health Steering Committee our strategic planning process engaged leaders, staff, medical staff, experts in planetary health, Indigenous Elders and patient partners in developing a shared vision, mission, and strategic priorities that reflect where Fraser Health needs to focus as a leader in social and environmental responsibility. This strategic plan captures efforts already underway within Fraser Health and identifies new areas for action that will advance planetary health.

Recognizing that planetary health touches every part of our organization and requires action from all departments and individuals, leadership and partnership are key to making the changes outlined in this strategy. This first strategic plan for planetary health is a living document with iterative goals that we will continue to shape and grow as we take this journey, face challenges and identify new opportunities.

Our Strategic Priorities:

1. Reduce the impact of our services on the planet
2. Create a climate resilient health system
3. Live our anchor mission by reinforcing the connection between planetary health and healthy communities
4. Cultivate a culture and system of environmental sustainability



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planetary Health is defined as “the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems—political, economic, and social—that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish.” Put simply, “planetary health is the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.”¹ Fraser Health has identified planetary health as a top organizational priority for the 2023/24 fiscal year. This first organizational planetary health strategy provides guidance to embed planetary health across the organization, so that planetary health becomes the way we do our work as we shift to creating a more sustainable health system. This strategy takes a network approach to planetary health, recognizing that environmental and social sustainability touch every corner of the organization and action is required at all levels.

This strategy was developed with oversight by the Planetary Health Steering Committee. It contains four strategic priorities and a series of goals and action areas that are iterative in nature. These goals were developed through consultation with Fraser Health staff and medical staff, Fraser region residents, external experts, and a review of key literature in sustainability and planetary health. Frameworks such as the [Cascades Organizational Readiness for Sustainability](#), the [Greener National Health Service \(England\)](#), and [Planetary health care: a framework for sustainable health systems](#) were also referenced.

Vision: Healthy planet, healthy people, healthy communities

Mission: To inspire, empower and activate our people and partners to improve planetary health, health equity and sustainability at all levels of the health system.

Our Strategic Priorities

Reduce the impact of our services on the planet	Create a climate resilient health system	Live our anchor mission by reinforcing the connection between planetary health and healthy communities	Cultivate a culture and system of social and environmental sustainability
Strategic Goal #1: Assess and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions	Strategic Goal #1: Ensure our health system can withstand changing climate conditions and extreme weather events	Strategic Goal #1: Support community health and well-being using our anchor influence	Strategic Goal #1: Develop planetary health expertise and capacity to empower and activate our staff, medical staff and the people we serve
Strategic Goal #2: Reduce air pollution	Strategic Goal #2: Support our people and the people we serve to adapt to changing climate conditions	Strategic Goal #2: Use our purchasing power to ensure resilient supply and address social and sustainability issues	Strategic Goal #2: Embed planetary health into decisions, programs and policies
Strategic Goal #3: Use resources efficiently and decrease health system waste	Strategic Goal #3: Drive climate-informed clinical practice	Strategic Goal #3: Leverage the natural world for health, well-being and climate adaptation	Strategic Goal #3: Seek guidance from Indigenous leaders on culturally appropriate use of traditional ecological knowledge to support ways of working and decision making

Our Change Drivers: Partnerships Research Measurement Evaluation Technology Leadership

INTRODUCTION

What is Planetary Health?

Planetary Health is defined as “the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems—political, economic, and social—that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish.”

Put simply, “**planetary health is the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.**”¹

Planetary health has emerged as a concept in population and public health over the past decade in recognition that human health and the health of the natural world are interconnected – in order for us to thrive as humans, the natural environment must thrive as well. This concept is gaining traction as we grapple with the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Planetary health embraces a system wide approach to health, health equity and environmental sustainability. We humbly acknowledge that although planetary health is an emerging perspective, it includes many perspectives long held by the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.

Another key concept related to social and environmental sustainability is anchor institution. The term **anchor institution** refers to large, typically non-profit, public-sector organizations that are rooted in place and play a vital role in their local communities and economies.² By definition, Fraser Health is an anchor institution: we are rooted in the communities we serve and we are often the largest employer in our communities. We employ nearly 45,000 staff, medical staff and volunteers to provide services to over 1.9 million people across 20 diverse communities. As an anchor institution, we have the ability to benefit the communities we serve beyond the provision of health services - we can support local economies, reduce our impact on the environment, build community cohesion and address social determinants of health.

As an anchor institution, Fraser Health has an opportunity to define its anchor mission. An **anchor mission** is the deliberate and strategic use of resources to benefit communities, especially low- and moderate-income neighbourhoods or historically disadvantaged groups. An anchor mission also supports our reconciliation work: Indigenous leaders have noted that reconciliation is not possible without environmental reconciliation.

Recognizing, learning from and incorporating Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge into our planetary health and anchor mission goals is a priority for Fraser Health. Although there is no universally accepted definition of **Traditional Knowledge**, the term is commonly understood to refer to the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous peoples. Developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is often transmitted orally from generation to generation. It is also the source of Indigenous agricultural practices used in management of lands, territories and resources that care for the earth, without depleting resources.³

CONTEXT: A RAPIDLY CLOSING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Background

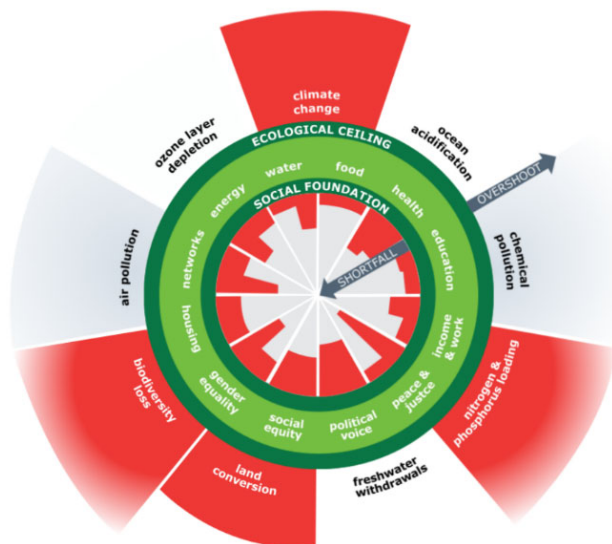
In 2015, 196 parties signed on to the legally binding Paris Agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, France. The Paris Agreement set an overarching ambitious goal, to hold “the increase in global average temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts to “limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.”⁴

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cautioned that a 1.5 degree Celsius increase in global average temperature above pre-industrial levels is highly likely to lead to extreme temperatures in some regions, increases in frequency, intensity and/or amount of heavy precipitation in several regions, and an increase in intensity of droughts.⁵ In July 2023, earth temporarily surpassed the 1.5-degree increase in average global temperature, making it the hottest month on record.⁶ Multiple regions in the northern hemisphere experienced and continue to experience heatwaves; global average sea temperatures continue to rise; Antarctic sea ice levels are at an all-time low; and July 2023 was wetter than average for some regions and drier than average in others.⁷ While it was previously estimated that earth will surpass the 1.5 degree threshold by 2040, a new study moves this timeline to the early 2030s.⁸

The World Health Organization has named climate change the “single biggest health threat facing humanity.”⁹ The increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as heat domes, storms and floods lead to deaths and illness, including mental health issues. Climate change is also playing an increasingly important role in loss of biodiversity – it has altered marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems around the world. The decline of biodiversity is linked to increased diseases and reduced ecosystem services that we rely upon such as loss of food, medicine and livelihoods provided by nature.¹⁰ Climate change undermines many of the social determinants of health such as livelihoods, access to health services and social support structures. The most vulnerable members of society feel these health risks most, further exacerbating health inequities.

Evidence from around the globe is demonstrating the large-scale risks to human health due to humanity’s impact on the natural world. We are now exceeding or, in danger of exceeding, what has been described as the safe ecological operating space for humanity while struggling to meet many social and health needs (see [Figure 1](#)).¹¹ The changing climate and threats to surpassing the [planetary boundaries](#) seen in Figure 1 pose a threat to human health and health equity, and we have a rapidly closing window of opportunity to take action.

Figure 1. Planetary boundaries and determinants of health



British Columbia's Changing Climate

British Columbians are already feeling the impacts of climate change. In 2021, a heat dome led to over 600 heat related deaths and led into a severe wildfire season where the province was in a state of emergency for two months.¹² In fall of the same year, extreme rainfall led to floods and landslides that cut the southwestern part of the province off from the rest of the country. Wildfires across Canada in 2023 have broken all records with over 16 million hectares burned as of September 7.¹³

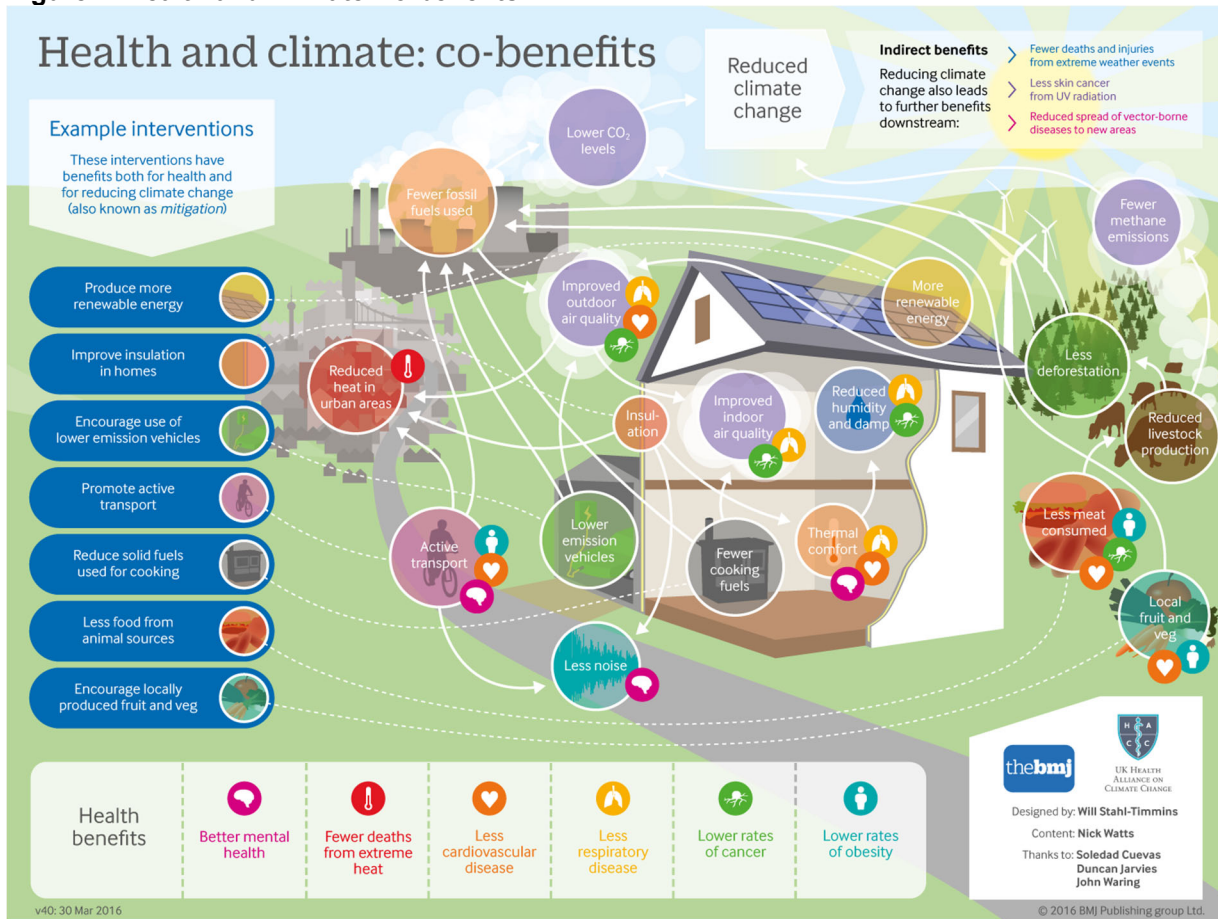
Climate change and extreme weather events not only impact health, but the health care system as well – during the heat dome emergency departments saw

surges in demand, and flooding blocked health and emergency services. A recent survey conducted among Fraser region residents found that 36 per cent of people agreed that their own health or the health of their family has been adversely affected by climate change, citing issues such as respiratory concerns, shortage of medical supplies and climate anxiety.¹⁴ Climate change affects the most vulnerable members of society most, including those that require frequent medical care. Indigenous communities are uniquely sensitive to climate change because of their close connection to and dependence on the natural world for their sustenance, livelihoods, cultures, identities, health and well-being.¹⁵

The Co-Benefits of Action

While the impacts of climate change and the environmental degradation caused can lead to feelings of despair and hopelessness, action on climate change (and other planetary health challenges) represents the greatest opportunity to redefine the social and environmental determinants of health.¹⁶ Taking action to reduce our impact on climate change not only benefits the environment, but also has a plethora of co-benefits for the health and well-being of humans and the natural world (see [Figure 2](#)). For example, as illustrated in Figure 2, reducing reliance on fossil fuels lowers carbon dioxide levels, directly reducing climate change, leading to a number of indirect benefits (fewer deaths and injuries from extreme weather events, reduced incidence of skin cancer from UV exposure, reduced spread of vector-borne diseases). Reducing reliance on fossil fuels improves outdoor air quality, which in turn reduces cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and cancer rates. It is also an opportunity to transition to a more equitable and sustainable economy which can reduce longstanding health and social inequities.

Figure 2. Health and Climate Co-benefits¹⁷



A PLANETARY HEALTH APPROACH

Why Planetary Health?

A planetary health approach goes beyond climate change action and provides the opportunity to address both environmental issues as well as the wider social determinants of health by recognizing the interconnection between human health and the natural systems upon which we rely. We have the opportunity to leverage the power of health to not only address our environmental impact and realize the co-benefits of taking action on climate change, but also contribute to building healthy and sustainable communities, regenerating the natural world, advocating for healthy public policy, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

Our Commitment

Fraser Health Executive sets annual goals which identify the leading priorities for the health authority. One of the Executive's goals for 2023/2024 calls for *positioning Fraser Health as a leader in social and environmental responsibility by embedding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and planetary health throughout the organization.* Fraser Health will advance planetary health by delivering on this first organization-wide Planetary Health Strategy over the next five years. The goal of this strategy is to

“Fraser Health must take a firm institutional stand to enthusiastically align with Planetary Health as a core value. You cannot honestly say we are best in health care if we don't.” (Fraser Health Green Care Survey, 2023).

embed planetary health across the organization, so that planetary health becomes the way we do our work as we shift to creating a more sustainable health system. This strategy takes a network approach to planetary health, recognizing that environmental and social sustainability touch every corner of the organization and action is required at all levels.

The Planetary Health Strategy also recognizes and links to previous and ongoing work around health systems and adaptation. The most extensive and focused work in the area of climate change that Fraser Health has completed in recent years is through the [HealthAdapt project](#). This three-year Health Canada-funded project was a partnership between Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), and Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC). This project included a climate change and health vulnerability and capacity assessment and the development of a framework, which outlined the project partners' roles in climate change and health adaptation. From this work, Population and Public Health developed a [Population and Public Health Climate Change Strategy](#), which intended to pave the way for wider Fraser Health strategic planetary health goals.

This strategy was developed with oversight by Fraser Health's Planetary Health Steering Committee (see [Appendix A](#) for a list of members) and through extensive engagement across Fraser Health (see [Appendix B](#) for a list of programs and departments consulted), people in the Fraser region, and consultation with experts in health system sustainability. A review of other health systems and resources leading in sustainability and planetary health was conducted including the CASCADES Canada, the UK's National Health Service and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Many perspectives and much expertise and wisdom is brought to bear in this Fraser Health strategy.

Informed by Indigenous Knowledge and Guidance

Engagement with Fraser Health’s Indigenous Health Program was a key step in developing this strategy. A strategy engagement session was held with 14 members of the Indigenous Health team to hear their views on some of the most important issues related to environmental and social sustainability.

What we heard:

- Prioritize both air and water when considering the earth and how to reduce our harmful environmental impact*
- There is a need for access to quality care close to home for community members who are vulnerable and susceptible to the impacts of climate change*
- Recognize the important role of traditional medicine and healing practices*
- Focus on food security amidst changing climate conditions and extreme weather events*
- Prioritize local, seasonal and traditional food sources and options in our facilities*
- The climate crisis brings anxiety and ecological grief, loss of land and traditional knowledge*

This strategy identifies four strategic priorities, which are our overarching areas of focus and will guide the work over the next five years. Our strategic goals and action areas tell us how we will achieve our strategic priorities and realize our vision. The action areas in this strategy include actions and initiatives that are already under way, as well as new actions and initiatives required to achieve success. This strategy is a living document; as we embark on our planetary health journey and continue to learn and grow in this area, we may identify new actions and initiatives that need to be part of this work.

Our Vision:

Healthy planet, healthy people, healthy communities

Our Mission:

To inspire, empower and activate our people and partners to improve planetary health, health equity and sustainability at all levels of the health system

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority 1: Reduce the impact of our services on the planet

The health care sector contributes significantly to climate change - it is estimated that the health sector contributes 4.6 per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada, and Canada has the second highest health care emissions per capita relative to other high-income countries.¹⁸ If health care were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter.

Health care contributes to GHG emissions and air pollution due to energy consumption in facilities, staff and patient transportation, supply chain processes, and the products used in health service delivery. Air pollution is the most significant environmental contributor to poor health and premature death, leading to increased demand for health care.¹⁹

The health care industry is also resource intensive, leading to overuse of natural resources such as water, and accumulation of waste from disposable medical supplies, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. In a recent survey of Fraser residents, 85 per cent of respondents indicated that it is important to them that the health system reduce its carbon footprint and waste.¹³

Strategic Goals

Areas for Action

Goal 1.1: Assess and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

Our focus: While we currently report on greenhouse gas emissions from our facilities, fleet and paper, we aim to follow leading health systems and assess all of our emissions. We want to ensure that our staff and physicians are equipped with the knowledge and skills to set targets and implement initiatives to reduce emissions in our journey to Net Zero.

- Continue to reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions through targeted initiatives
- Develop a plan to assess and baseline greenhouse gas emissions not currently measured^a
- Design and construct new facilities to meet CleanBC^b greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements

Goal 1.2: Reduce air pollution

Our focus: We aim to improve air quality outside and inside our facilities by promoting more sustainable staff, patient and visitor travel options, reducing and/or procuring locally, and by consolidating deliveries, all of which can be achieved through the development and implementation of a clean air hospital framework.

- Develop and implement a clean air hospital framework^c
- Expand and improve existing active staff transportation programs and incentives

Goal 1.3: Use resources efficiently and decrease health system waste

- Implement circular health care plan

^a Fraser Health measures components of scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions: Stationary fuel combustion and electricity (buildings), Mobile fleet combustion (fleet and other equipment) and Supplies (paper consumption). However, a more fulsome assessment and baseline is required to address the full emissions - particularly for scope 3 emissions.

^bCleanBC is the provincial government's plan to reduce climate-changing emissions by 40 per cent by 2030. See <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

^c A clean air hospital framework will focus on minimizing air pollution from travel and facilities; educating staff, visitors and the wider public; champion work with local partners to improve area-wide air quality

Our focus: We commit to reducing our impact on the natural environment and biodiversity by implementing circular health care strategies that avoid single-use disposable medical devices and supplies. We also aim to minimize and adequately manage waste and hazardous chemicals, reduce pharmaceutical waste, adopt technologies that reduce our reliance on paper, reduce food waste and utilize water efficiently in our facilities.

- Redirect waste to recycling and compost streams
- Minimize water consumption to reduce demand on natural resources and impact on our living environment
- Reduce overall waste, including food system and paper waste
- Promote materials that are safe for human health and the environment

Strategic Priority 2: Create a climate resilient health system

Extreme weather events such as heat domes, floods, wildfires and cold snaps can disrupt health system operations, and are becoming more frequent as our climate is changing. Health care facilities may experience power outages, staff may not be able to get to work, facilities may need to be evacuated, and services may see surges in demand, to name just a few challenges. In a recent survey of Fraser Health employees, 28 per cent said that snow or ice, and 14 per cent said that heat waves impacted job duties.²⁰

Extreme weather events and the changing climate can have a direct impact on physical health and have long-term effects on mental health, such as increased rates of anxiety, depression, and trauma, as well as a negative impact on ways of life. For example, the changing climate has an impact on harvests and food security and disrupts the connection between people and land. In a 2023 survey of Fraser residents, 82 per cent of respondents agreed that it is important that Fraser Health help communities adapt to the effects of climate change.¹³

Climate change has the greatest impact on the most vulnerable members of our society, including those who are unwell and require frequent medical care. It is important that health care providers consider how climate change, extreme weather events and other environmental issues may affect patients when providing care.

Strategic Goals

Areas for Action

Goal 2.1: Ensure our health system can withstand changing climate conditions and extreme weather events

Our focus: We commit to embedding climate resiliency and adaptation into our health system by ensuring our facilities can withstand extreme weather events, our workforce is prepared and we proactively plan for such events, with special attention on those who are most vulnerable in our communities. Where possible, we must embrace nature-based solutions for resiliency and adaptation.

- Design and construct new facilities to meet [climate resilience guidelines](#) and standards
- Consider climate conditions when retrofitting and adapting existing facilities where feasible
- Conduct emergency planning and preparations with our staff
- Work with communities and partners to ensure a coordinated plan and response to extreme weather events

Goal 2.2: Support our people and the people we serve to adapt to changing climate conditions

Our focus: We aim to support the well-being of our staff and medical staff who are impacted by climate

- Identify opportunities to support our staff and medical staff who are impacted by climate events

change. We will partner with communities, municipalities, and other service organizations to support the people we serve who are experiencing trauma, grief, anxiety, depression, food insecurity and other issues due to climate change. We will focus on closing knowledge gaps in this area through research and collaboration.

- Build on existing research initiatives and projects focused on vulnerable groups and climate change
- Engage with communities and other partners to identify needs and opportunities for collaboration
- Increase access to holistic mental health and trauma supports in Indigenous communities

Goal 2.3: Drive climate-informed clinical practice

Our focus: We are committed to equipping frontline staff with the tools, knowledge and skills needed to address the climate crisis and support patients and residents with identification, prevention and management of climate related health risks.

- Identify training and education opportunities for frontline staff
- Partner with academic institutions to explore planetary health and health equity education opportunities

Strategic Priority 3: Live our anchor mission by reinforcing the connection between planetary health and healthy communities

By our size, stability, influence, roots in our communities, spaces and relationships, Fraser Health can benefit the people, local communities and region we serve beyond the provision of health services. We have the opportunity to influence social determinants of health by being deliberate about how we use our resources and influence. The social determinants of health are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes; they are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age. It is estimated that the social determinants of health account for 30-55 per cent of health outcomes.²¹

“We have an opportunity to rally people around the anchor institution concept... it would be amazing if everyone in the organization understood their power as an individual and as part of this organization in influencing our society.” (Fraser Health staff member, Planetary Health Strategic Planning exercise).

Fraser Health has the opportunity to benefit the communities we serve beyond the provision of health care by being deliberate about how we use our spaces and resources (see Figure 3). In a survey of Fraser residents distributed to inform this strategy, purchasing from local companies and advocating for healthy public policy ranked as the top two actions Fraser Health should take to strengthen the communities we serve.

Protecting the natural world is another responsibility of an anchor institution and is an important area for action to improve the health of our communities and to advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

Figure 3. Fraser Health’s Opportunities as an Anchor Institution^d



Strategic Goals

Areas for Action

Goal 3.1: Support community health and well-being using our anchor influence

Our focus: We commit to building safe and healthy communities and addressing health inequities by providing high quality employment opportunities, investing responsibly, using our land and spaces to benefit the community and supporting reconciliation with our Indigenous and Metis communities.

- Provide high quality employment and training opportunities with a focus on equity deserving groups
- Identify opportunities to introduce community indoor and outdoor spaces on our campuses where feasible
- Advocate for investment in more environmentally and socially responsible organizations
- Advocate for healthy public policies

Goal 3.2: Use our purchasing power to ensure resilient supply and address social and sustainability issues

Our focus: We commit to using our spend on goods and services to improve health and social inequities and reduce our environmental impact. By building new and focusing on emerging partnerships, we will identify and implement opportunities to use our spending to create a more efficient and resilient supply chain, contribute to social value purchasing and choose sustainable options.

- Drive and influence provincial supply chain efforts to include environmental and social sustainability criteria in purchasing and contract decisions
- Partner with other health authorities to strengthen and leverage purchasing power to make more environmentally and socially sustainable purchases

Goal 3.3: Leverage the natural world for health, well-being and climate adaptation

Our focus: We commit to developing new spaces and redesigning existing spaces to both protect the natural world and regenerate the natural environment by implementing a variety of initiatives including food gardens, wild/green spaces and healing gardens to support cultural safety, damage mitigation and biodiversity.

- Develop green spaces on our campuses to protect and regenerate the natural environment and contribute to staff, medical staff, patient and family well-being

^d Adapted from “[The NHS as an anchor institution.](#)” The Health Foundation.

Strategic Priority 4: Cultivate a culture and system of social and environmental sustainability

Planetary health spans all areas of Fraser Health and we need everyone to take action where they can. Shifting to a sustainable health care system with a planetary health lens requires a reimagining of how we do our work as a health authority. In order to be successful we need to develop planetary health expertise and capacity. A recent Fraser Health employee survey found that 62 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they know what planetary health means¹⁹ indicating that there is work needed to further socialize this new concept with our staff and medical staff.

The same survey found that while 71 per cent of respondents believe they have the ability to decrease negative environmental impacts in the workplace, only 29 per cent reported that the organization makes it easy to do so. Incorporating a planetary health lens into decision-making frameworks will make it easy for staff and medical staff to make the sustainable choices.

“Everyone should incorporate planetary health into decision-making in their area of influence and feel that they have support from the organization to do so.” (Fraser Health staff member, Planetary Health Strategic Planning exercise).

As we work to build capacity in planetary health, we commit to seeking guidance from Indigenous leaders and communities, who have been stewards of the land, waters and ice since time immemorial. As we embark on this journey, partnering with the people we serve will help us grow our culture and promote not just a sustainable health care system, but sustainable communities.

Strategic Goals

Areas for Action

Goal 4.1: Develop planetary health expertise and capacity to empower and activate our staff, medical staff and the people we serve

Our focus: We aim to train and educate our staff and medical staff so that they bring a planetary health lens to their work. Equipping our staff and medical staff with the tools, knowledge and skills to address social and sustainability issues will decrease Fraser Health’s impact on the environment, reduce costs and improve quality of care. Fraser Health has a role to play in educating patients and families on the link between human health and the health of our planet; at the same time, we can also learn about the needs, expectations and priorities of the people we serve.

- Develop a planetary health education strategy with resources and tools for staff and medical staff
- Continue to implement the planetary health communications strategy
- Introduce sustainability quality improvement initiatives
- Support and promote grassroots sustainability initiatives
- Create a planetary health patient and family advisor role and/or function
- Develop patient and family planetary health education materials

Goal 4.2: Incorporate planetary health into decisions, policies and guidelines

Our focus: We want planetary health to become the way we ‘do’ our work by embedding it across the organization. Existing policies and guidelines can be reviewed and amended to include a sustainability lens, and sustainability can be embedded into

- Embed planetary health into leadership competencies and performance management frameworks
- Include environmental and social sustainability criteria in purchasing and contracting decisions

existing decision-making frameworks and criteria so we are having a positive impact on our planet in our daily work.

- Require sustainability considerations in existing programs, policies and funding processes

Goal 4.3: Seek guidance from Indigenous leaders on culturally appropriate use of traditional ecological knowledge to support ways of working and decision making

Our focus: Indigenous leaders and communities have been stewards of the land, waters and ice since time immemorial. There is much to be learned about sustainability, the interconnectedness of all beings and our planet and the resulting impact on health and wellness from knowledge keepers, Elders, and others.

- Seek guidance from the Indigenous Cultural Advisory Committee
- Engage with Indigenous partners regionally and provincially to advance planetary health

CHANGE DRIVERS

Successfully embedding planetary health across Fraser Health requires us to purposefully drive transformative change. The change drivers include a spectrum of actions, policies, and collective efforts that hold the potential to usher in a more sustainable and equitable future.

Partnerships

Strong partnerships across Fraser Health, the health system and across Fraser region will be key to advancing planetary health and the goals outlined in this strategy. Accountability for actions lies across different departments within the organization, highlighting the need for strong partnerships and a network approach to advancing the work. Joint efforts with BC health authorities, regional and provincial governments and community partners will allow us to progress where collective efforts are required and will allow us to advance as an anchor institution.

Research

Planetary health is a concept that has emerged more prominently in the past decade. There is an opportunity to develop a research agenda for planetary health to contribute to the growing body of knowledge, continue to publish our successes at Fraser Health, and help us better understand our impact on the environment and where we can make the greatest difference.

Measurement

A robust measurement strategy and dashboard is in development for planetary health. Measurement for some of the goals and action areas in this strategy are currently being developed and in alignment with existing measurement reporting such as the Environmental Performance and Accountability Report.²² Data sources and indicators will continue to be identified for new goals and actions as the work evolves.

Evaluation

There are numerous planetary health initiatives underway across Fraser Health, with additional initiatives going live in the near future. Evaluating process, progress and outcomes will ensure we are on track and implementing the right solutions to advance planetary health.

Technology

Technology can play a large role in reducing waste and improving health system efficiencies. Continuing to adopt technology solutions that reduce the need to travel, reduce our reliance on paper and increase efficiencies will have a positive impact on the environment.

Leadership

Embedding planetary health across Fraser Health will require action and leadership at all levels of the organization. Adopting sustainability leadership norms²³ to promote and adhere to this ambitious strategy, enabling cross sectoral implementation, and creating the space and culture for people to work differently will be critical to generate a more sustainable health system.

FINAL WORDS

This strategy represents our commitment to leaders, staff, medical staff and the people we serve to achieve the highest attainable standard of health, well-being and equity for all, and the well-being of the natural environment on which we depend.



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APPENDIX A. PLANETARY HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Fraser Health System Area	Representative
Co-Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Reutlinger (Executive Director, Emergency Preparedness & Planetary Health) • Robert Bradley (Director, Energy & Environmental Sustainability)
Executive Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ingrid Tyler (Interim VP, Population & Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer)
Planetary Health Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darryl Quantz (Planetary Health Lead)
Population and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Emily Newhouse (Medical Health Officer) • Amy Lubik (Climate Change Lead)
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larisa Saunders (Director, Corporate Communications) • Megan White (Senior Consultant, Communications)
Indigenous Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noelle Saemerow (Program Coordinator, Indigenous Health)
Evaluation and Research Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Keetch (Director, Evaluation and Research Services)
Energy and Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig Dedels (Manager, Climate Risk & Resilience) • Sonja Janousek (Manager, Environmental Sustainability)
Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paul Johar (Executive Medical Director, Wellness and Partnerships)
Facilities Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammad Rafatinasr (Senior Mechanical Engineer, Asset Risk and Quality: Technical Services)
Primary Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Joshi (Project Director, Primary Health Care Initiatives) • Graham Mclean (Nurse Practitioner Lead) • Dr. Kevin Liang (Primary Care Physician)
Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annette Bieberstein (Leader, Risk Management Services)
Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gigi Wong (Pharmacist, Pharmacy Quality Assurance)
Centre for Advanced Analytics, Data Science & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavya Devarapalli (Managing Consultant, System Optimization)
Food & Nutrition Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Hartnell (Executive Director, Food And Clinical Dietitian Services)
Commercial Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassia Craig (Director, Supply Management & Utilization)
Mental Health & Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Erin Budd (Resident)

APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF STRATEGY ENGAGEMENTS

Key Partners and # of participants	Program/Department	Engagement Focus
Workshop: Indigenous Health (14)	Indigenous Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy Vision & Mission • Strategic Priorities • Strategic Goals
Workshop: Clinical and Medical (Site and Program) Leaders (23)	Surgery; Nursing; Anesthesiology; Family Medicine; Hospitalist; Clinical Operations; Harm Reduction; Pharmacy; Clinical Quality & Patient Safety; Mental Health Substance Use; Medical Affairs; Physician Quality Improvement; Maternal, Infant, Child & Youth; Infection Prevention Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and reduce our GHG emissions • Protect the natural environment • Drive climate-informed clinical practice • Develop planetary health expertise and capacity • Embed planetary health into decisions, programs and policies
Workshop: Population Health & Dept. of Evaluation & Research Services (13)	Population Health Department of Evaluation & Research Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and reduce our GHG emissions • Reduce air pollution • Climate resilient health system • Support community health and well-being using our anchor influence • Develop planetary health expertise and capacity
Workshop: Facilities, Housekeeping, Supply Chain, Food Services, Transportation (9)	Supply Chain; Integrated Protection Services; Transportation; Housekeeping; Design & Construction; Food Services; Waste Management; PHSA Protection Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and reduce our GHG emissions • Protect the natural environment • Reduce air pollution • Climate resilient health system • Embed planetary health into decisions, policies and programs
Workshop: Leaders in Social & Environmental Sustainability (9)	EDI; Population Health; Energy and Environmental Sustainability; UBC School of Population & Public Health; Organization Development, Planning & Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchor institution and mission
Key Informant Interviews (10)	Facilities; Population Health; Pharmacy; Food Services; Energy and Environmental Sustainability; Indigenous Health; Clinical Quality & Patient Safety; Medical Affairs; CASCADES Institute; BC Patient Safety & Quality Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities and barriers for planetary health
Survey: Fraser Green+Leaders (25)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and social sustainability
Survey: Fraser Health staff (50)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and social sustainability
Survey: Fraser Residents (463)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and social sustainability