



Choosing Wisely at Island Health Resource Guide

From Recommendations to Action: Sustainability in Clinical Practice

Our recent Choosing Wisely event sparked inspiring conversations about sustainability and climate-conscious care. By working together we can reduce waste, improve patient outcomes, and create a health system that cares for both people and the planet. To help you turn ideas into action, we've gathered practical tools and resources to support you in making sustainability part of everyday practice. Small changes, big impact!

Choosing Wisely and Planetary Health

- **[Choosing Wisely Canada Planetary Health Recommendations](https://choosingwiselycanada.org/climate/)**

<https://choosingwiselycanada.org/climate/>

Learn more about the 60+ Choosing Wisely Canada Climate Conscious Recommendations.

- **[Health Quality BC \(HQBC\) Choosing Wisely Hub](https://healthqualitybc.ca/choosing-wisely-bc/)**

<https://healthqualitybc.ca/choosing-wisely-bc/>

In 2025, HQBC in collaboration with Choosing Wisely Canada established the Choosing Wisely BC Hub to advance appropriate care in the province.

- **[National Day of Action Planetary Health](https://planetaryhealthday.ca/)**

<https://planetaryhealthday.ca/>

“Many individual actions add up to larger, systemic change”. Visit the website and read through action ideas shared by clinicians across the country. Join the movement and work together with your teams to make a change.

- **[CASCADES: Sustainability-Embedded Quality Improvement Toolkit](https://cascadescanada.ca/resources/se-qm-toolkit/)**

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A three-part process that asks you questions to help you understand what aspect of sustainable health care your QI project relates to, providing applicable QI project resources that can help you design and measure your project.

Step 1



To incorporate environmental sustainability into your QI initiative, determine which sustainable healthcare principles apply to your project.

Step 2



Assess which sustainability opportunities are relevant to your project and access associated recommendations and resources.

Step 3



Evaluate the level of focus that environmental sustainability will take in your project, and start to consider metrics.

Environmental Sustainability at Island Health

- **Environmental Sustainability Hub**

<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/green/Pages/environmental-sustainability-program.aspx>

Provides information about Island Health's sustainability programs, progress towards our climate and waste targets, and helpful resources to incorporate planetary health into your role.

- **Join Island Health's Sustainability Mailing List**

Sign up to get Environmental Sustainability Program updates straight to your inbox. We send out a quarterly newsletter called The Beacon, along with other timely updates and invitations.

- **Green Teams Program**

<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/green/Pages/green-teams-program.aspx>

This program helps staff and medical staff start Green Teams across Island Health sites.

With hands-on support from the Sustainability team, Green Teams work on projects to reduce environmental impacts.

- **Green ORs Program**

<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/green/Pages/Green-Operating-Rooms-Program.aspx>

An initiative to reduce the environmental impact of our operating rooms at Island Health.

Participating sites establish a dedicated team of staff and physicians who collaborate with the Environmental Sustainability team to introduce high-impact sustainability improvements in our perioperative settings.

- **Climate-Resilient Island Health e-learning**

<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/36721/islh-eecc-climate-resilient-island-health>

New for 2025, this Learning Hub curriculum features four courses for all Island Health staff to explore how climate change affects health and health care delivery, and how each of us can contribute to a more sustainable and climate-resilient health system.

- [Part 1: Introduction to Climate Change and Health](#) (45 min)
- [Part 2: Reducing our Environmental Impact](#) (45 min)
- [Part 3: Adapting to a Changing Climate](#) (45 min)
- [Part 4: Preparing for Climate Emergencies](#) (45 min)

- **Climate Change Planetary Health Strategy**

<https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/green/Pages/climate-change-and-planetary-health-strategy.aspx>

Island Health's first-ever climate action plan, launched in September 2024. It helps align efforts across the organization so that climate action becomes part of how we plan, deliver, and improve health and care.

Want to learn more? Watch a video on the Island Health Low Carbon Resilience Roadmap here:
<https://medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/news-events/climate-action-low-carbon>

Waste and Recycling Resources at Island Health

- **Waste and Recycling**
https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/departments/general_support/Pages/WasteandRecycling.aspx
Waste and Recycling guidelines and resources for Island Health.
- **Bio Waste Information Page:**
https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/departments/general_support/Pages/bio-waste-information-page.aspx
Learn more about the biomedical waste streams at Island Health. There are resources available to help you navigate non-anatomical, anatomical, and medication waste.



- **Recycling and Waste Guide: How to Order Waste Stations**
https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/departments/general_support/Pages/Recycling_Info_and_Resources.aspx
Visit this page to view the Waste Station Order Guide and learn how to support appropriate waste segregation in your area.
- **PPE Recycling Intranet Page**
https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/departments/general_support/Pages/ppe-recycling-program.aspx
Learn more about the Ministry-funded PPE Recycling Program, available in acute care sites across the island.
**Ordering of PPE recycling bins is currently on hold while the program prioritizes onboarding other Health Authorities across the province to the program.*