

DEEP RIVER AND DISTRICT HEALTH

Policy: Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship	
Original Date: 2023-08-01	Policy Manual: Administration
Approved by: <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Executive Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Financial Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Nursing Executive <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Human Resources Officer	

Policy

Deep River and District Health (DRDH) recognizes the link between a healthy environment and a healthy population, and that as a healthcare provider the organization has a responsibility to minimize environmental impact in support of community and population health. Recognizing the linkage between environmental health and public health, DRDH is committed to fiscally responsible environment protection practices to benefit the health of our patients, residents, staff, and communities.

Deep River and District Health makes a commitment to sustainability as a common priority, and taking a holistic, thoughtful and comprehensive sustainable approach to environmental stewardship, including ecological, societal and economic imperatives. DRDH adopts the following principles to guide its sustainability initiatives:

Principle 1: Resource Conservation – making the most efficient use of resources (materials, energy and water) through:

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Water Efficiency and Conservation
- Waste Management and Conceptualizing Waste as a Resource

Principle 2: Pollution Prevention – minimizing contamination of the environment by chemicals or other materials through:

- Equipment Management
- Management of the Use of Chemicals and Other Hazardous Substances
- Reduction and Recycling Programs

Principle 3: Occupational Health and Safety

- Managing Indoor Air Quality
- Healthy and Safe Workplace and Work Practices
- Emergency and Disaster Management

Procedure

DRDH will act as a leader with respect to environmental stewardship while engaging the healthcare community and its partners in a collaborative approach towards environmental sustainability.

DRDH will work to develop and adopt sustainable best practices and processes in all operations and departments. This includes identifying ways to minimize the consumption of non-renewable energy, water and solid/organic/ hazardous waste products.

Corporately and departmentally, the organization will identify environmental stewardship initiatives, guided by the identified principles that will support the organization to:

- Use resources efficiently and improve conservation of resources
- Reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment
- Translate reduced consumption and waste into financial savings
- Provide a healthy, more efficient and effective working environment
- Improve sustainability and reduce environmental impacts of the organization’s operations

Environmental stewardship initiatives be reviewed by departmental leadership, and brought forward to the Executive Leadership Team for evaluation. Each environmental stewardship initiatives will identify performance metrics to support evaluation of environmental initiative performance. If applicable, environmental initiative performance indicators will be tracked on departmental or corporate dashboards and shared throughout the organization.

Materials and Supplies

Dashboards
 Program Evaluation Template

Quality Assurance

Program Evaluation:

- The program is evaluated and updated at least annually in accordance with evidence-based practices.
- A written record of the program evaluation is completed, including summary of the changes

Definitions

Environmental stewardship - programs and resources that promote environmental awareness and a shared responsibility for practices that support a healthy environment;

Reference Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Alberta, Environmental Stewardship, 2023
Acknowledgements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providence Healthcare, Environmental Sustainability Policy, 2017 • Environmental Stewardship, National Environmental and Planning Agency, Government of Jamaica , 2019
Review Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Leadership Team – August 1, 2023 • Joint Health and Safety Committee – October 26, 2023
Revision Approval Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 18, 2025