Is the Heath Sector taking Climate Change Seriously?

Sustainable Health Systems

Dr Greg Stewart
Director, Primary Integrated and Community Health
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
May 14th 2018
Key Questions

- Is the planet warming? – Yes
- Is it us? – Yes
- Does it matter? – Yes
- Must we do something? – Yes

Prof Chris Rapley, Professor of Climate Science, University College London
formerly Director of UK Science Museum, and
Head of British Antarctic Survey
cited in BMJ 2011;343:d6789
Sustainability

“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Commission, 1987)

Co-benefits

- Economic – cost-saving, money redirected to other health and healthcare activities
- Health – low energy, low carbon transport & food: clear health benefits
- Social – increased social contact & mental wellbeing e.g. active transport
Mitigation and adaptation

Adaptation:
managing the unavoidable

Mitigation:
avoiding the unmanageable
Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) National Framework
of opportunities to grow adaptation services.

Agencies will undertake additional policy investigation for sectors with significant opportunities and risks, including:

» energy productivity
  (Office of Environment and Heritage)

» fugitive emissions
  (Division of Resources and Energy)

» primary industries emissions and adaptation
  (Department of Primary Industries)

» health and wellbeing
  (Ministry of Health).

**Review mechanisms**

All action plans will be regularly reviewed consistent
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Sustainability Strategy 2013-2016

Developed by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Sustainability Committee

VS July 2013.

Contents

Acknowledgements .........................................................3
Foreword from the Chief Executive ...................................4
1. Introduction .............................................................5
2. The Planning Process ..................................................6
3. Policy, Planning and Legislative Context ..........................8
   3.1. International .......................................................8
   3.2. National ...........................................................10
   3.3. State .................................................................10
4. What Works? Key areas where we can make a difference ........14
   4.1. Background .........................................................14
   4.2. Organisational leadership ......................................14
   4.3. Energy .............................................................14
   4.4. Water ...............................................................16
   4.5. Purchasing and pharmaceuticals ...............................17
   4.6. Transport ..........................................................18
   4.7. Food ...............................................................18
   4.8. Office Practices ...................................................19
   4.9. Waste .............................................................20
   4.10. Capital works ....................................................20
   4.11. Clinical practice ................................................21
   4.12. Benchmarking, monitoring and evaluation ..................21
   Abbreviations ........................................................22
   Glossary ..............................................................25
   References .............................................................26
Key Action Areas

- **Organisational Leadership** - To establish strong leadership for sustainable healthcare
- **Energy** - To promote energy efficiency in health facilities
- **Water** - To promote water efficiency in health facilities
- **Purchasing and Pharmaceuticals** - To purchase and procure sustainably and to enable the purchasing power of the health system to drive efficiency and positive environmental outcomes
- **Transport** - To ensure energy efficiency in transportation. To reduce the environmental impact associated with patient and staff travel
- **Waste** - To ensure that less waste is produced across health facilities and that recycling is increased
Key Action Areas

- **Food** - To develop a sustainable approach to food procurement and wastage reduction
- **Office Practices** – To educate staff and promote sustainable action in day to day practice
- **Capital Works** - To ensure all new facility developments are energy efficient
- **Clinical Practice** – To develop new models of care to improve sustainability
- **Benchmarking, monitoring, and evaluation** – To quantify our Carbon Footprint and show where we are making a difference
Eight Lessons for Implementation

- **Lesson #1**: Plans are necessary, but implementation is more important
- **Lesson #2**: Leadership – at all levels
- **Lesson #3**: Involve everyone but identify resources to support implementation
- **Lesson #4**: Good data are a good start
Eight Lessons for Implementation

- **Lesson #5**: Environmental sustainability is much broader than ‘green’ initiatives

- **Lesson #6**: Effective engagement

- **Lesson #7**: Build a network

- **Lesson #8**: Political awareness
Features of a future, environmentally sustainable health and care system

- Primary care, prevention and patient empowerment.
- More integrated and innovative models of care.
- Using ‘new’ sources of value, such as utilising people’s inner resources and the interactions between people (relationships); peer to peer models; co-design and co-production; more widely defining ‘health workers’
Features of a future, environmentally sustainable health and care system

- Reducing or eliminating low value care.
- Optimising new technologies such as information & communication technology (ICT).
- Re-shaping healthcare’s role within society, around our core business of protecting and promoting health.

Source: Dr Kate Charlesworth, PhD studies
Conclusions

● The health sector has a key role to play in environmental stewardship, and must lead by example

● Strategies to reduce emissions have important co-benefits & provide an opportunity to improve the health of the population

● Need for all health staff, personally and collectively, to address carbon reduction and sustainability

● Executive leadership and engagement in carbon reduction is crucial

● Clinician engagement and activism is crucial