



Is the Health Sector taking Climate Change Seriously?

Sustainable Health Systems

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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



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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



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Mitigation and adaptation

Adaptation:

managing the unavoidable

Mitigation:

avoiding the unmanageable



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Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) National Framework



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NSW CLIMATE CHANGE
**POLICY
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



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**RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
STRATEGY**
2016 TO 2023

**NSW Ministry of Health
Resource Efficiency Strategy
2016 - 2023**





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DRAFT Sustainability Action Plan
Sydney Local Health District
2011 - 2016

Sydney Local Health District
Sustainability Action Plan
2011 - 2016



South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Sustainability Strategy 2013-2016

Developed by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
Sustainability Committee

V5, 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
5. SESLHD Sustainability Action Plan 2013-2015. Error! Bookmark not defined.	
Abbreviations	22
Glossary	23
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



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Key Action Areas

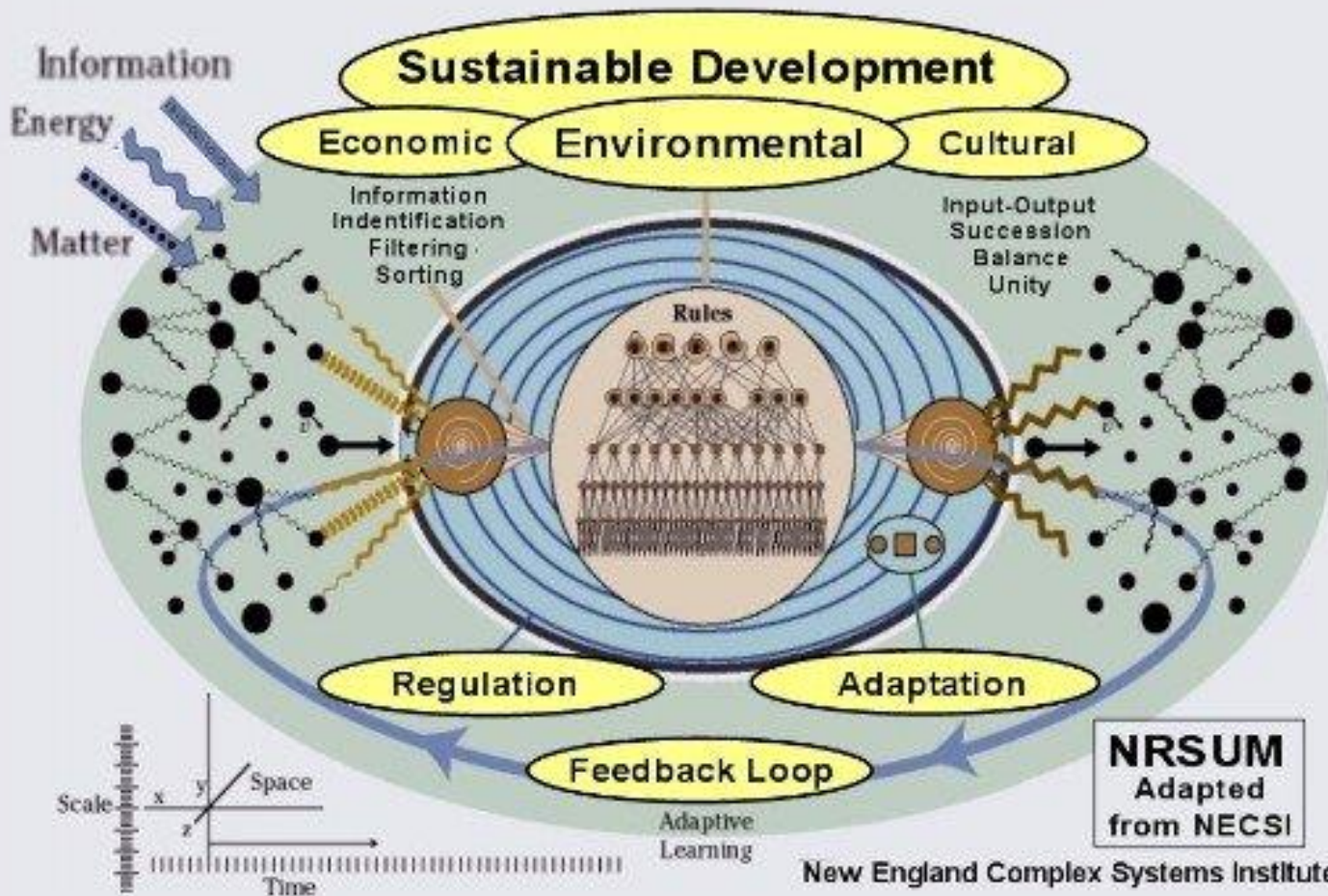
- **Food** - To develop a sustainable approach to food procurement and wastage reduction
- **Office Practices** – To educate staff and promote sustainable action in day to day practice
- **Capital Works** - To ensure all new facility developments are energy efficient
- **Clinical Practice** – To develop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



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Complex Adaptive System Model





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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



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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'



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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



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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



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