ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Measuring Progress, Driving Impact:
Highlights from the 2022-2025 Environmental Sustainability Strategy

SickKids®

We would like to begin by acknowledging the land on which SickKids operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, Toronto is home to Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island. SickKids is committed to working toward new relationships that include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and is grateful for the opportunity to share this land in caring for children and their families.

Art by Emily Kewageshig

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Environmental Sustainability Report highlights key achievements, initiatives, and outcomes delivered under SickKids' 2022–2025 Environmental Sustainability Strategy. It reflects progress made under each of the strategy's three core strategic directions—advocating for climate action, operating for tomorrow today, and fostering an environmentally sustainable culture—and demonstrates the impact of implemented actions.

The report provides transparency on how sustainability objectives have been advanced across the organization during this period.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVES

Ronni Cohn
President & CEO

Young Lee
Vice-President,
Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Climate change remains one of the greatest threats to global health, which means our commitment to environmental sustainability has never been more vital. As children are among the most vulnerable to environmental impacts, our duty is to deliver exceptional patient care while safeguarding the planet for their future.

Since the 2021 COP26 Summit in Glasgow, where over 45 countries pledged to reduce carbon emissions within their health systems, SickKids continues to embed sustainability into the core of our organization. The recent COP30 Summit in Belém, Brazil, further underscored the urgency of accelerating collective action.

Guided by our vision, **Healthier Children. A Better World.**, we know that caring for children's health is inseparable from caring for the health of our planet. Our commitment to sustainability does not stop at reducing harm, but creating the conditions for children and the Earth to thrive together.

Through our multi-year campus redevelopment, we are embedding sustainable infrastructure into the very foundation of our future hospital. But sustainability at SickKids extends far beyond buildings—it is a shared culture of innovation, collaboration and accountability that unites our partners in driving meaningful change.

Today, we are working across teams to strengthen awareness and implement practical actions that progressively improve how we manage waste, conserve resources and reduce our environmental footprint. These efforts are advancing responsible operations while building the foundation for long-term transformation. Looking ahead, our campus redevelopment is enabling the next generation of low-carbon, resource-efficient healthcare through sustainable design, resilient infrastructure and forward-looking systems.

'Sustainable funding and operations' is one of the key enablers of our SickKids 2030 Strategy. We recognize the key role that environmental sustainability plays in ensuring our ability to deliver exceptional care well into the future—sustaining the health of both our patients and our planet for generations. This report highlights our achievements in advancing this mission and creating a legacy of resilience, responsibility and hope.

Thank you for joining us on this critical journey to making the world a better – and greener – place.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FACTS AND STATS

PATIENT SUPPORT CENTRE (PSC)

ALAN BROWN BUILDING

PETER GILGAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & LEARNING (PGCRL)

BUILDINGS & DESIGN

- 90% of demolition and construction waste was diverted from landfill during PSC's construction
- 30% more efficient lighting that automatically dims or switches off when not needed
- Flooring, ceiling and insulation at the PSC emit low levels of toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- PSC and PGCRL furniture emit low VOCs
- 2 gardens (PSC and Alan Brown Building)
- Cool roof + green roof: high-SRI reflective roof, an 877 m² green roof (PSC)
- LEED Gold certified buildings (PSC and PGCRL)
- Cistern collects rainwater from the entire roof surface at PSC
- Cisterns collect rainwater at PGCRL
- 40% less water used than a typical non-LEED building (PSC & PGCRL)

TRANSPORTATION

- Bike spaces: 661
- Bike repair stations: 3
- EV charging stations: 7

OPERATIONS & SUPPLIES

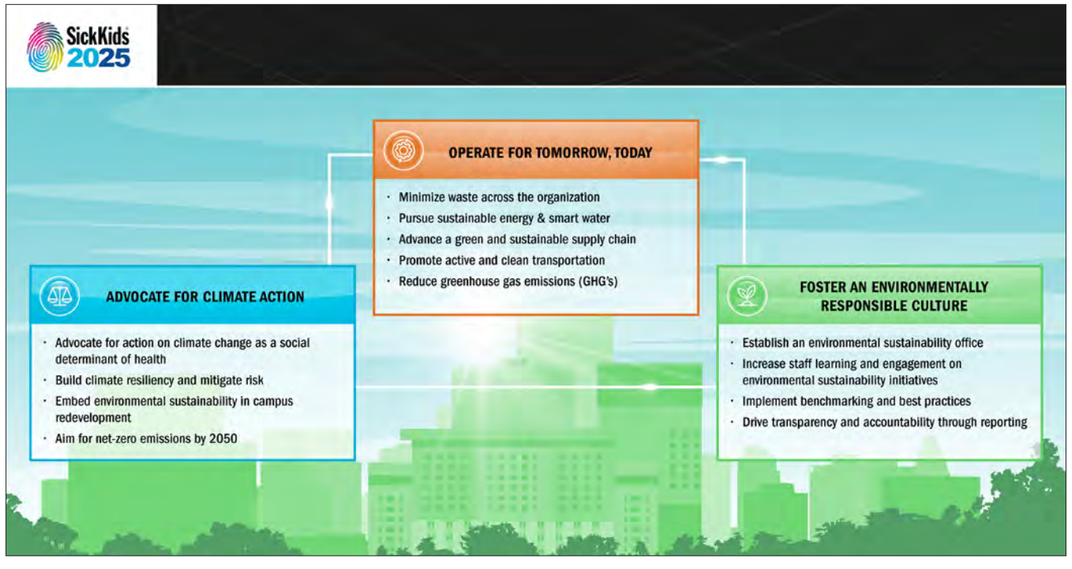
- Reusable gowns: 85% across the Hospital
- > 80% green cleaning chemicals and supplies

OUR PURPOSE

A Greener SickKids. Healthier Children. A Better World.

Our purpose is to drive environmental sustainability throughout the organization by leveraging a common goal and engaging all stakeholders to build a culture that contributes to “healthier children” and a “better world” through our unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2022-2025



Fulfilling our purpose requires a holistic approach that rethinks and reshapes the way we operate and how our organization interacts with the environment. We plan to release a refreshed Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2026.

Our Team & Organizational Capacity

The Environmental Sustainability Office is a small but highly effective team of program managers, coordinators, and sustainability interns dedicated to advancing environmental performance across SickKids. Their work is supported and amplified by three Green Committees. Comprised of staff volunteers, these committees play a vital role in embedding sustainability into daily operations, fostering staff engagement, and ensuring lasting organizational impact. Together, they lead a range of impactful initiatives, including the launch of the annual July Waste Reduction Month, the removal of plastic straws from patient trays, and awareness campaigns to promote sustainable practices around ultra-low temperature freezers.

Turning Strategy into Impact: Our Commitment to Climate Action

Our SickKids Environmental Sustainability Strategy is fully aligned with Toronto’s TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and government climate goals, guiding every step we take. Each building on our campus follows a clear roadmap, with progress tracked through key metrics and a proactive approach to new regulations, like preparing for the federal mercury ban, phasing out refrigerants, products with PFAS and reporting to the Federal Plastics Register. Innovation drives us, from piloting Enwave Green Heat to sharing knowledge with partners and agencies.

Achieving Toronto’s net-zero emissions target by 2040 inspired the creation of our Energy Conservation and Demand Management (ECDM) Plan. The plan provides a clear strategy and building-specific roadmaps outlining energy projects: from recommissioning and lighting upgrades to low-carbon heating and district energy integration. This strategic blueprint enables SickKids to achieve its sustainability goals by balancing cost, impact and flexibility, guiding us toward a smarter and more sustainable future

ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change and its impacts on the environment and human health represent a global crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that hospitals will experience increasing shocks and stresses related to climate variability and change, affecting facilities, staff, patients, and contributing to increased demand for health care services.

SickKids has both a responsibility and a unique opportunity to respond to this crisis. This requires rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and environmental impacts while also shaping a pathway toward a climate-resilient hospital. The following initiatives highlight our work to advocate for climate action and support system-level change.

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ADVANCING LOW-CARBON INITIATIVES

Driving Energy Efficiency with Retrofits and Recommissioning

Together, retrofitting and recommissioning provide a scalable and cost-effective blueprint

RETROFIT PROJECTS	RECOMMISSIONING
• Upgrade existing systems with modern, energy-efficient technology.	• Re-optimize existing building systems to improve performance.
• Install heat recovery chillers to capture waste heat from cooling processes and reuse it for heating: - At PGCRL, the heat recovery chiller offsets district steam use, reducing utility costs and **emissions by about 30 per cent**. - Similar systems in the Atrium and Annex buildings support broader decarbonization goals.	• Annual investment of about $250,000 identifies minor issues before they become major inefficiencies. **Every dollar spent typically yields two dollars in savings**.

AI in Action: Optimizing our Facilities

The PGCRL building is now learning on its own. We've stepped fully into the AI era, transforming our complex into a smart and efficient hub powered by technology. With over 72,000 sensors feeding data, AI is the only way to manage it all. Our AI systems tirelessly adjust heating, cooling and ventilation based on weather and occupancy, making the building anticipate needs. This has led to a major drop in energy use and a rise in comfort. This success is just the start as we're currently piloting AI at our other buildings.

Low-Carbon Heating and Cooling with Lake Ontario

In partnership with Enwave, we piloted Deep Lake Water Cooling and Green Heat at the LEED Gold-certified PSC, using lake water for cooling and low-carbon heating. At the PSC, an innovative heat pump system works with Enwave's Green Heat solution for maximum energy efficiency. The system captures waste heat from the building for reuse and supplements it with renewable energy from Lake Ontario when needed. This flexible design has cut the building's greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent from its already low-emission baseline, earning LEED Gold certification. Beyond our campus, PSC demonstrates how strategic electrification and district energy integration can drive long-term decarbonization across Toronto.

Building on this success, we're exploring similar applications at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning to further cut greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen operational resilience and expand sustainable infrastructure across our hospital campus.

PGCRL's Heat Recovery Transformation

Our strategic move to transform the PGCRL's heat recovery system involved a deep investigation of existing infrastructure, allowing us to customize a design that efficiently captures and recycles waste heat, all while minimizing disruption. This careful planning has built-in adaptability for future needs, ensuring the system can grow smarter over time. Already reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent, future expansions are expected to achieve a 50 per cent reduction, positioning SickKids to meet Toronto's TransformTO 2030 target two years early.

Reducing OR Emissions by Eliminating Desflurane

By stopping the use of desflurane, the hospital reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 11 tonnes CO_2e—equivalent to taking 2.5 cars off the road.

Decreasing Volatile Anesthetic Emissions by Lowering Flows

Volatile anesthetics produce greenhouse gas emissions known to have high global-warming potential, but are vital to our anesthetic practice. Running lower fresh gas flows to accompany our volatile anesthetics is a safe and effective way to decrease volatile consumption and associated emissions without compromising patient care. Through quality improvement initiatives, we have lowered our fresh gas flows and decreased our combined emissions per case from volatile anesthetics by 18 per cent since January 2024 and saved over 59,000 kilograms CO_2e. Further work will focus on decreasing nitrous oxide use and further lowering maintenance fresh gas flows.

Turning Peaks into Savings: An In-House Energy Solution

As a major electricity user, SickKids developed in-house tools to predict Ontario's peak electricity periods, allowing us to strategically reduce energy use when the grid is under strain. This homegrown solution saves up to $500,000 annually, relieves strain on the grid and reinvests savings into patient care.

Looking Ahead: Aligning with Canada's Future Climate Commitments

To stay aligned with Canada's future environmental regulations, we are conducting a campus-wide lighting study ahead of Canada's ban on mercury-containing lamps. Mercury is toxic and improper disposal can harm the environment. With production ending by 2027 and a full ban by 2030, we're ensuring our buildings are ready well ahead of time.

Another proactive study underway is preparing us for restrictions on high-impact refrigerants used in air conditioners, refrigerators and ice machines. These substances contribute to global warming and deplete the ozone layer. With production and sale banned by 2030, we're identifying low-impact alternatives to reduce emissions and strengthen operational resilience.

Acting early helps us build smarter and more sustainable infrastructure for our patients and the planet.

INNOVATING TOGETHER: PARTNERSHIP & BENCHMARKING

Our sustainability achievements are powered by collaboration with partners like Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network hospitals, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Greening Health Care, the Canadian Coalition for Green Healthcare (CCGHC), City of Toronto TransformTO and the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care (CASCADE).

Together, we share ideas, benchmark results and develop innovative solutions. Climate Action through Campus Redevelopment LEED Gold Certification – PSC

ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Greenhouse Gase Intensity (GHG)

Measures total GHG emissions against area (kg CO_2e/m^2)

2025 Status: 93.76 kg CO_2e/m^2
Improvement Since 2022: 14.3%
2040 Goal: 3.16 kg CO_2e/m^2

OPERATE FOR TOMORROW, TODAY

Our commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in how we develop, operate, and maintain all areas of SickKids. We aim to lead by example by identifying and acting on opportunities today to improve behaviours and processes, reduce our environmental footprint, and strengthen operational resilience. The following initiatives support this strategic direction by advancing more sustainable practices and building a healthier, more sustainable future.

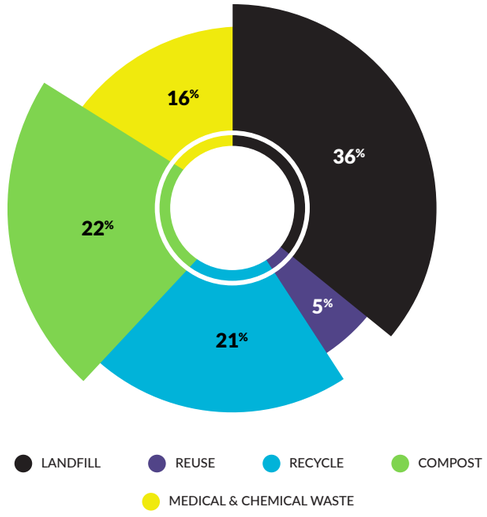
REIMAGINING WASTE AT SICKKIDS

From Bin to Win – Recycling and Composting

In 2025, SickKids achieved a waste diversion rate of 55% per cent, meaning a significant portion of our waste was recycled, composted, or reused instead of sent to landfill.

Programs contributing to that diversion rate included:

- Launching paper towel composting in PGCRL washrooms
- Expanding organics collection across staff lunchrooms
- Growing specialized recycling for clinical items, and lab materials
- QR-accessible online sorting tool “HelpMeRecycle”



Capturing Clinical Recycling

In 2025, we launched targeted recycling programs in the Operating Rooms, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Cardiac Critical Care Unit (CCCU)—some of the hospital’s highest waste-generating areas. In collaboration with clinical teams, these initiatives focus on capturing high-volume items like empty formula bottles and wipe containers that will help divert plastic from landfill.

> Reducing waste and using resources efficiently protects health and the environment.
> *— World Health Organization*

OUR JOURNEY TO REDUCE AND REUSE

Collaborating for Sustainable Cold Shipments

SickKids is leading a partnership with Sunnybrook, University Health Network, Unity Health, Sinai Health, Toronto Metropolitan University and the University of Toronto to make cold shipping more sustainable. Together with national and global vendors, we are working to reduce foam, reusing ice packs and packaging and verifying recyclable materials, creating a circular system for temperature-sensitive shipments.

Ice Packs: From Single-Use to Circular

Launched in 2025, the Ice Pack Reuse initiative extends the life of used ice packs by collecting and sanitizing them on-site before returning them to vendors for reuse. The program has reused over 5,000 ice packs to date, diverting approximately 2.5 tonnes of material from landfill.

Giving Supplies a Second Life

Our reuse initiatives help extend the life of medical and office supplies, supporting clinics and organizations in need across Canada and globally. Unused masks, diapers, and other medical supplies are redistributed through Not Just Tourists and other organizations which delivers essential items to communities worldwide, or donated locally. Office supplies are repurposed by staff through the SickKids Office Supply Swap Room, reducing costs by avoiding unnecessary purchases, or shared with organizations that can put them to meaningful use—diverting valuable materials from landfills.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN CLINICAL AND RESEARCH

Making a Difference, One Item at a Time

By removing unnecessary single-use items from everyday workflows, we can make a difference one item at a time.

- The POCU Green Committee's smart initiative to reduce stopcock usage is saving over $4,000 annually, eliminating the need for more than 3,800 stopcocks each year, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 68 kg CO_2e— reducing environmental impacts from production through disposal.

- The MDRD team replaced single-use blue wrap with reusable containers and washable linen wraps for sterilized surgical trays, eliminating approximately 18,200 blue wrap applications each year, avoiding 2,500 kilograms of waste, and saving 15,000 square meters of material—equivalent to ten hockey rinks.

- At the PGCRL, the Glasswashing and Sterilization team replaced nearly all disposable plastic pipettes and packaging with reusable glass pipettes and metal tins across all 21 laboratory floors, enabling over 6,200 reuses of glass pipettes to date.

- The Peri-Operative Care Unit now encourages families to bring reusable bags for patient belongings, as outlined in the updated Coming to Surgery workbook—empowering families to actively support sustainability efforts.

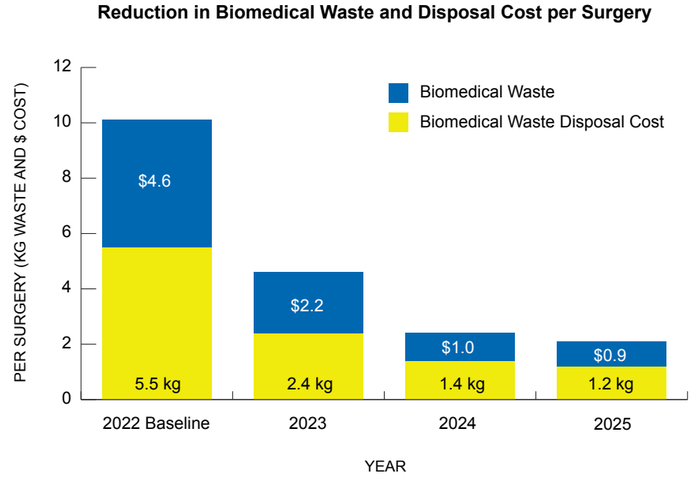
Surgical Precision Meets Sustainability

Drs. Annie Fecteau and Joshua Ramjist, together with medical student Charmi Shah, analyzed instrument use in two pediatric surgical procedures. Since operating rooms generate roughly 30 per cent of hospital waste, responsible resource use is essential. Their study revealed that only 19 per cent to 54 per cent of instruments are actually used during appendectomies and inguinal hernia repairs, resulting in more than 28,500 instruments being unnecessarily reprocessed. These findings highlight significant opportunities to make surgical practices more environmentally sustainable in the future.

Biomedical Waste Transformation

SickKids is advancing biomedical and pharmaceutical waste management by educating staff and equipping units with proper disposal systems to reduce environmental impact and costs. The project follows a collaborative strategy emphasizing communication, stakeholder engagement and continuous improvement, with progress tracked through key metrics.

Implementation spanned multiple units, including operating rooms and other critical care areas. Biomedical waste has decreased to about 20 per cent of total hospital waste—a 7 per cent improvement toward the 10 per cent target. In the ORs, contamination fell from 75 per cent to 26 per cent, reducing 30 tonnes of waste, saving 128,700 litres of water and cutting $29,000 in annual costs.



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

From Rooftop Gardens to Local Farms: Sustainable Food

Guided by the Local Food Procurement Policy, SickKids prioritizes fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced ingredients across the Terrace Café, Patient Services, Meal Train, and Terrace Catering through the Kids Eat Local program. Suppliers purchase from farms within 100 kilometres of the GTA, supporting Ontario producers and the Greenbelt. Seasonal targets ensure 20 to 60 per cent of produce is locally grown year-round.

Fresh vegetables from the Alan Brown Building rooftop garden are featured in Terrace Café meals, and nearly all takeout containers are compostable—helping advance a resilient, sustainable food system.

PROTECTING & PRESERVING WATER RESOURCES

Every Drop Counts: Water Conservation

At the PGCRL, rainwater is harvested for toilet flushing, while the PSC uses it for garden irrigation, reducing potable water use and costs. Across all facilities, water use is closely monitored, leaks are detected early and high-efficiency fixtures are installed.

Protecting Water through Pollution Prevention

Protecting our waterways is a shared priority. Through the City of Toronto's Pollution Prevention (P2) Program, departments such as Dentistry, Medical Device Reprocessing, Patient Support Services and Plant Operations have successfully reduced the use of harmful chemicals, including lead, phthalates and toluene by adopting safer alternatives and practices. In fact, all targeted pollutants have been completely eliminated, achieving a 100 per cent reduction.

OPERATE FOR TOMORROW, TODAY: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Energy Use Intensity (EUI)
Measures total energy use against area (GJ/m^2)

2025 Status: 0.1849 GJ/m^2
Improvement Since 2022: 13.5%
2040 Goal: 0.1498 GJ/m^2

Water Use Intensity (WUI)
Measures total water use against area (m^3/m^2)

2025 Status: 1.045 m^3/m^2
Improvement Since 2022: 18%
2040 Goal: 1.19 m^3/m^2

Waste Diversion
Measures % of waste diverted from landfill through recycling, composting, or reusing

2025 Status: 55% diverted
Improvement Since 2022: 7%
2040 Goal: 80% diversion

FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CULTURE

SickKids is committed to environmental stewardship to safeguard the health of children and future generations. Through leadership, responsible action, and transparent reporting, we are advancing a culture of sustainability across the organization. The initiatives below highlight our progress.

CULTIVATING A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS CULTURE

Engaging Through Events

Every year, we host a dynamic calendar of sustainability events that bring the SickKids community together to learn, engage and take action for the planet. This year's highlights included:

FEBRUARY
Winter Commute Month

APRIL
Earth Week
Ran a campus cleanup, engagement booths, and mascot-led family activities.

JULY
Waste Reduction Month
Focused on reducing in-house catering waste through sustainable event guidance.

SEPTEMBER
Tree Planting
Collaborated with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Health to plant trees locally.

OCTOBER
Interhospital Waste Challenge
Our 9th year competing in a hospital waste awareness challenge.

MARCH
Earth Hour
Powered down campus lights to raise awareness about energy conservation.

JUNE
Bike Month
Offered free cycling courses and active commuting resources.

SEPTEMBER
Smart Commute Month
Promoted low-carbon commuting for staff.

OCTOBER
Circular Economy Month
Emphasized reducing and reusing before recycling.

Story Time with a Sustainable Twist

Each month, young patients and siblings join the Family Centre for Sustainability Story Time, exploring topics like water conservation, cleanups, and nature protection. During Earth Week, therapeutic clowns Max and Zoomie hosted a special panda-themed reading with a panda mascot, inspiring curiosity and early awareness of sustainability in a playful way.

Waste Sorting, Gamified

Our interactive training module, **Don't Waste Your Waste**, is helping staff master proper waste sorting through a fun, game-based experience. Staff are challenged to sort common hospital items into the correct waste streams—recycling, compost, landfill, and specialty bins—earning points and improving their sorting accuracy.

The module has **over 1,000 plays to date**.

Housekeeping: Behind the Scenes Sustainability Champions

Housekeeping staff, including our Housekeeping Aides, Patient Support Aides, Bed Team, and Waste Handlers are key to SickKids' sustainability efforts. In 2025, over 150 staff received in-person training on waste sorting and safe handling, while 400-plus completed a mandatory online module. Ongoing education and visual tools help Patient Support Services and Sustainability teams work together on waste management.

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO OUR POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Through integrated policies, we embed sustainability in operations, design and procurement to reduce waste, conserve resources, protect air quality and promote responsible practices across our hospital and research spaces.

Sustainability Governance Across SickKids Facilities

Environmental policy
Our foundational policy sets the direction for sustainability at SickKids by driving reductions in waste, water and energy use while promoting green infrastructure and climate resiliency.

Environmentally preferred purchasing policy
This policy guides every purchase to support a healthier planet by prioritizing sustainable products. From office supplies to construction materials, we invest in a low-carbon, environmentally responsible workplace.

Green cleaning policy
Our cleaning practices protect the health of patients, families and staff while reducing environmental impact. Over 80 per cent of our products are low-toxicity chemicals that align with LEED requirements.

> Protecting children's health requires environmentally sustainable health systems.
> *— Lancet Countdown*

PGCRL Sustainability Policy Framework

Sustainability is deeply embedded in operations at the PGCRL through six specialized policies that protect health and reduce resource use.

Building Exterior and Hardscape Management Plan

Integrated Pest Management Plan

Solid Waste Management Plan

Water Efficiency Economic Assessment Policy

Cooling Tower Water Management Plan

FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CULTURE: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Sustainability Office Established
Creation of a dedicated office to lead sustainability initiatives across SickKids

Sustainability SharePoint Resource
Centralized resource hub for staff engagement and tools

Environmental Compliance Reporting
Reporting for public sector energy, pollution prevention, and waste audits

CHANGEMAKERS

Changemakers are staff who have made meaningful contributions to advancing environmental sustainability over the past several years. Through leadership, innovation, and collaboration, these individuals have helped turn sustainability commitments into action across the organization.

Elaine Ng: Innovative Anesthesia

"**Rethinking routine practices can significantly reduce waste and emissions**"

Anesthesiologist Elaine Ng is a driving force behind greener anesthesia practices at SickKids. She is a co-founder and current co-chair on the POCU Greening Committee. She facilitated several projects including the removal of Desflurane—a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential over 2,500 times that of CO_2—from the hospital formulary, eliminated the routine setup of large size ventilator bags on anesthetic machines, discontinued the use of stopcocks on regular IV lines, and trialed reusable breathing circuits.

Elaine's leadership extends beyond SickKids: she's an active member of the Ontario Anesthesiologist Environmental Sustainability Working Group and the Sustainable OR Working Group within the Toronto Academic Health Science Network. Her efforts continue to shape a more sustainable future for perioperative care.

Annie Fecteau: Sustainable Surgery

"**I am trying to leave a healthier planet for the sick children I care for.**"

Surgeon Annie Fecteau has been a catalyst for waste reduction and sustainable innovation in the OR. She was a key champion in the biohazardous waste reduction project, also leading the trial of reusable surgical gowns, introduction of surgical device reprocessing and collaboration with MDRD to "lean" general surgery trays by removing unnecessary instruments.

Annie submitted abstracts on both the OR tray optimization and biohazardous waste projects to the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, with the latter selected for poster presentation at an international conference. Her leadership continues to embed sustainability into surgical care and inspire change across discipline.

Leigh Cassils: Impact through Education

"**Recognizing the significant impact the OR has on the organization's overall waste production, I am committed to doing everything possible to minimize waste, enhance recycling efforts, and more.**"

Inter-Professional Education Specialist Leigh Cassils has played a pivotal role in embedding sustainability into perioperative care at SickKids. Leigh facilitated a months-long intervention to reduce biohazardous waste contamination, collaborating across teams to shift daily practices and improve sorting accuracy. This effort contributed to a major reduction in waste and water use across the OR. Through education and collaboration, Leigh has helped build a culture of environmental accountability that continues to grow.

Kate Delfosse: Reducing Research Waste

"**Sustainable research not only helps our environment but also saves research dollars.**"

Kate Delfosse, Lab Research Project Manager in Genetics and Genome Biology, has led transformative sustainability initiatives under Phillipp Maass, Senior Scientist.

Kate promoted pipette tip refill cartridges and bulk tips, reducing both plastic waste and expenses. She pushed for outlet timers on lab equipment—$22 devices that pay for themselves in two months and save $135 annually. Her pilot for mindful glove use and recycling cut landfill waste and disposal costs, while her advocacy for digital lab notebooks helped labs go paperless. She also encouraged raising ultralow freezer temperatures from -80°C to -70°C, a change that can reduce a unit's energy use by 30 to 40 per cent without impacting sample quality.

Through practical solutions and education, Kate and the Maass Lab are making sustainable research a reality at SickKids.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

SickKids continues to lead in health-care sustainability, earning national and industry recognition for its innovative energy and sustainability initiatives. These awards reflect the dedication of our teams to advancing climate action, operational excellence and sustainable design across our facilities.

Clean50 Honouree – Kyle Robinson

Awarded to Kyle Robinson, Chief Facilities Redevelopment and Sustainability Officer, for exceptional leadership in sustainability. Under Kyle, SickKids cut campus GHG emissions by 12 per cent in one year through smart retrofits and commissioning.

Greening Health Care 5% Club Award

Presented to hospitals that achieve at least a 5 per cent reduction in energy or GHG emissions, this award was earned by PGCRL for the first time. Despite already being LEED-certified, PGCRL surpassed expectations with a reduction in emissions exceeding 20 per cent.

IESO Energy Management Excellence Award

This honor recognizes SickKids' leadership in energy efficiency and sustainability for a second time. Key achievements included major reductions in emissions through recommissioning and retrofits and the integration of AI to optimize building operations.

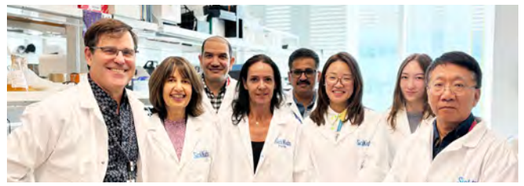
LEED Gold Certification – PSC

The PSC earned LEED Gold for Building Design and Construction, featuring innovations like Deep Lake Water Cooling, a rainwater cistern and a green roof.

Green Will Initiative Advocate Designation

This designation celebrates SickKids' commitment to climate action and fostering a sustainable culture, reinforcing our role as a leader in environmental stewardship.

MyGreenLab Certification – Ellis and Mital Labs



These labs became the first at SickKids to achieve MyGreenLab Certification, scoring 93 per cent through initiatives like shared equipment, waterless vacuums and optimized freezer temperatures.

LEED Gold Recertification – PGCRL

PGCRL maintained its LEED Gold status across three categories, including Existing Building Operations and Maintenance.

OUR PATH FORWARD

Under SickKids' 2022–2025 Environmental Sustainability Strategy, we took bold steps to advance environmental sustainability, harnessing AI to optimize complex building systems and charting a new course to reduce our environmental footprint. We launched quality improvement measures that integrate sustainability directly into health-care operations, embedding it into the very fabric of our organization. At the same time, we laid the groundwork for deeper integration and stronger collaboration, both within our organization and with our partners, building a foundation for lasting impact.

Environmental stewardship is a cornerstone of our future as a health-care organization, as a country and as a global community. In 2026, we will launch our renewed Environmental Sustainability Strategy, setting our sights on 2030. As we work toward this milestone, we recognize that protecting our planet will only become increasingly important. Aligned with the goals of SickKids 2030, our refreshed strategy will guide the development of strong partnerships, clear benchmarks and a bold vision for a greener SickKids.

SickKids is ready to lead the next chapter of sustainable health care—where sustainability is not just practiced, but expected by patients, families, staff and all our stakeholders.

SickKids®

555 University Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X8

www.sickkids.ca