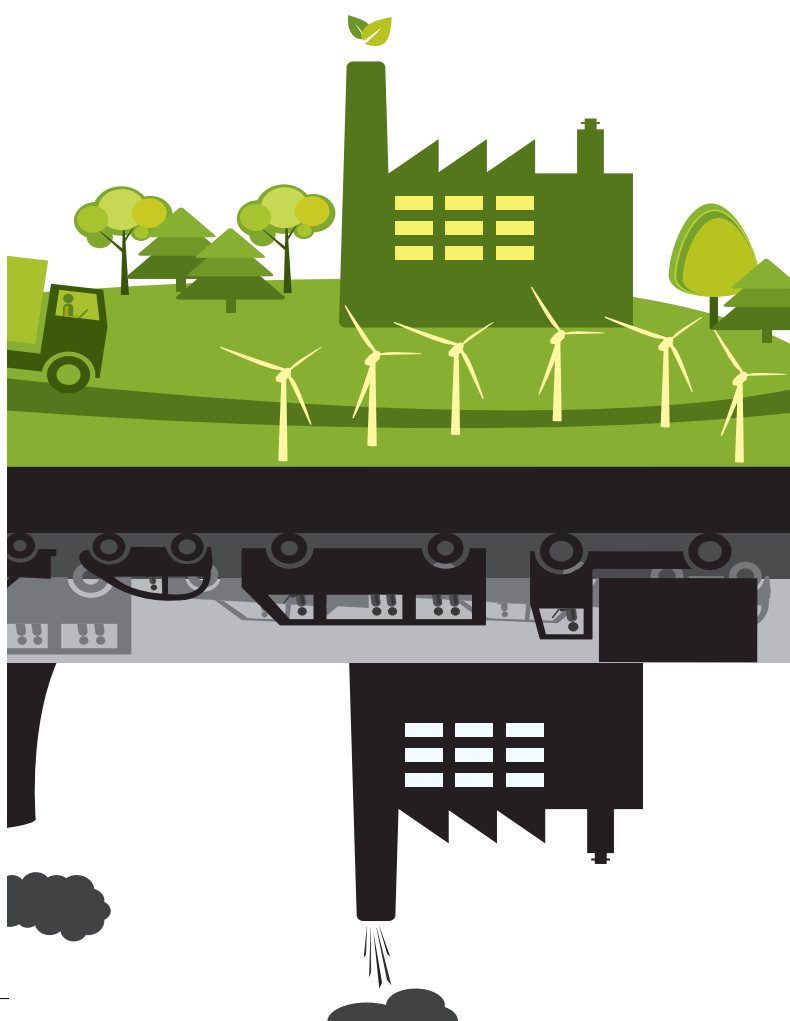


ENTER: THE NATIONAL ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**CHES members help make
energy efficiency group a reality**

By Kent Waddington





Thanks to volunteer CHES members from across Canada, and numerous others interested in furthering the cause of enhanced energy management in health care, the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care has been able to assemble a National Energy Advisory Committee (NEAC) to support work by the Coalition and CHES in advocacy efforts to improve energy efficiency in the Canadian health services sector. This includes work on refining and introducing initiatives that support the greening of Canada's health care building stock from an energy conservation perspective.

The committee will ensure high professional standards are maintained and continuous quality improvements are made in relation to all of the Coalition's energy management and energy promotion initiatives and activities. Further, it will make recommendations and provide guidance on the planning, development, evaluation, deployment, and marketing of initiative and activities as deemed appropriate, and in keeping with the Coalition's mandate and governance policies.

Members of the committee come with varied backgrounds and bring with them a strong combination of skills and experience in health service facility engineering, operations, and management, providing the best possible critical peer group influence and leadership to the sector.

NEAC members work to showcase energy efficiency leadership and promote how energy efficient initiatives are being used to reduce operating costs and mitigate environmental impacts by identifying and reducing barriers that impede the adoption of energy efficiency in health care facilities.

They also work with other institutions to bring awareness of the human, economic, and environmental benefits of energy efficiency, and to gain support for energy efficiency and its relationship to climate change. In addition, the committee helps recruit Canadian health care facilities into the world of sustainable health care.

"Working with the Coalition has greatly assisted me in my role and responsibilities keeping me informed regarding trends, best practice, and generally up-to-date on products and services that will help us meet our sustainability objectives," says CHES president Peter Whiteman. "It is truly an honor to represent the Saskatchewan healthcare industry on the National Energy Advisory Committee. I know from past experience that the successes we can achieve by putting a national unified voice forward are tremendous."

JJ Knott, Director of Plant Operations at Norfolk General Hospital and Energy Lead on the joint Coalition/

CHES Ontario energy services initiative, Healthcare Energy Leaders Ontario (HELO), hopes the committee can finally assemble a clear picture of what Canada's national health services sector's energy use profile looks like. "Having a credible national energy use profile for Canada's health sector, including the value of operating dollars assigned




to that profile, will put us in a much stronger position to talk about the overall environmental and financial impact of care delivery. It will also allow us to better make the argument to decision-makers that investing in energy efficiency will have significant benefits in terms of dollar savings and, more importantly, human health."

Deanna Fourt of the Vancouver Island Health Authority represents British Columbia. She says BC Health Authorities are pleased to participate in the National Energy Advisory Committee, adding, "We see it as a great opportunity to share best practices, advance innovation and collaborate on advancing the energy agenda. Through the Provincial Environmental Technical Team, the BC Health Authorities and Provincial Government meet monthly to discuss the Carbon Neutral Agenda. We hope through our participation in NEAC we can have similar collaboration nationally."

"I know that the decision-makers at Capital Health are always looking for ways to publicize their hard work on reducing the energy bills and I see this committee as an excellent way to start getting the good news out. I'm always interested in reading case studies and the results of initiatives in other regions," claims new member Dave Bligh, an embedded efficiency specialist with Efficiency Nova Scotia. "Being connected with the people involved in many of these projects is invaluable."

For member Kate Butler sharing knowledge in an environment with like-minded objectives can only be a win/win for healthcare stakeholders across Canada. As the energy manager with FacilicorpNB, she is looking forward to sharing her knowledge on topics ranging from new energy efficient technologies to energy management tools and staff engagement initiatives as well as ways to collaborate to deliver higher performance health care facilities.


FacilicorpNB, the New Brunswick Shared Services Agency, is supporting the Regional Health Authorities to develop and implement a cost-effective strategy for energy management. Butler says her membership in NEAC will be extremely valuable to discuss energy in a forum where the primary focus is energy efficiency, but notes the underlying goal is to maintain and potentially even increase patient care and comfort. "The National Energy Advisory Committee will be a forum for all health care facilities across Canada to share energy management challenges, success, initiatives, and learning. It will be instrumental as all the participants gain better understanding of






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the energy usage in health care facilities, benchmark, and set goals.”

Coalition initiatives with a focus on sustainable energy management include:

EcoAction GHG Emissions Reduction

- In partnership with CHES and Synergie Santé Environnement (SSE), the Coalition has embarked on a three-year GHG and water reduction initiative across Canada with targeted outreach and education collateral, and training modules to incite organisations to adopt sustainable environmental practices.

Climate Change Resiliency Toolkit

- With research and technical support from Health Canada, the Health Care Facility Climate Change Resiliency Toolkit helps organizations improve their ability to withstand the negative impacts of climate change. www.greenhealthcare.ca/climateresilienthealthcare/

Green Revolving Fund for Health Care Energy Efficiency

- The Coalition recently launched a Green Revolving

Fund pilot project, to research and test a new funding model for energy projects. Implementation is under development and the Coalition is actively looking for funding partners. www.greenhealthcare.ca/projects/energy/greenrevolvingfund

Healthcare Energy Leaders Ontario (HELO)

- When fully operational, the HELO project team will provide free onsite assistance to facilities with activities such as energy assessments, developing business cases, applying for incentives, and helping implement a culture of conservation. www.greenhealthcare.ca/HELO

Achieving environmentally-

responsible health service delivery requires a collaborative approach, clearly articulated in the Joint Position Statement—toward an Environmentally Responsible Canadian Health Sector available at: www.greenhealthcare.ca/images/pdf/jps.pdf

To learn more about the National Energy Advisory Committee visit

www.greenhealthcare.ca/neac or contact Kent Waddington, Communications Director for The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care at kent@greenhealthcare.ca or 613-756-0435. ■

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care, Canada’s premier green health care resource network; a national voice and catalyst for environmental change. For over twelve years, the Coalition has been helping those working in health care facilities, non-governmental and governmental organizations, individuals, students and businesses to share green health care best practices and to become better equipped to deal with the growing demands placed upon them to be environmentally responsible health service workers and individuals. Together with our members, volunteers and supportive health care community, we strive to reduce health care’s ecological impact from compassionate care delivery while providing a nurturing platform upon which to discuss and promote best practices, innovation and environmental responsibility. www.greenhealthcare.ca.



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