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# Sustainability at University Health Network: Presentation & Tour for the Circular Economy Consortium



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# Sustainability at UHN, led by the Energy & Environment Team

What is sustainability?

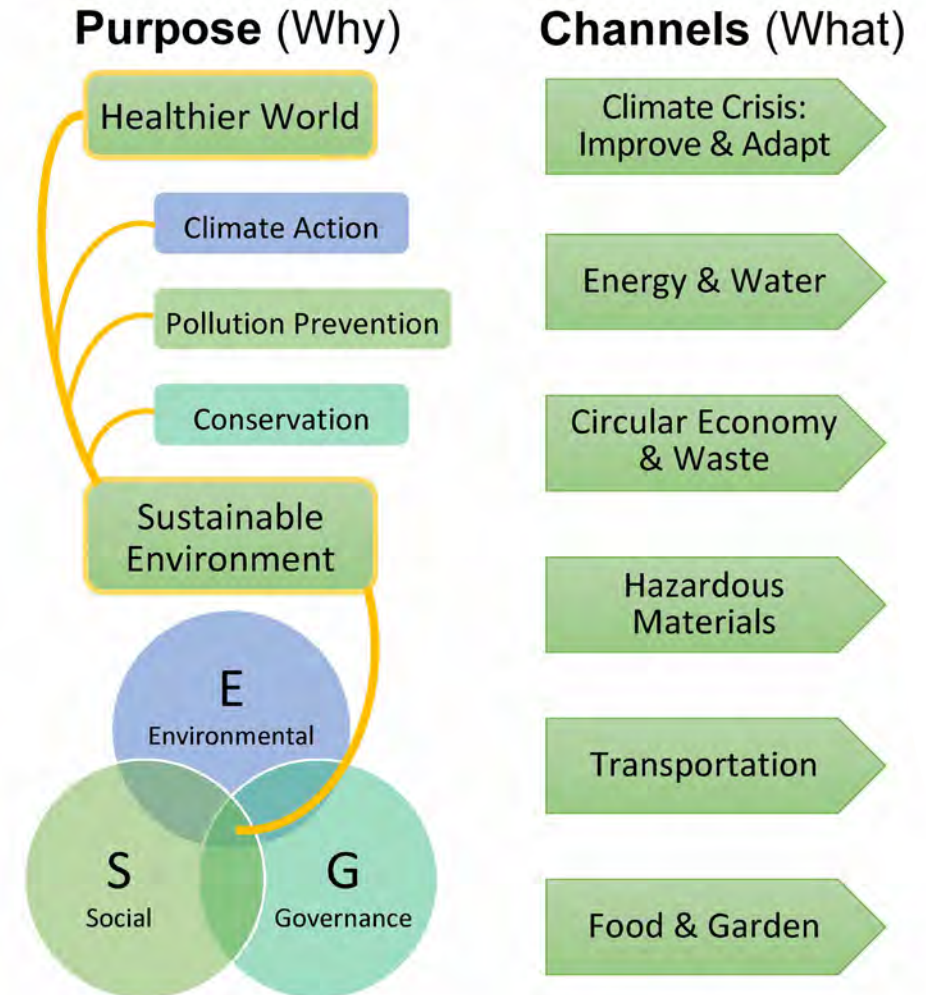
- To meet our needs today without endangering future generations.

How we do that at UHN?

- Since 1999, the Energy & Environment team, part of Facilities Management-Planning, Redevelopment & Operations (FM-PRO), collaborates across all sites and departments to foster a culture of sustainability.



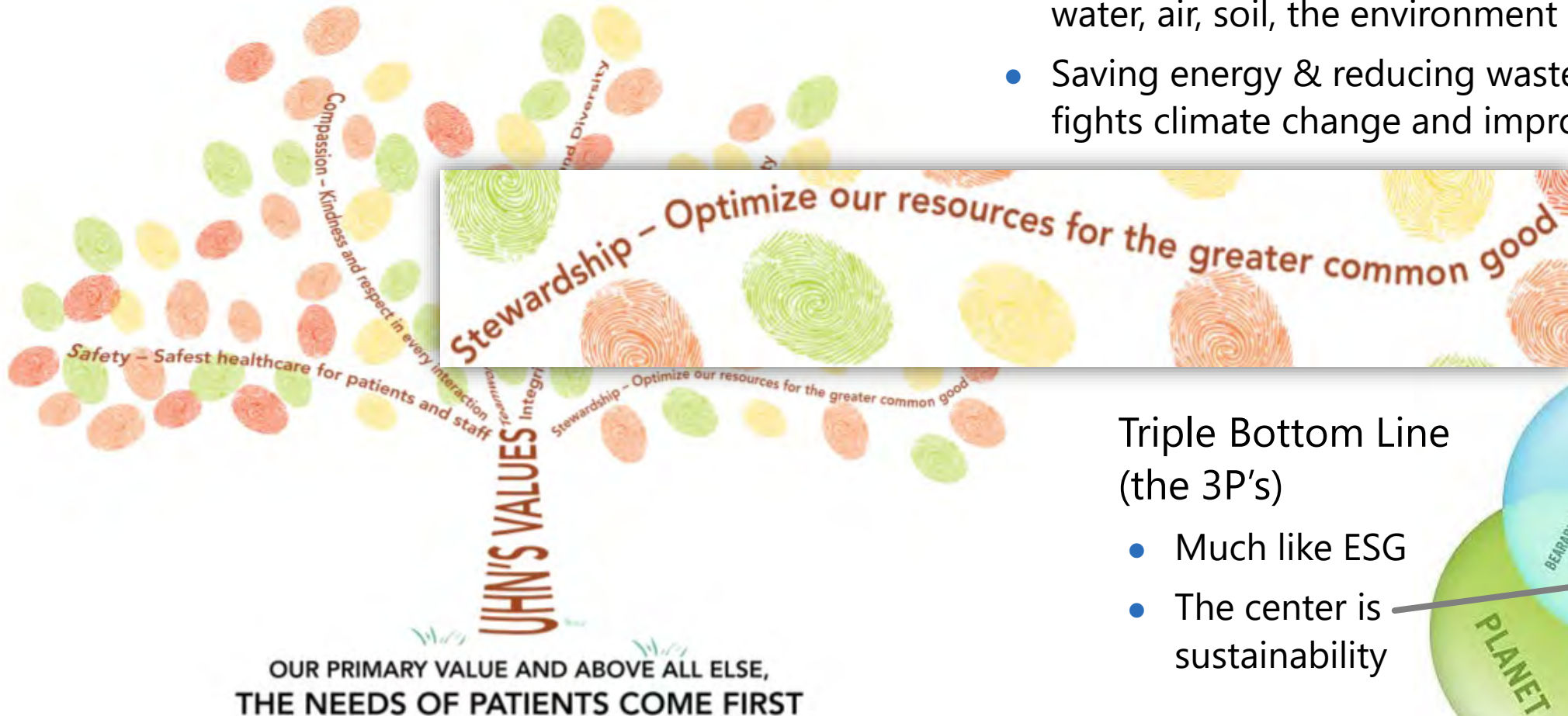
## A. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY AT UHN



# UHN's Values: Our Favorite...

What are resources?

- Staff time, money, supplies and materials, energy, water, air, soil, the environment
- Saving energy & reducing waste saves money, fights climate change and improves public health

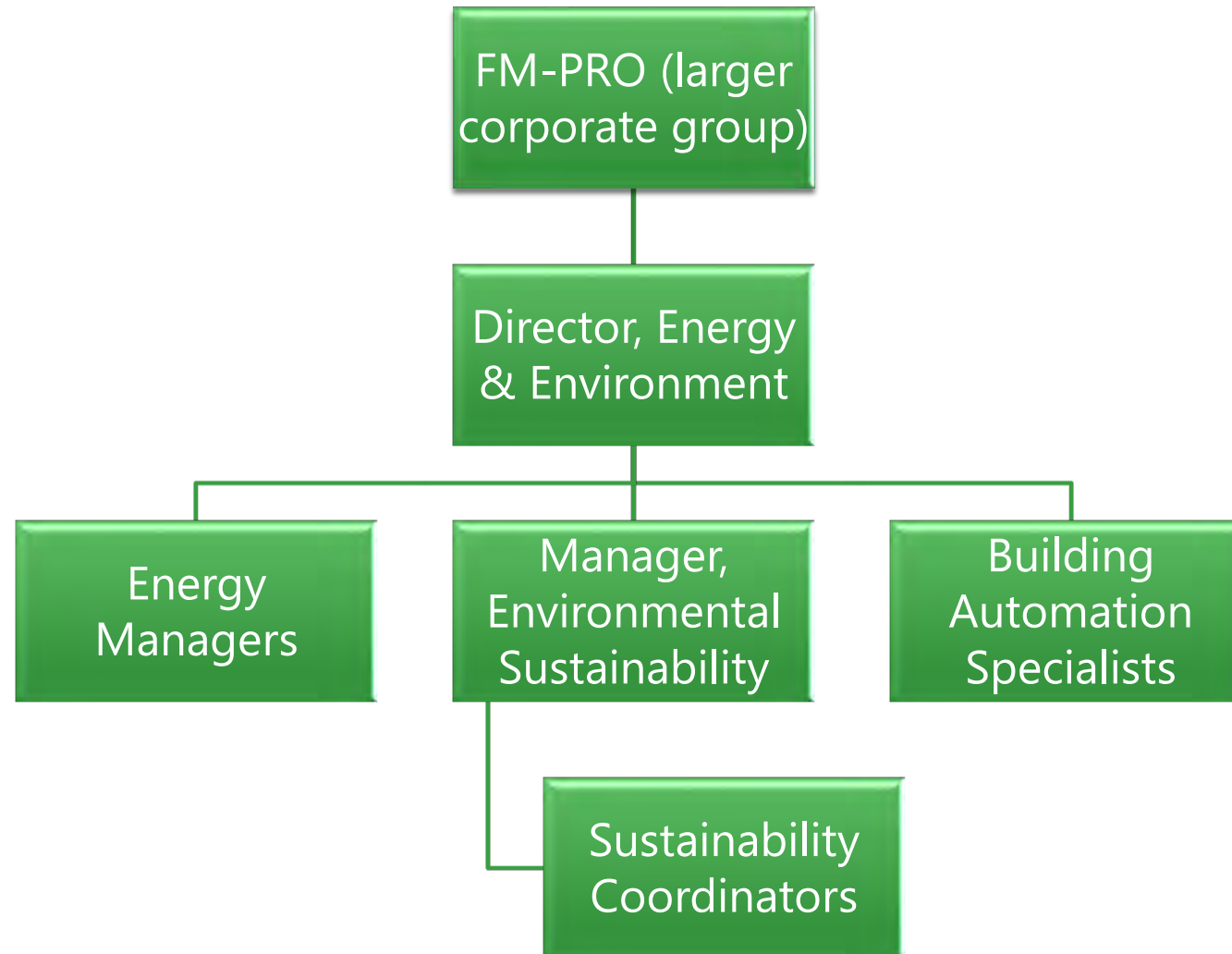


Triple Bottom Line (the 3P's)

- Much like ESG
- The center is sustainability



# The Energy & Environment Team



# Education and Communication

## Telling Our Stories

### UHN GREEN PLEDGE

BY THE SHOW OF HANDS...  
**I WILL USE THIS GREEN KNOWLEDGE AT WORK!**

DATE: January 12, 2024 | Inservice  
 DEPT: TWH - OR team

### Blog & Social Media

Talkin' Trash with UHN

# 31,764

page views/year

**+4%** increase in page views compared to 2022

Twitter

# 934

Facebook

# 409

followers

Social media sites centre on our *Talkin' Trash with UHN* Blog to tell UHN's greening stories so they may be amplified and repeated. Social media like Linked In, Twitter and Facebook play a supporting role. Outreach is modeled on community-based social marketing methodology.

## Training

44,298 staff trained live 2000 - 2023

1,637 staff trained live 2023

2,060 staff trained virtually 2023

Communication, training & staff engagement are key to the organizational reach of all of UHN's sustainability programs.

Detailed sustainability training restarted for all new clinical staff in September 2022, with an increase in the number of annual refresher training sessions for key departments as well. Sustainability training at New Employee Orientation shifted to a lean online model that features a small sustainability section and reaches 3,000+ staff annually (not included in the data below).

Year	Live Training	Virtual Training
2019	~3200	~1300
2020	~600	~1400
2021	~400	~400
2022	~600	~1400
2023	~1600	~2000

Training Key departments:

- New Clinical Orientation
- New Leaders Orientation (partnered w Finance)
- Green Team Orientation
- CLEC – Clinical Learners
- Nurse Educators
- Health & Safety
- Environmental Services
- Facilities
- Pharmacy
- IPAC
- FM-PRO
- Transportation
- Security
- Other Departments (green team invitations)

# Climate Change: Cause, Effects and Cure?



Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century...Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity. People in healthcare must lead. (The Lancet)

**Cause** = People burning fossil fuels (Coal, Oil, Gas, Natural Gas) create carbon emissions (carbon footprint)

**Where?** transportation, buildings, stuff

Healthcare in Canada ~ **10 million cars\***

\* Greenhouse Gas emissions = 33 million t CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr

**Effects** = **Environment:** Rising sea levels, global warming, extreme weather/storms/heat, droughts/floods

= **Health:** respiratory and vector-borne disease, food/water scarcity, heat-related deaths, forced migration

**Cure: Climate Action** = transition from fossil fuels now, electrify everything with clean electricity

- Use less, reuse/recycle what you can, reduce plastics (made from oil)



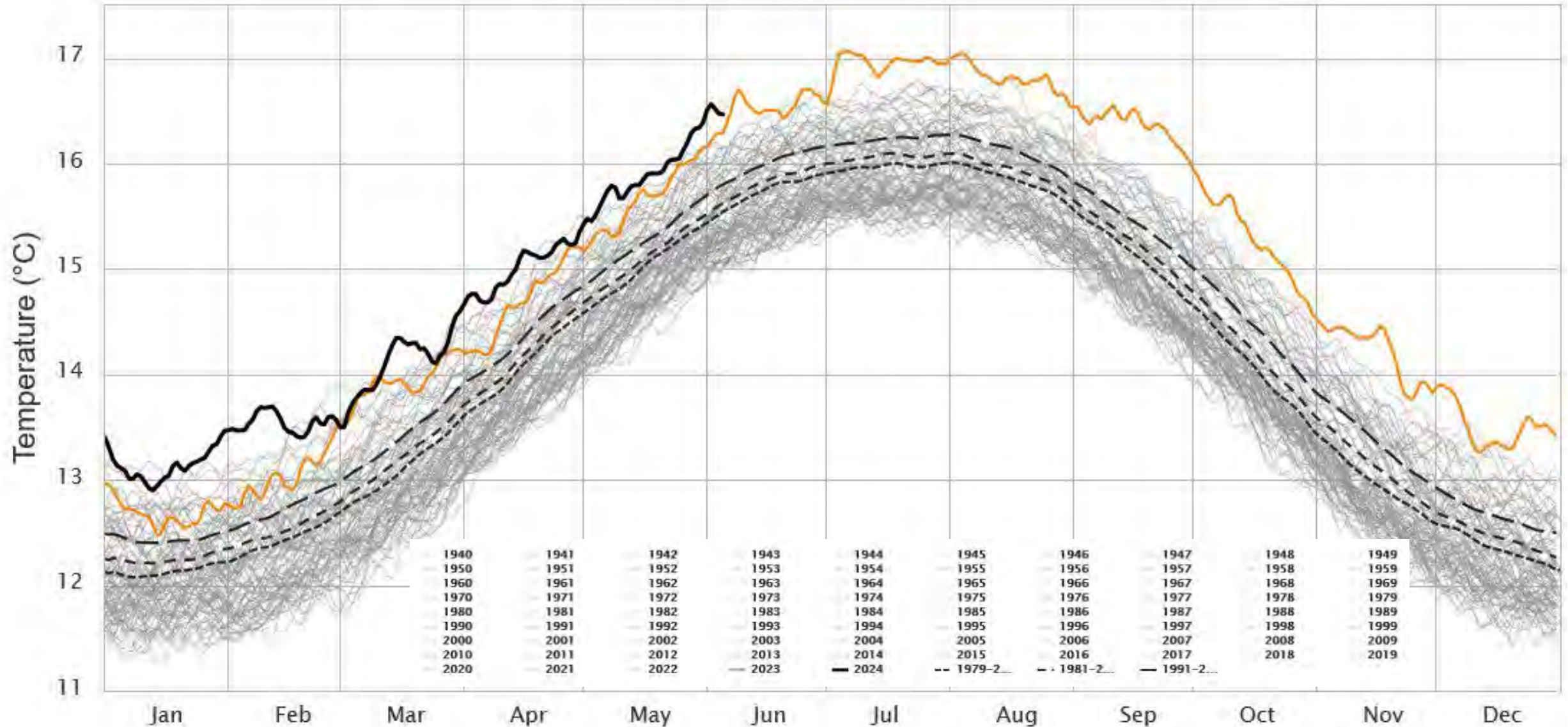
In 2013, Ontario closed all coal-fired power plants.

**What did that stop?**

1. Blackouts
2. Country Music
3. Smog Days

# Daily Surface Air Temperature, World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

Dataset: ECMWF Reanalysis v5 (ERA5) downloaded from C3S | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



# Energy, Sustainability, and Climate in Healthcare



**United Nations**

***"Code Red for humanity"***

- UN Sec. Gen. Antonio Guterrez



*"A lack of progress in reducing emissions and building adaptive capacity threatens both human lives and the viability of the national health systems they depend on, with the **potential to disrupt core public health infrastructure** and overwhelm health services."*

-The Lancet



**World Health Organization**

*"Climate change is impacting human lives and health in a variety of ways. It **threatens the essential ingredients of good health** – clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply and safe shelter – and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health."*

- World Health Organization

ASSOCIATION  
MÉDICALE  
CANADIENNE



CANADIAN  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

*"The Canadian Medical Association recognizes that the **impact of climate change on human health is accelerating at an alarming pace**. With that in mind, the CMA advocates transitioning to an environmentally sustainable, net-zero and climate-resilient health system in Canada."*



# Gitigan and GROW – Gardens at UHN



## Bickle GROW Garden

- Garden Rehab On Wheels
- First wheelchair-accessible food garden
- Now in 8th season
- Patient rehabilitation and staff engagement
- See also, TR-UC Rooftop garden, TR-LC raised beds



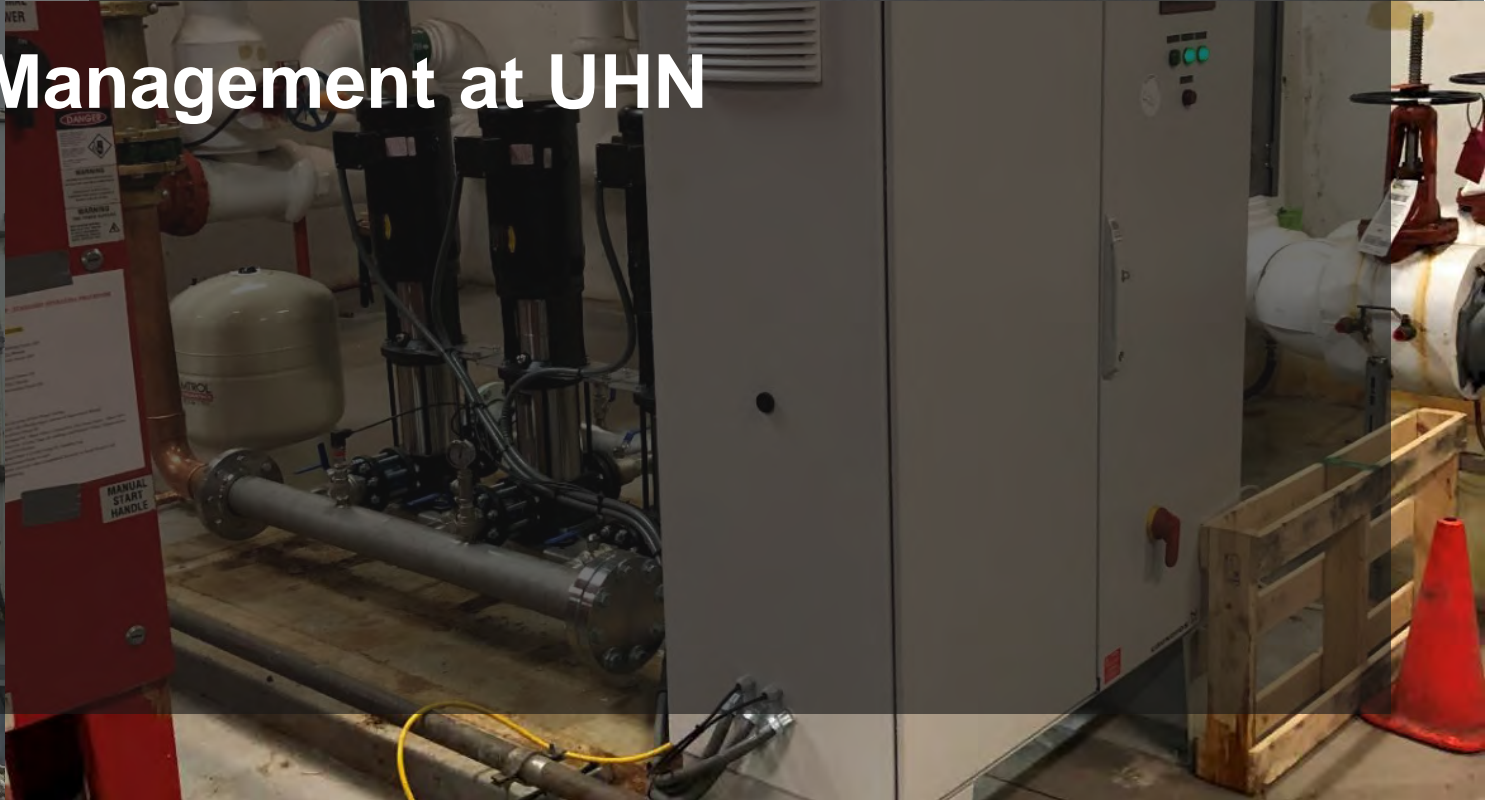
## Michener Gitigan

- UHN's first Indigenous Healing Garden
- Led by Indigenous Health Program, Michener Facilities, Energy & Environment
- Now in 4th season
- Staff & student education & engagement

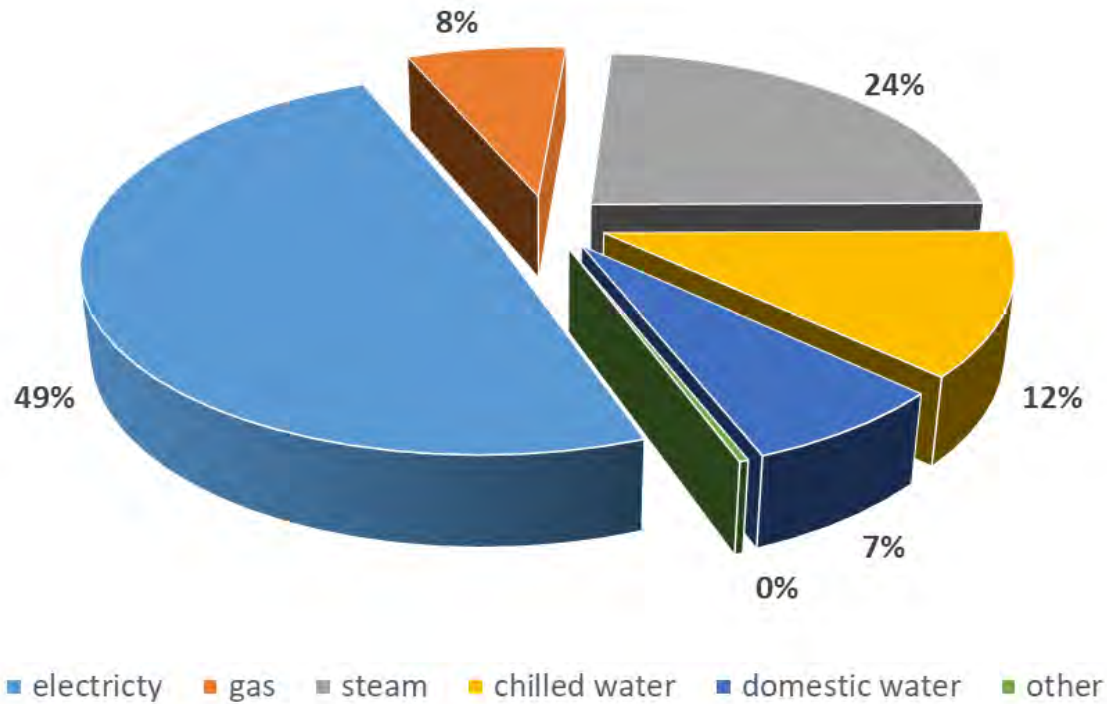
Shall  
we  
visit it?



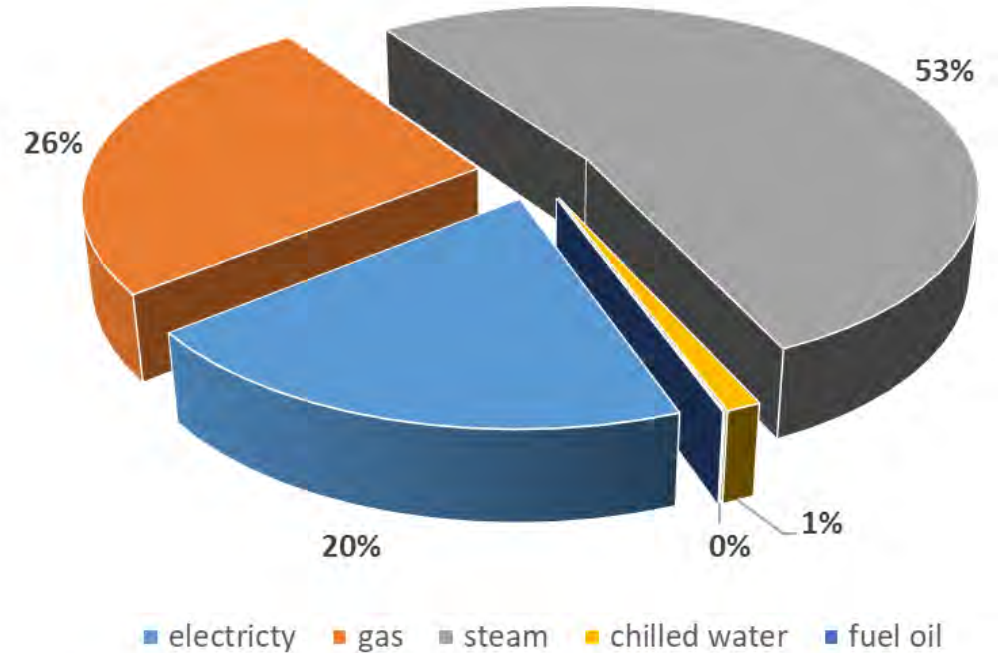
# Energy Management at UHN



# UHN Utilities - 2023

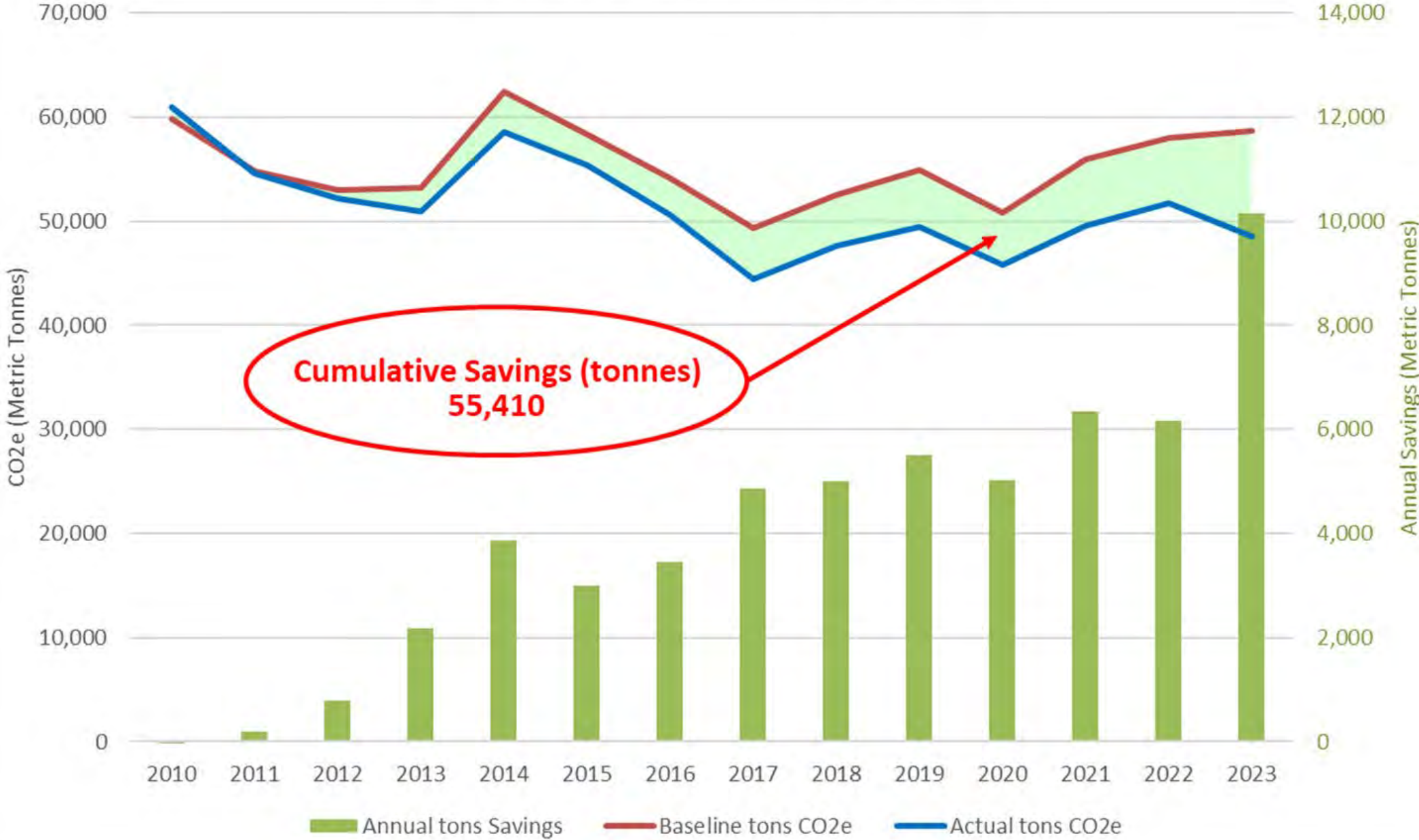


**Cost**

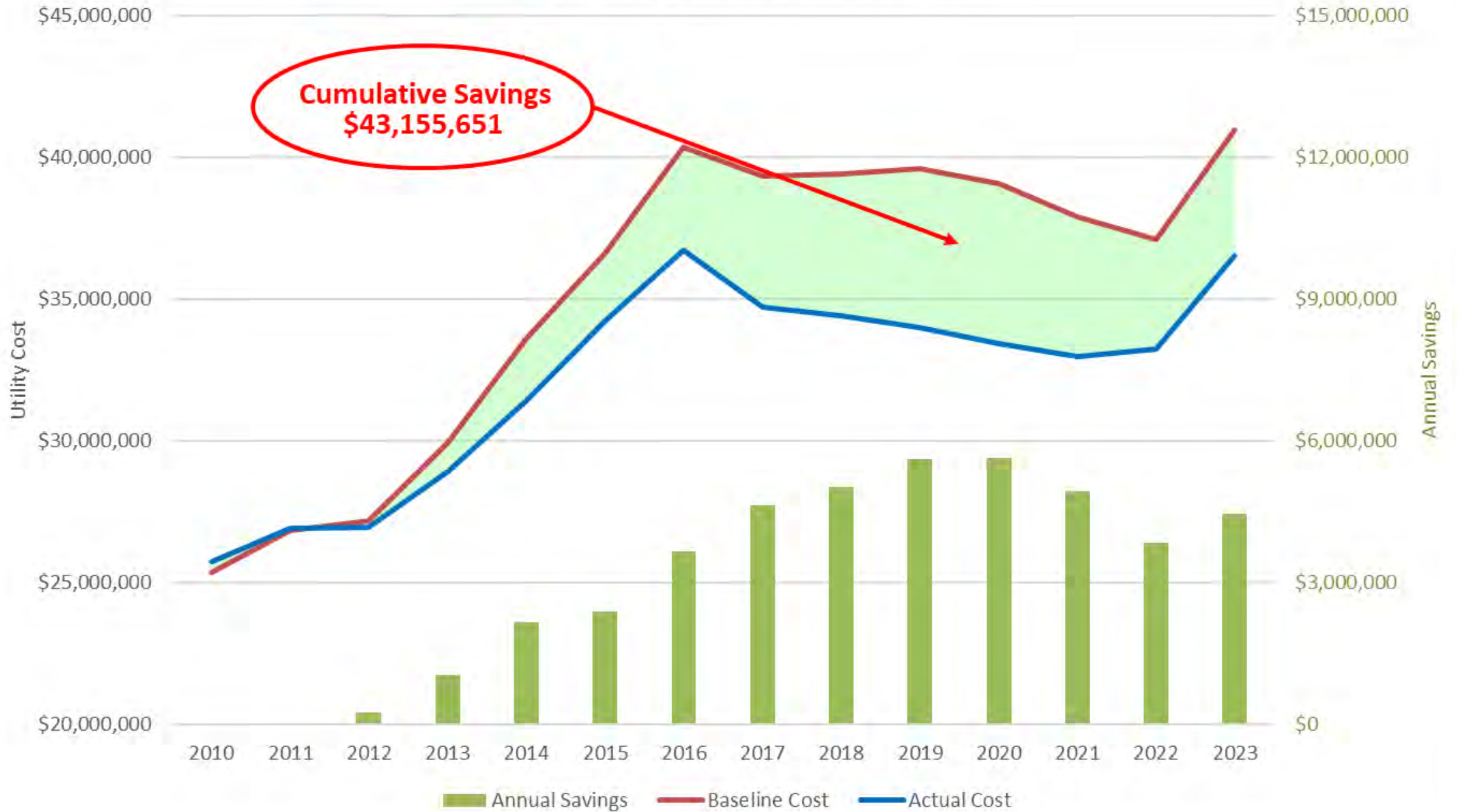


**GHG**

# UHN CO2 Emissions and Savings

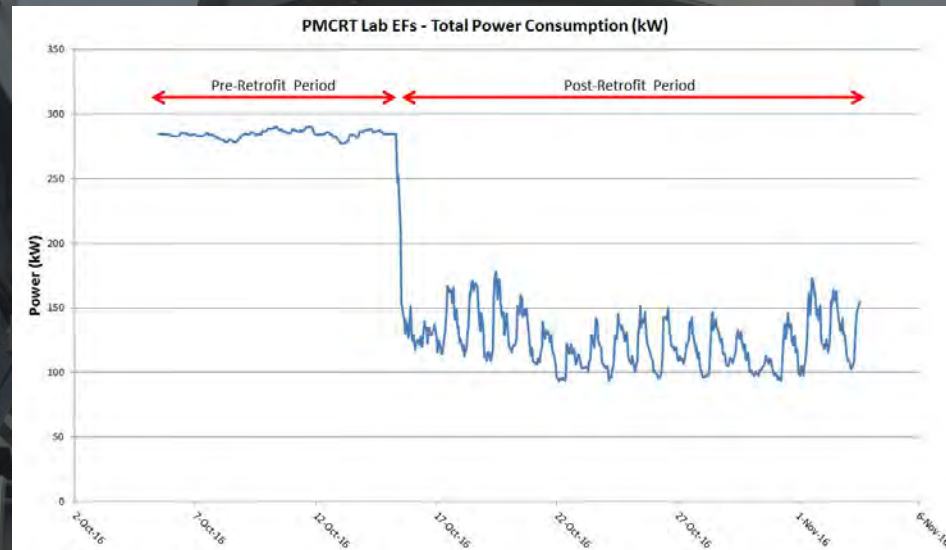


# UHN Utility Costs and Savings



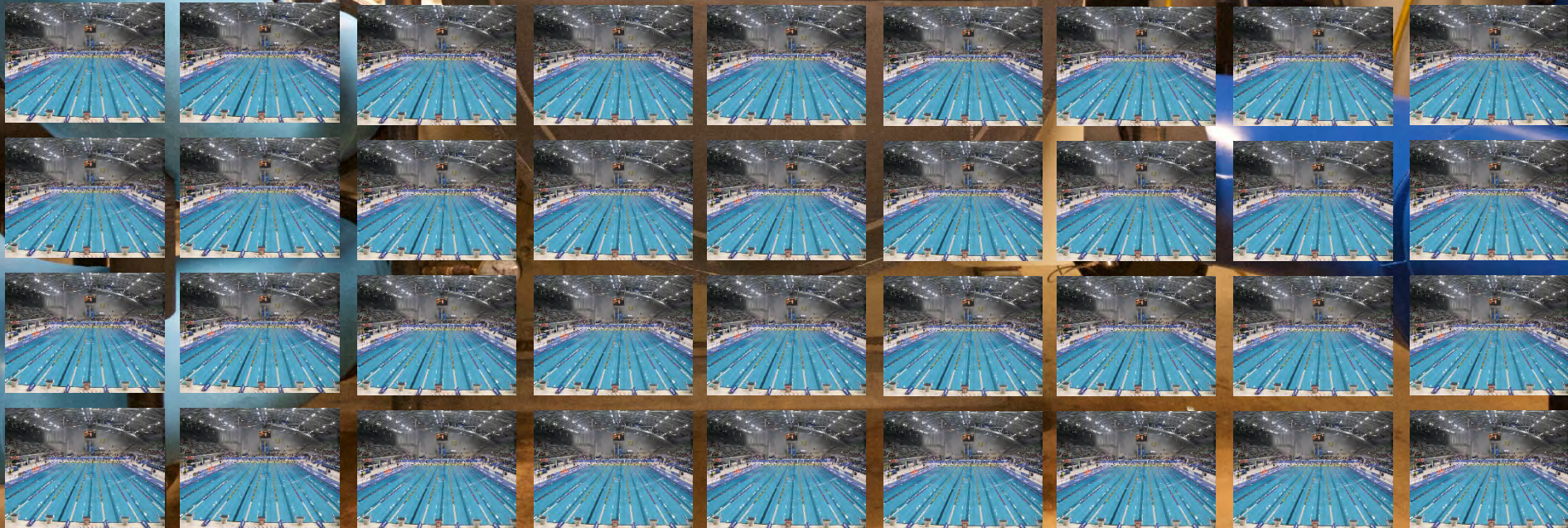
# Demand Controlled Lab Ventilation

- Typical lab systems designed for worst case scenario operations 24/7/365
- System in place at PMCRT and KDT
- Continuous lab air quality monitoring
- DCV allows energy efficiency with ability to purge air
- Utility cost savings of \$870,000 per year
- GHG savings of 2,700 Tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year



# Deep Lake Cooling at TGH and PMH

- Uses renewable cooling from bottom of Lake Ontario in place of electric chiller plant
- Improve site cooling resilience
- Combined savings: 12,750,000kWh electricity
- Combined savings: 90,000m<sup>3</sup> water
- Combined Savings: \$1.4M



# TRI Bickle Heat Recovery

- Added heat pumps to existing system
- System can reverse to provide cooling
- 283 tonnes CO2eq pollution reduction

**Honeywell Building Solutions**

**AHU - S8**  
Location: South POD Penthouse Mechanical Room  
Serving: Induction Units, South POD Levels 2,3,4,5

**System Parameters**

SAT OAT Rst Hi Sp	30.0	°C
SAT OAT Summer En Sp	10.0	°C
SAT OAT Summer Dis Sp	19.0	°C
SAT Lo Sp	15.0	°C
P15 OAT Winter En Sp	7.0	°C
P15 OAT Winter Dis Sp	9.0	°C
P15 OAT Summer En Sp	18.0	°C
P15 OAT Summer Dis Sp	16.0	°C
E8 VAV Z1 Occ Sched	Occupied	
E8 VAV Z2 Occ Sched	Occupied	

**System Parameters**

Occupancy Schedule	Occupied
Plant Mode	Occ
Smoke Ventilation Mode	Normal
Fire Alm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unit Alm Reset	Normal
Unit Off Reset	Normal
OA Temp Lo Sp	-20.0 °C
Htg Vlv OAT Hi Sp	5.0 °C
OAT WinterSp	7.0 °C
OAT Shoulder Sp	12.0 °C
OAT Summer Sp	18.0 °C
P15 Sys Enable	Enable
Temp Control Mode	Winter

**Navigation Menu**

EA Dmpr	100 %
EA Dmpr Fdbk	99 %
EA Dmpr Opn Sts	Full Open
EA Dmpr Alm	Normal

**EA Fan Controls**

EA Fan Enable	Start
EA Fan Sts	On
EA Fan Spd	89 %
EA Fan Spd Fdbk	91 %
EA Fan Fail Alm	Normal

**Heat Pump - 2**

P15a Enable	Start
P15a Sts	On
P15b Enable	Start
P15b Sts	On
Gly Vlv	100 %
Gly Vlv Fdbk	94 %

**Humidity Controls**

Hum Enable	Enable
Hum Vlv	100 %
Hum Vlv Fdbk	100 %

**SA Fan Controls**

SA Fan Enable	Start
SA Fan Sts	On
SA Fan Spd	89 %
SA Fan Spd Fdbk	89 %
SA Fan Fail Alm	Normal

**Temperature and Humidity Readings**

SA Hum	41 %RH
SA Hum HL Sp	90 %RH
SA Temp	25.6 °C
SA Temp Sp	21.0 °C
SA Temp HL Sp	30.0 °C
SA Temp LL Sp	10.0 °C
Htg Vlv	0 %
Htg Vlv Fdbk	0 %
HC271 SA Temp	25.0 °C
HCSA Temp Sp	22.0 °C
Gly DA Temp	20.0 °C
Gly DA Temp Sp	20.0 °C
SA Hi Static Alm	Normal
SA Final Fitr Alm	Normal
Htg Vlv	2 %
Htg Vlv Fdbk	1 %
Htg Vlv Min Pos	0 %
Clg Vlv	0 %
Clg Vlv Fdbk	0 %
SA Fan Spd	89 %
SA Fan Spd Fdbk	89 %
Htg Vlv	1 %
Htg Vlv Fdbk	1 %
HC272 SA Temp	24.9 °C

**Service: XXXXXXXX**

SA Static Press	Inw
SA Static Press Sp	5.00 Inw

**Service: XXXXXXXXXX**

SA Static Press	Inw
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## Under Construction: WET System

- Will use renewable energy from wastewater to heat/cool TWH and KDT
- Eliminate 20% of UHN's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Eliminate 10% of UHN's water consumption
- Equivalent to 1800 vehicles off the road

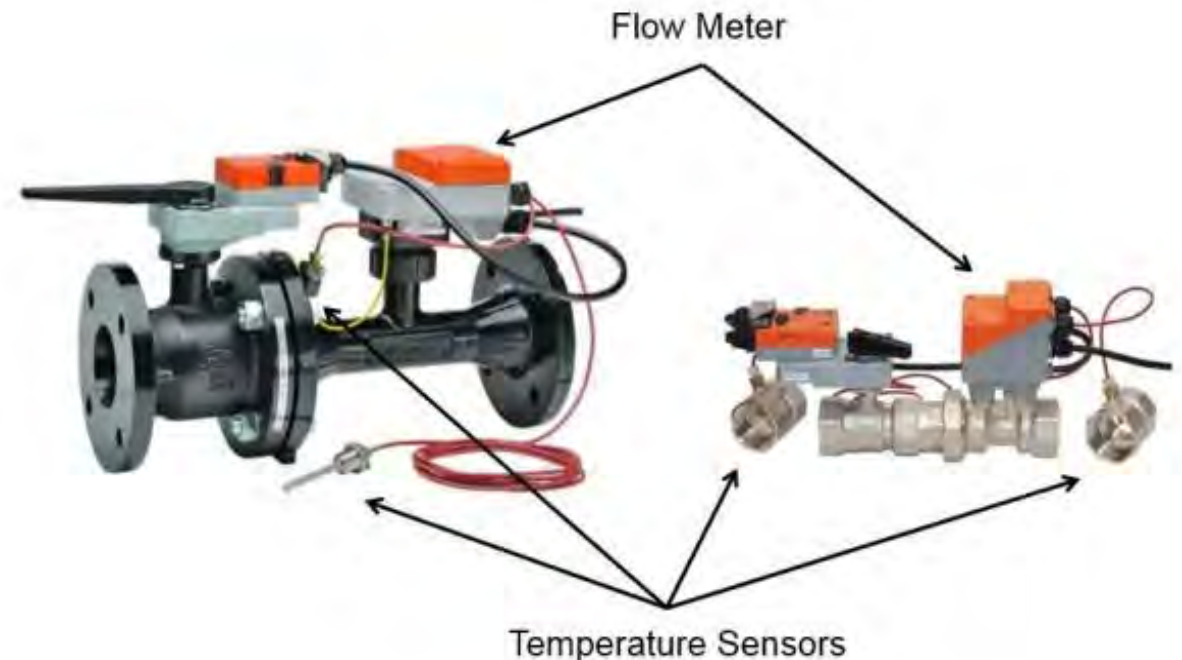


“Fewer people will need to be admitted to hospitals, including University Health Network, because of projects like these. Climate change is likely the number one threat to the well-being of society and the planet ”

- Dr. Kevin Smith, PhD - CEO, UHN

# Data and Retro-commissioning

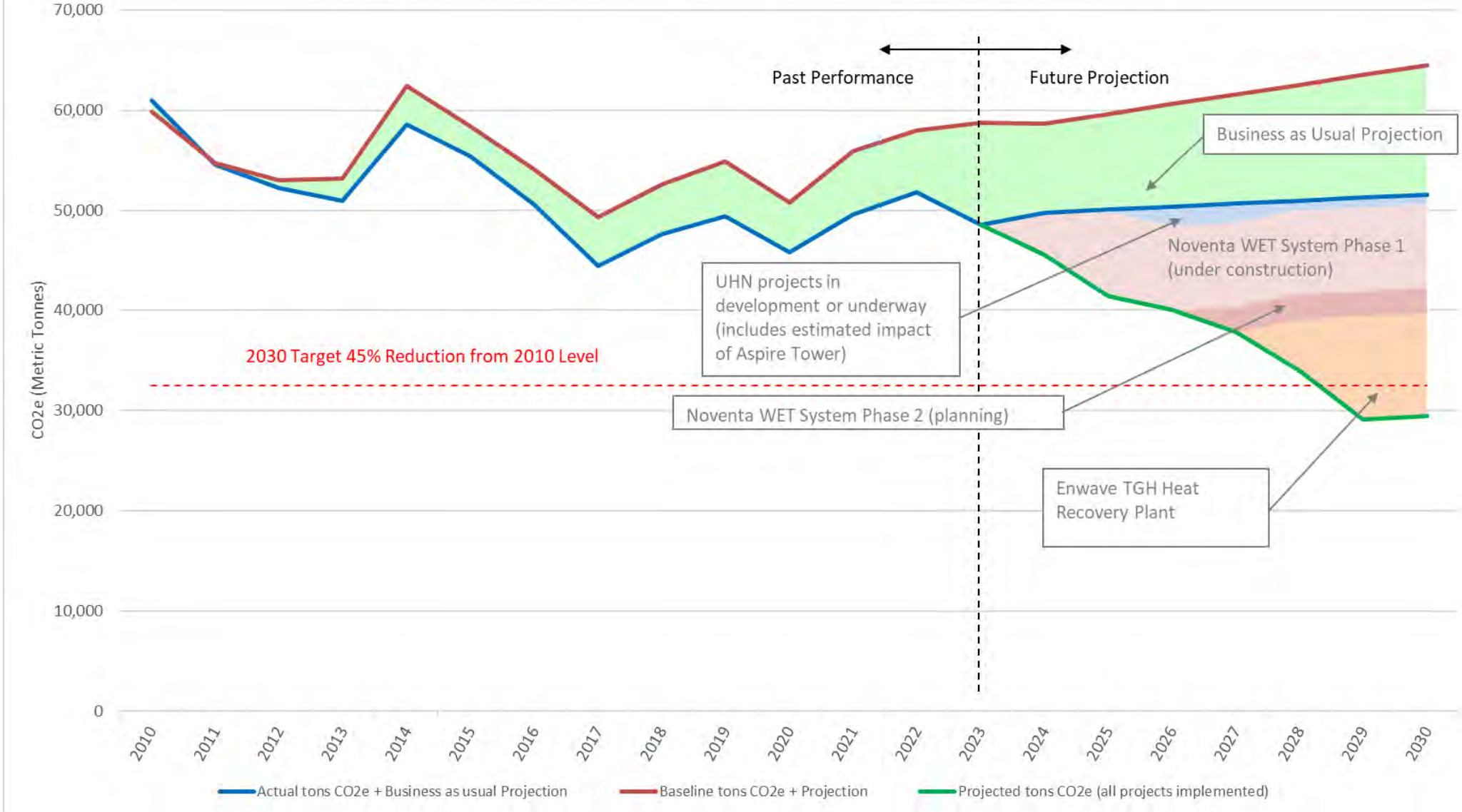
- Installation of smart valves helped document poor performance of "free cooling" winter operations
- Determined that operating CHW systems in winter was wasteful and caused higher steam consumption
- Approx 1000 tons CO2 emissions reduction
- \$100,000 utility cost savings
- Cost to implement included labour to winterize additional CHW coils



## Future Projects in Development

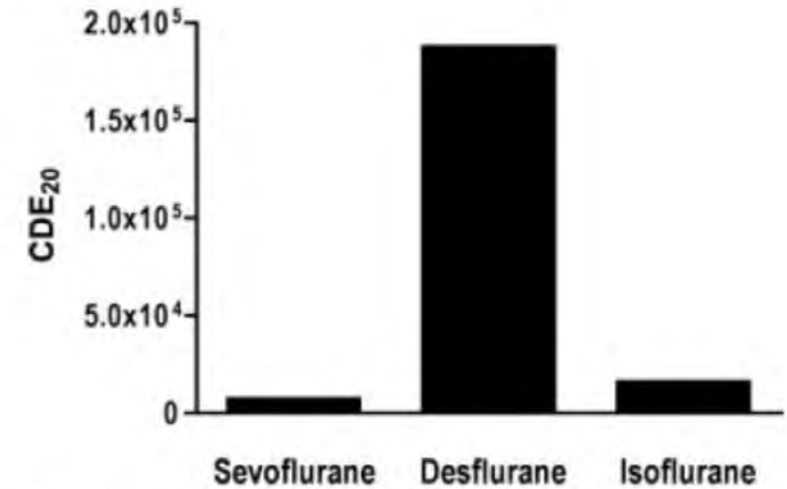
- Enhanced heat recovery from PMCRT exhaust air streams – Potential GHG reduction of 1,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Enhanced Heat recovery at PMH – 1,280 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- District heat pump plant to replace steam derived from fossil fuel – Potential to reduce TGH, PMCRT, 67 College GHG by 30% initially and 80% eventually

# UHN Energy and Environment Scope 1&2 CO2 Emissions Roadmap

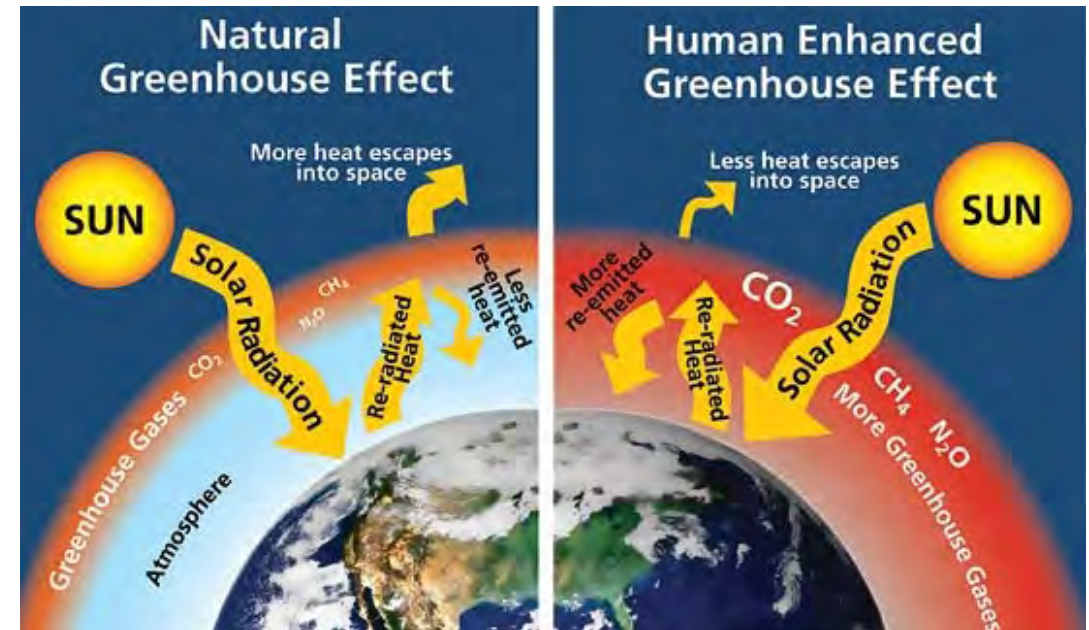


# Anesthesia & Sustainability

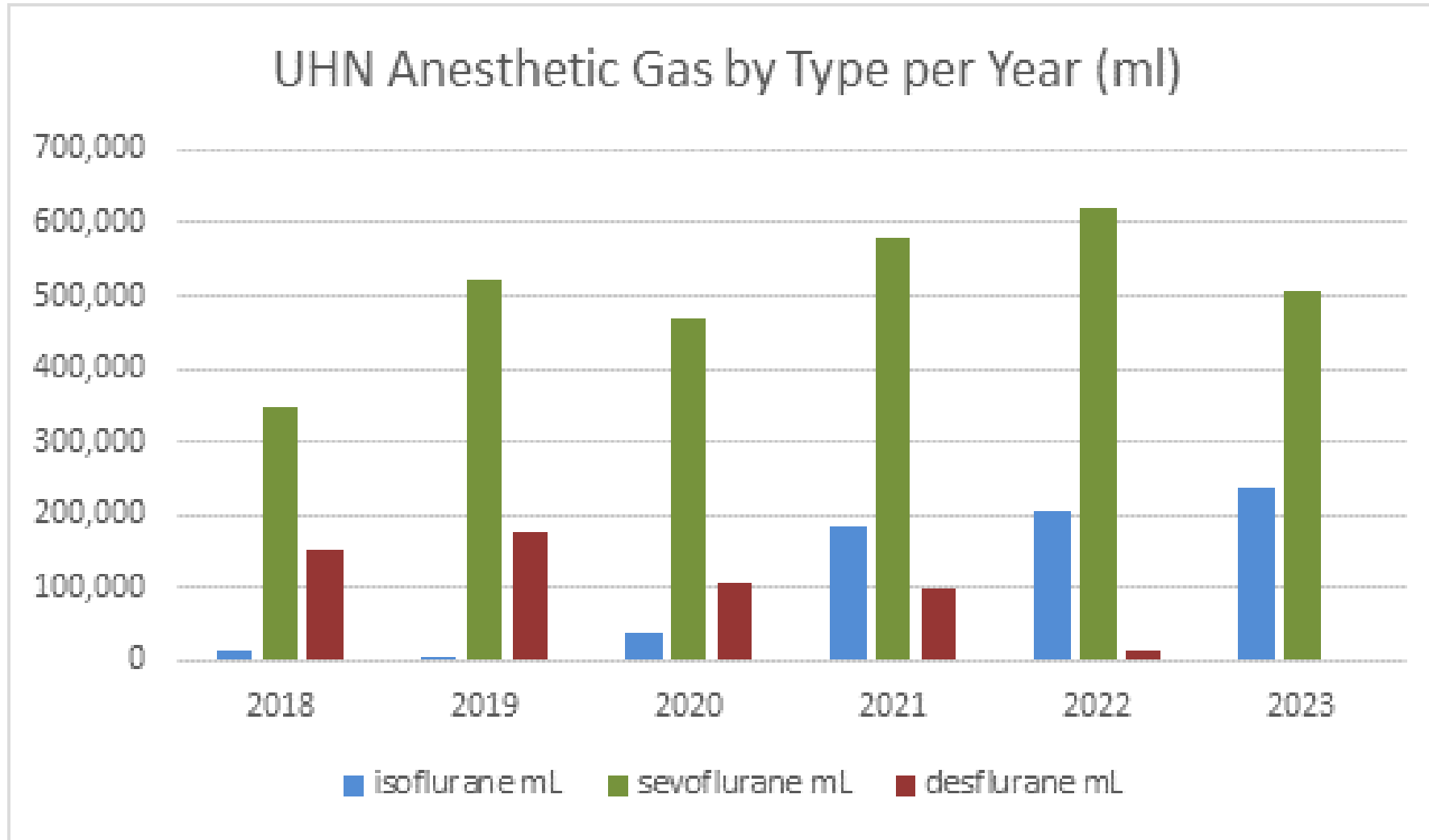
- Anesthetic gasses have a high GWP (Global Warming Potential)
- Some anesthetic gases are worse than others
- One dose of Sevoflurane or Isoflurane:
  - like driving to the cottage (Toronto to Collingwood)
- One dose of Desflurane:
  - like driving to Winnipeg!!!
- Presented findings, recommendations to Anesthesia Governing Council
- Anesthesia leadership removed Desflurane from UHN!



**Figure 1.** Relative global warming impact of 1 MAC-hour of 3 inhaled anesthetics at 2 L fresh gas flow. CDE<sub>20</sub> = 20-year carbon dioxide equivalent (in grams).

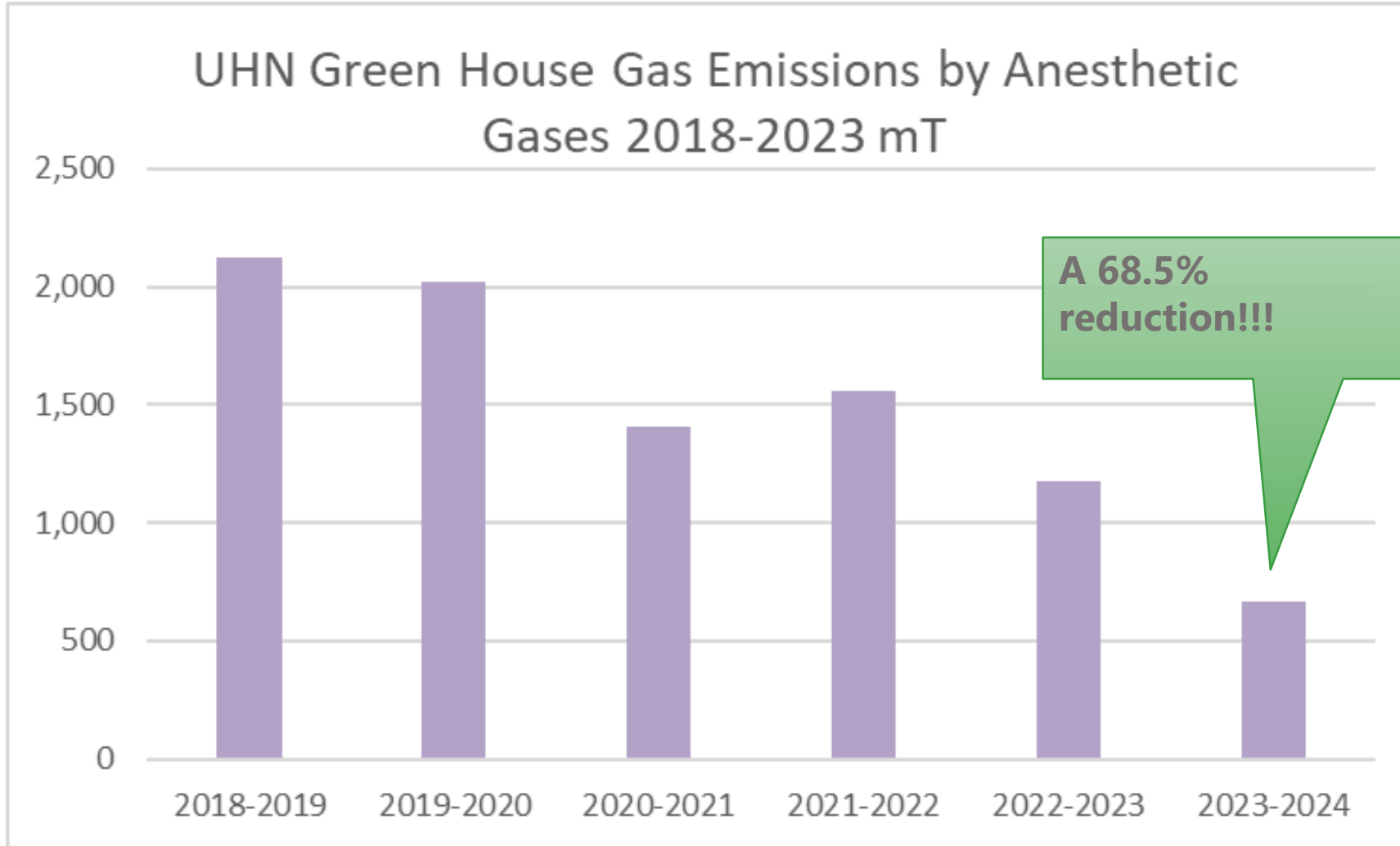


# Anesthetic mix UHN 2018 - 2023



- **Desflurane gone!**
- Changes in default to lower flows = greater efficiency!
- 2 L to 0.5 L, reset the default on all machines
- Reduction of anesthetic gas despite no reduction in #surgeries

# How this impacts the climate



- GHGs from anesthesia a fraction of what they were, despite no reduction in #surgeries
- 2018 → 2023:  
2,125 → 669!
- **Savings comparable to reducing UHN-wide natural gas consumption by 11%!**

# What Else – Silver Knight Breathing Circuits

- Project initiated and implemented by UHN Anesthesia department
- 7-day reusable instead of disposable
- Silver ions provide anti-microbial protection
- Save 3 tonnes plastic waste and over \$100,000 per year



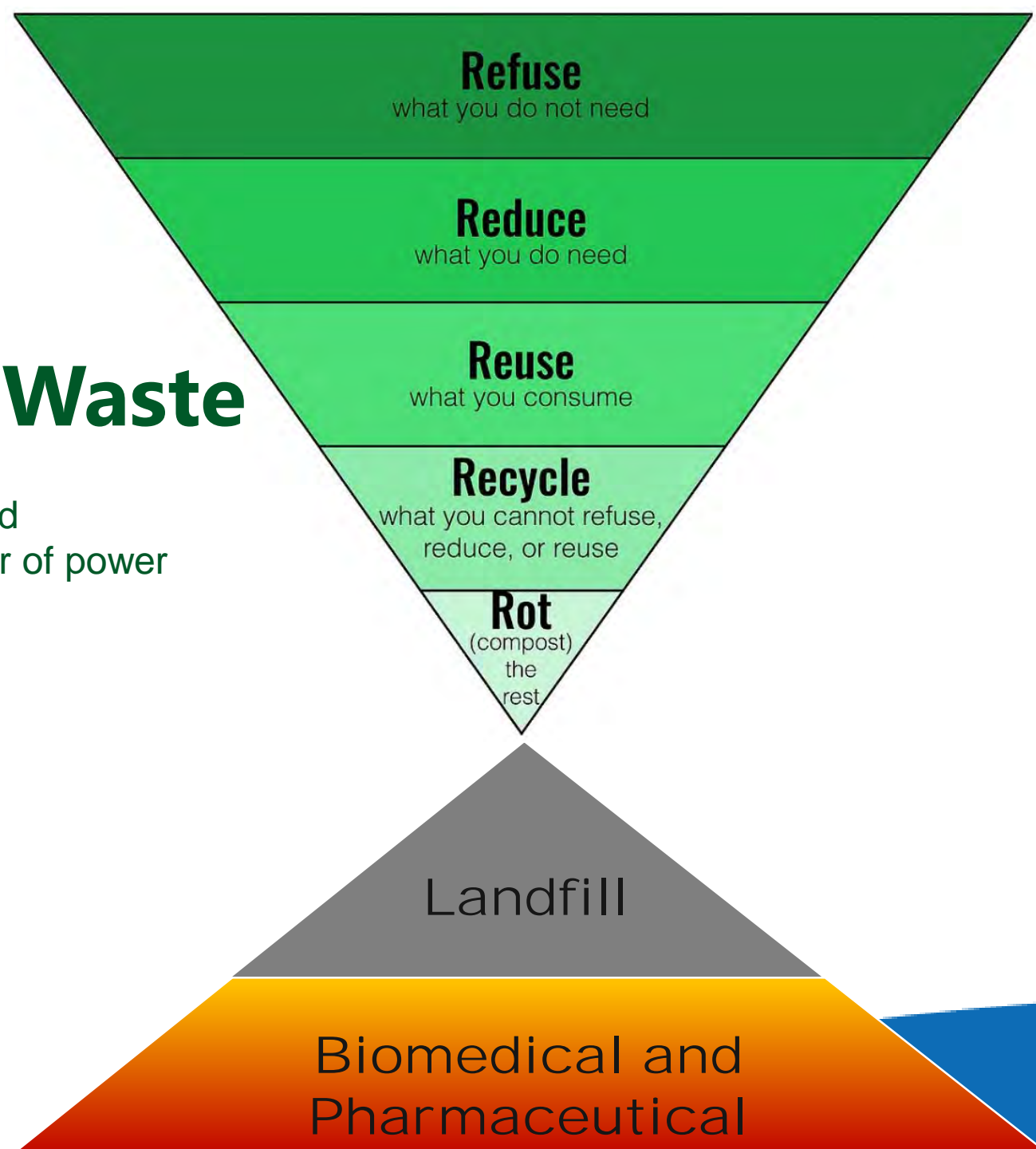
*Image from Intersurgical Ltd info sheet*





# 5R's Ranking Waste

Upside-down pyramid  
R's weighted in order of power



# Reduce Waste: Reuse over single-use (no greenwashing)

Reusable



Disposable



**Greenwashing ...**

*(misrepresenting something is eco-friendly)*

vendor touted the recyclability of their product to replace a reusable one.

But Reuse is greener than recycling!

## Reuse = Supply Chain Protection

Global conflicts & COVID-19 tangled supply chains, big problem if single-use

## Reusable Gowns = climate win!

- TG/TW = 40K surgical gown washes/year!
- UHN = 99% reusable isolation gowns
- On our tour!

60 disposable VS. 1 reusable gown



This!



Not this



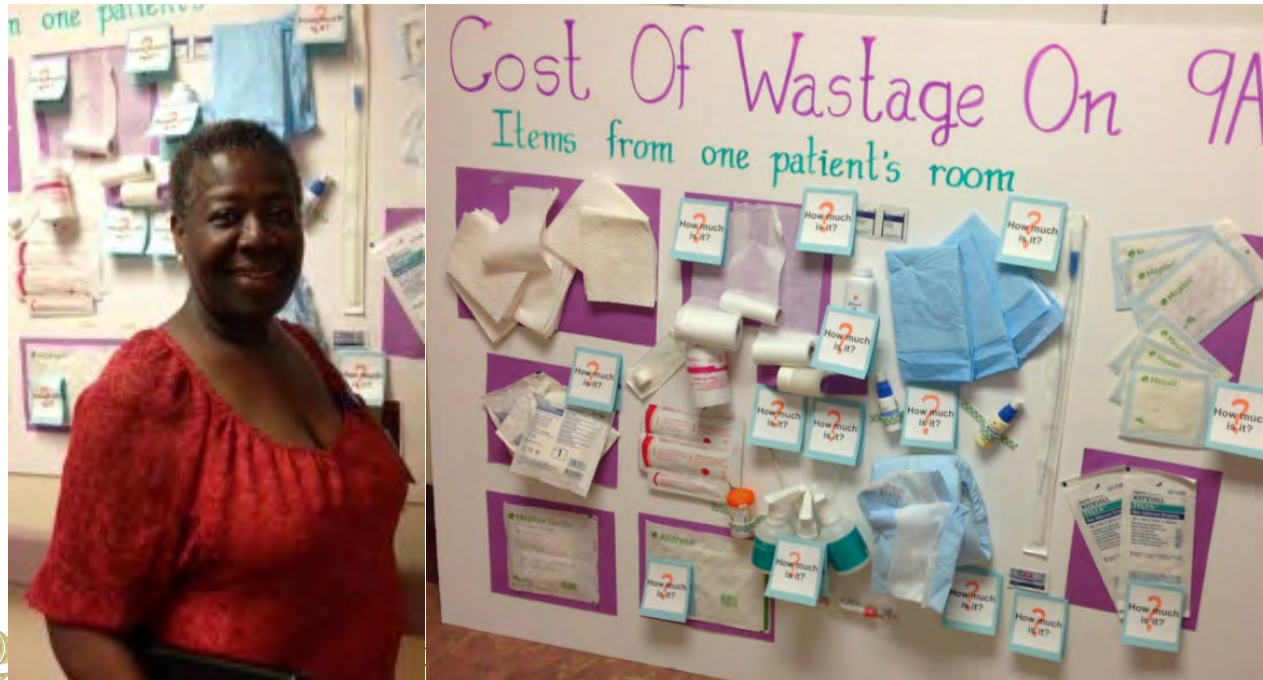
# Reduce Waste

Wasted supplies = double waste

- pay to dispose of &
- pay to order again (& pray the supply chain works)

Olga Muir: Waste Warrior

- Encouraged using supplies wisely, showed cost
- IPAC recommends no more than 24hrs-worth in room



Marianne Ng: Policy Sleuth

- Policy said change Tracheotomy "every shift"
- Shift can be 12 hrs or 8 hrs, only needed q-12 hr
- Practice change = saves the time, supplies and waste of 22,000 changes/year



## Honourable mentions!

- UHN Digital captures **e-waste** for special recycling
- MDRD uses more **reusable sterilization trays** than single-use sterilization wrap
- **Custom Packs** = Climate Win! OR Green Team worked to reduce unnecessary items in packs
- Finance, Procurement, Volunteer Resources, People & Culture+ have gone paperless for many processes

# Reduce Waste: Supplies Stewardship Project



## Supplies Stewardship

Use only what you need  
stop waste before it starts

- New Video! <https://videopress.com/v/jHq1VSty>
- Pilot on 7 units: Baseline data: 1 week of counting all unused supplies after patient discharge
  - TG 6A Multi-Organ Transplant
  - TG 10ES Post-Surgical
  - TW 9A Orthopedics
  - TW 9BF
  - TR 8S MSK & Multisystem Rehab
  - PM 14A & 15A Inpatient Leukemia
  - PM 15B/15C Autologous & Cell Therapy



# SUPPLIES STEWARDSHIP CHAMPIONS



LET'S RAISE A HAND TO...

# REDUCING WASTE & SAVING RESOURCES!



**DEPT** 8S MSK & Multisystem Rehab  
**SITE** Toronto Rehab - University Centre  
**KICKOFF** February 13, 2024

# Where we can save:

## Before a Patient Discharge

- Check patient room first - bring what's needed
- IPAC recommends stocking only 24 hours worth of supplies

### Tag-Team Efficiency Technique!

- 1 person goes in room with patient, then someone nearby gets the supplies and passes them in
- So no need to don and doff new PPE ... all done from a staff-efficiency perspective!
- Created by Adassa Wilson at TW

Tag Team? Is it doable?



# Where we can save:

## After a Patient Discharge

### Reusable Supplies: IPAC confirmed

\*\*unopened & wiped down

- Blood Transfusion Line
- IV Alcohol Cap
- IV Bags
- IV Catheter
- IV Primary & Secondary Line
- Phlebotomy Butterflies
- Phlebotomy Vacutainer
- Saline Flush
- Sterile Water Bottle
- Tape
- Blue Pads
- Dry Cloth
- Hygie Bags
- Wipes
- Nasal Prongs
- O2 Tubing
- Suction Tubing
- Yankaur Suction
- Foley Catheterization Kits
- Specimen/Sample Jar

## Operation Green

Save surplus med supplies from landfill and send to communities in need. Email [OperationGreen@uhn.ca](mailto:OperationGreen@uhn.ca)



# Reduce: Patient Bags

To stop waste before it starts:

- Message to patients to bring their own belongings bags:
- E&E worked with Quality Improvement
- Stops **4,000** plastic patient belongings bags/month!
- *If they forget, they can have a bag*

BYORB stats Dec 2023 = **63% brought bags!** Even better than target of 50%!



UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK IS GOING **GREEN!**



**STARTING NOW plastic bags will no longer be provided**

Each month, we use **4,000 PLASTIC BAGS** for patients having surgery at UHN.

This produces the same carbon emissions as driving 3000 km or driving from Toronto to Edmonton.

**PLEASE BRING 2 REUSABLE BAGS TO HOLD YOUR BELONGINGS DURING SURGERY.**

**PROTECT OUR EARTH**



1 small bag for your shoes, 1 large bag to hold all of your other belongings.

Bags that can be closed with a zipper are preferred to keep your belongings safe. Please see below for some examples.

**Please leave your valuables - such as jewelry, watches, and credit cards - at home. The hospital is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**



*When you realize Heart and Earth are spelled with the same letters, it all starts to make sense*



UHN Spirit Department of Surgery

UHN Spirit Centre for Quality & Safety



# Reduce Waste with Vendors

## Temperature Sensitive packaging in Research:

Issue: a lot of wasted packaging, non-recyclable, styrofoam, ice-packs, plastics

- Letter signed by Research Leaders at multiple sites: SickKids (leads), UHN, Sunnybrook, Sinai, UofT, TMU, Unity Health
- Aim – to partner with vendors to fix the issue, and let the know we care
- Foci: right-sizing material, take-back programs for reuse, contain post-consumer recycle product, be recyclable
- Continued meetings with vendors with progress in many e.g. take back at NEB



An example of 1 vendor's solution  
Due to low weight of EPS, they mention size of  
7 x 747s worth of EPS saved and 60 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e

As leading institutions in scientific research, we are committed to minimizing our environmental footprint while our facilities conduct groundbreaking research, train the next generation of researchers, and support global scientific communities with knowledge and state-of-the-art facilities.

As one of our vendors, we believe we have a common goal to build a culture that contributes to a healthy and environmentally sustainable society.

Currently, temperature-sensitive products generate a large volume of packaging waste during shipment. Unfortunately, the life cycle of packaging supplies, like Styrofoam and ice packs, is not sustainable, starting with the use of petroleum-based plastic during its manufacturing process which has no recycling options and is unable to be reused. These items take hundreds of years to break down in landfills during which time they release chemicals into the soil and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

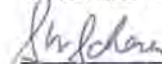
End-of-life management for cold shipment packaging is challenging, but we believe there are ways this process can become more sustainable. Therefore, we ask you to work with us on environmentally sustainable solutions for cold shipment packaging.

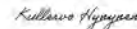
Our aim is to reduce our environmental impacts and avoid, minimize, or mitigate health and environmental risks associated with the products we need to continue our work. To achieve this goal, we have developed several sustainability solutions and requests as follows:


1. To size packaging material to product size to prevent waste before it occurs.
2. To extend the embodied value of packaging material that has yet to reach the end of life by taking back used packaging material for reuse, whether for original or alternate purposes.
3. For packaging material to contain recycled content as post-consumer and post-industrial recycled materials reduce the use of virgin materials.
4. To reduce packaging materials entering landfills by designing packaging materials that can be recycled in our respective recycling programs.

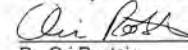
By focusing on preventing waste and reusing and recycling packaging material, packing solutions can be part of a more sustainable future.

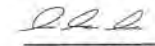
We are open to discussing your questions, concerns, and ideas for sustainable solutions. We understand the direct links between research, the environment and human health, and we look forward to working with you.

  
Dr. Stephen Scherer  
Chief of Research  
SickKids Research Institute

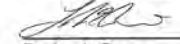
  
Dr. Kullervo Hynynen  
Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Sunnybrook Research Institute

  
Dr. Bradly G. Wouters  
Senior Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre  
Executive Vice President, Science and Research  
University Health Network

  
Dr. Ori Rostein  
Vice President, Research & Innovation  
Unity Health Toronto

  
Dr. Anne-Claude Gingras  
Director, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute  
Vice-President Research, Sinai Health

  
Dr. Steven N. Liss  
Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Toronto Metropolitan University

  
Dr. Leah Cowen  
Vice President Research & Innovation & Strategic  
Initiatives  
University of Toronto

# SHUT THE SASH



SHUTTING THE SASH CAN  
SAVE 2 HOMES WORTH OF ENERGY



FUME HOODS CONSUME  
3.5 HOMES WORTH OF ENERGY



# SWAP SHELF



- PMCRT, 5th floor
- PMH, 9th floor

Reevaluate your Inventory  
reduce costs & avoid unnecessary waste

Wasted Supplies = Triple the Waste

1. Pay to dispose of it
2. Pay to order it again
3. Supply chain reliance



# ICE PACK REUSE

1,630

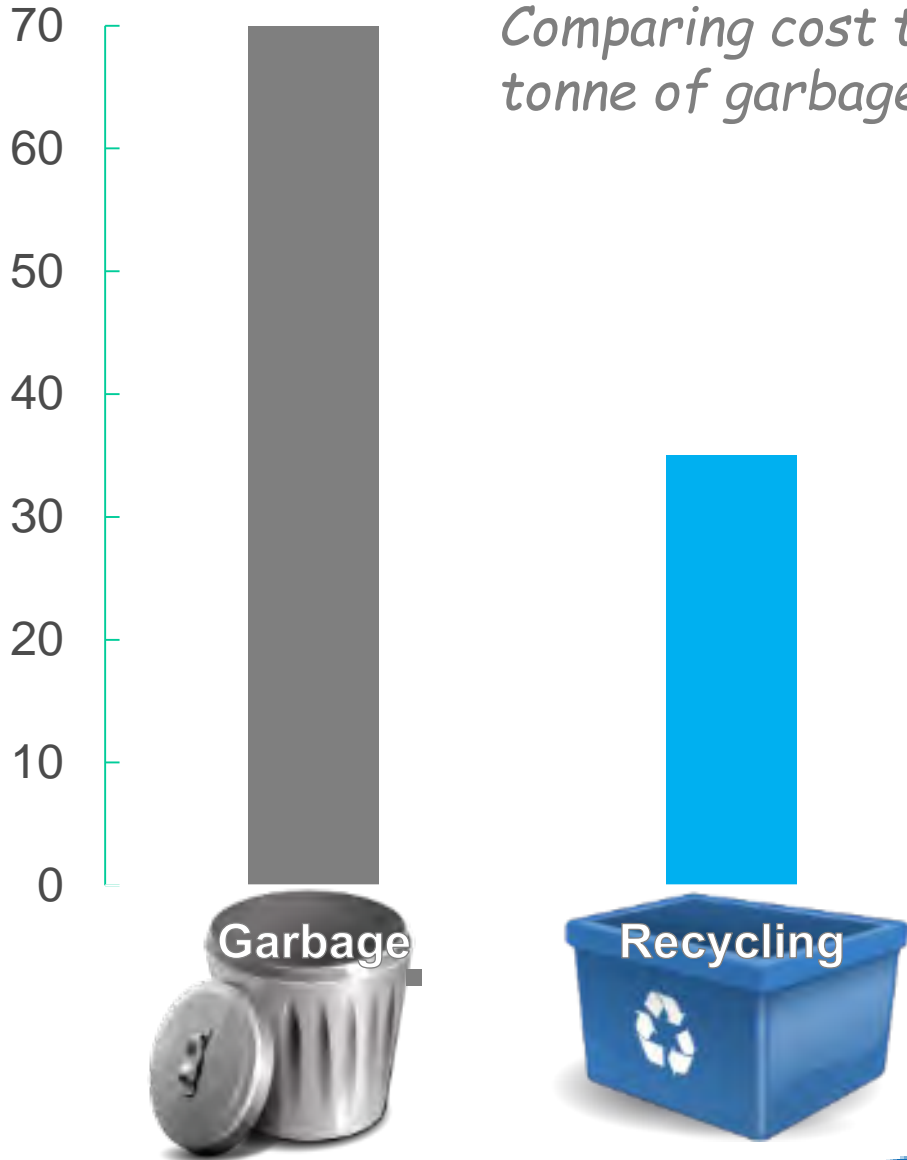
Ibs Donated in  
2023!



# Which Is More Expensive?



- Waste can be a resource! Recycling saves new materials
- Recycling bins must be greater than 90% uncontaminated
- Contamination means whole bin goes to landfill
- **Environmental Services Staff can't fix our sorting mistakes (safety & time)**
- If in doubt, throw it out in garbage. NO WISHCYCLING



Comparing cost to throw out a tonne of garbage to *recycling*

FYI: Hazardous waste is the most expensive, energy intensive & air polluting waste stream. Use sparingly.

# Multi-stream Bin Project



- more multi-stream bins
- fewer under-desk bins
- helps staff sort better
- Expands compost collection
- Reduces plastic bag liners
- Donated +2,000 small bins for reuse

Green Team Waste Wizards at the BBQ help teach what goes where

Goodbye under-desk bin,  
Hello Multi-stream bin...



# Special Recycling Programs



- E-Waste
- Batteries
- Scrap Metal
- Toner
- **Stryker Single-Use Medical Devices:**
  - Potential to purchase refurbished medical devices
- Blue wrap – periodically, if have recipient
- Anesthetic Gas – Bluezone and Desflurane reduction
- Not sure? Ask [Green@uhn.ca](mailto:Green@uhn.ca)

Remember to  
**collect**



## Arthroscopic and orthopedic devices

Shavers  
Wands  
Bits  
Blades  
Burrs



## Energy devices

Sealer / dividers  
Ultrasonic scalpels



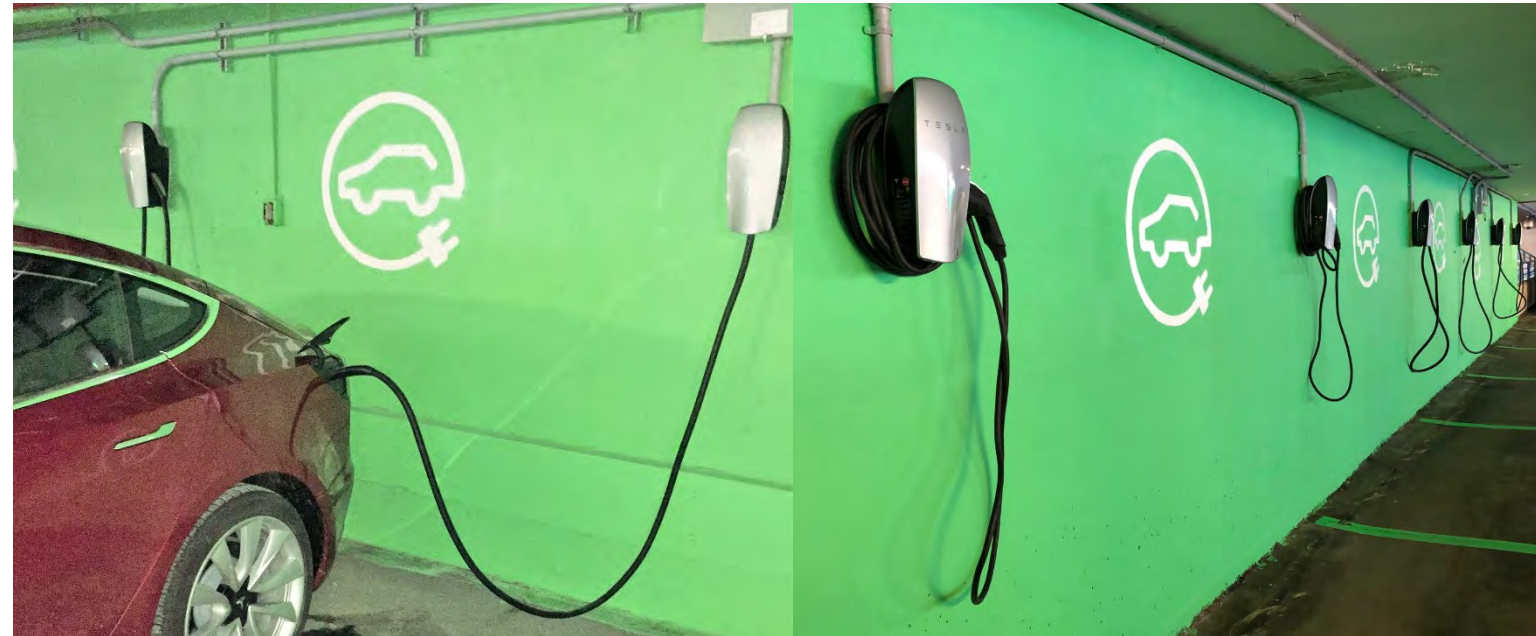
## Laparoscopic devices

Scissors  
Trocars  
Suture passers / guides  
Graspers



# Green Transportation

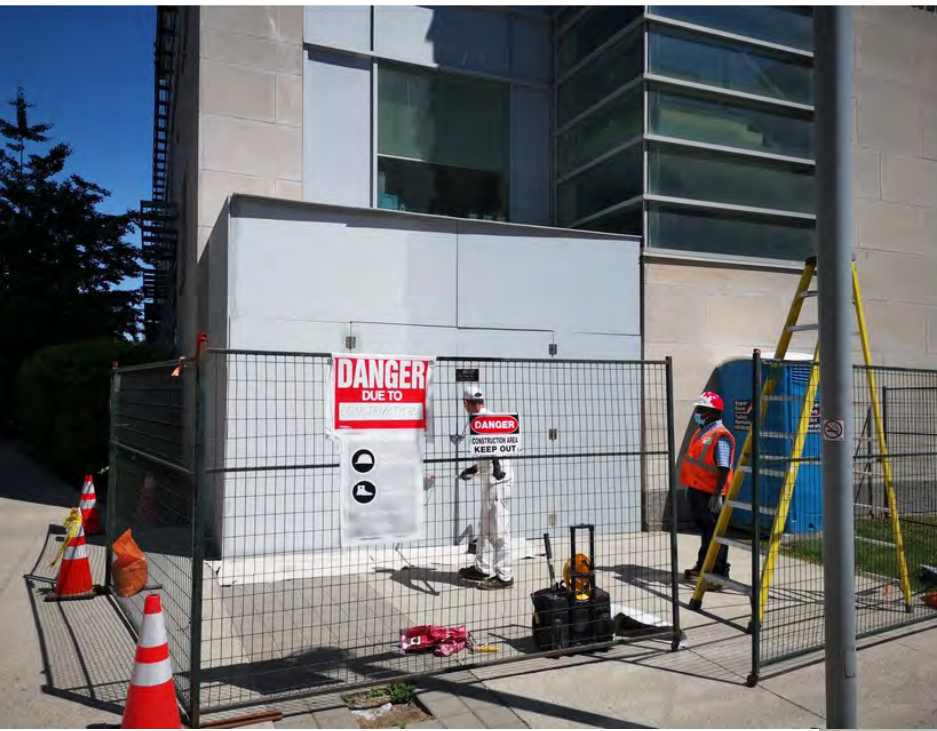
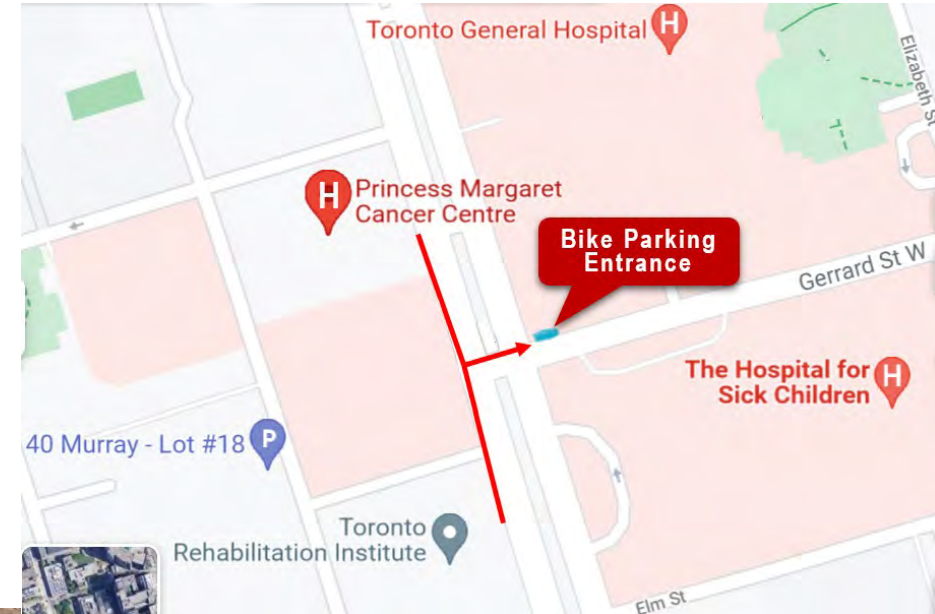
- **Anything but driving alone (gas car)**
  - Save \$\$
  - Reduce air pollution & congestion
- **Active Commuting: Walk/Bike**
  - 25% Discount for BikeShare
  - Protected bike parking (free)
  - BUG: Bicycle User Group
- **Public Transit – all around**
- **Carpool – matching program, Smart Commute**
- **Electric Vehicles**
  - Zero emissions = no GHGs!
  - 54 Charging stations @UHN-free!
  - \$5K Fed rebate, lower operational/maint costs





# And for a cleaner commute...

- Bike Vault at TGH is UHN's largest secure indoor bike parking
- Blasted a door closer to the crosswalk
- Space for 126 bikes!
- Shared by several sites, Princess Margaret, Toronto Rehab
- Easy staff access with UHN ID, no cost to staff



# Green Teams help:

- Departments with green teams save more energy, use resources wisely and recycle better.
- Employee engagement, staff bond over common purpose
- Help lead and develop your employees' potential – a way to let them stretch!
- Give staff protected time to participate, only a few minutes/week
- Events: Earth Month, **Bike Month, Waste Reduction Week**

## OR GREEN TEAM

Site: TGH



Left (L to R): Vickie Morley, Nicole Maia, Jocelyne de Romana, Nicole Chambers, Lorna Button, Marcus George, Julie Yip, Carla Luzzi, Coimbatore Srinivas, Georgia Smickle, Genevieve Martel, Jennifer Perry, Laura Donahoe.



Right: Glass medication bottle recycling station.

## What We've Done:

**Compostable Cups Project:** We traded the non-recyclable styrofoam cups in the OR and patient rooms for compostable cups to prevent thousands of styrofoam cups from entering landfills. We also continuously coach both our staff and patients on how to properly dispose of them.

**Reprocessing Laparoscopic Devices:** We started a program with Stryker where approximately 1,000 single-use laparoscopic devices are collected and reprocessed to be used again, diverting OR waste.

**Glass Recycling Program:** We started a glass recycling program to divert medication bottles from entering landfills. We ensure the metal caps are removed and the glass containers are collected.

**Cautery Cord Recycling:** We have started to cut the cords off cautery devices to ensure they are being recycled and diverted from landfill.

**STEPHANIE BARRACO**  
Geri Rehab, Geri Psych, ABI  
Site: TRI - University Centre

**What I've Done:**  
I collected cutlery to use at potlucks so we can reduce the number of plastic utensils we throw away! Anyone can borrow this set of about 45 (or donate to it). It's kept at TRI UC.

Please email stephanie.barraco@uhn.ca to arrange pick up/drop off.

**EARTH WEEK**

**FIRE & LIFE SAFETY GREEN TEAM**  
Site: TGH

**What We've Done:**  
**While we do patrols, we turn off lights all day in unoccupied areas.**

**EARTH WEEK**

**BICKLE GROW GARDEN GREEN TEAM**  
Site: TRI - BICKLE CENTRE

**What We've Done:**  
**Garden Rehab on Wheels**

- Created one of the first wheelchair-accessible local food gardens
- Patients and staff lend the garden and enjoy the fruit and veggies of their labour
- Pollinator patch, on-site composting make for sustainable gardening practices
- Harvest is used for cooking classes for patient therapy
- Hosted Urban Agriculture Day Corn Roast

**EARTH WEEK**

**CRITICAL CARE SERVICES ONTARIO (CCSO) GREEN TEAM**  
Site: TGH (Lucy Cliff Place)

**What We've Done:**  
**Paper Reduction Project:** We made a simple change to set the default printer to double-sided to reduce paper consumption, and we encourage paperless stakeholder meetings.

**Kitchen Waste Disposal Project:** We have organized waste and recycling bins in our kitchen, and educated staff on proper waste sorting. We also started a compost program in our kitchen and take bins emptying the bin.

**Energy Reduction:** We are encouraging staff to remember to turn off lights, and shut down computers after work hours.

**EARTH WEEK**



## followed by Tour:

Walk from Princess Margaret to Toronto General:

- MC: Gitigan (earlier)
- PMCRT: Multi-stream bins, TV screens, Swap Shelf, Shut the Sash, ice pack recycling
- TG: Elizabeth parkade: EV charging
- TG: pollinator garden
- TG: Reusable Linens
- TG: Bike parking - Bike Vault
- PM: Lunch

# Now What?

## Lead by example

- Practice stewardship of resources for better patient, staff and public health outcomes

## Lead/encourage a Green Team

## Stay informed and use us as a resource

- Energy & Environment Intranet Page
- TalkinTrashWithUHN.com blog, Twitter & Facebook
- **Get in touch:** Lisa.Vanlint@uhn.ca or green@uhn.ca



**Michener Gitigan**

A leader reallocated budget for planting annual flowers to building the Indigenous Healing Garden

# Events



## Michener Gitigan Upcoming Events

**JUNE 5** ● 12 PM - 1PM ● Burdock Pickles  
Come and dig burdock roots from the Gitigan and make them into tasty pickles with Ella LaForme!

**JUNE 19** ● 11:30AM - 12:30PM ● "Weeds" as Food & Medicine  
Change your perception about the "weeds" in the Gitigan and learn how to uplift them as food and medicine with Carolynne Crawley!

**JUNE 21** ● 6:00 AM ● Sunrise Ceremony  
Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day with a Sunrise Ceremony at the Gitigan!



## BIKE MONTH MAINTENANCE STATION

**DATE:** JUNE 25TH, 2024  
**TIME:** 12:00PM - 1:30PM  
**LOCATION:** TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL

Safety checks, assessing air pressure and flat tires, tightening your brakes, lubing your brakes, lubing your chain, and ensuring your bike is the right fit.

For more information and to register contact [Green@uhn.ca](mailto:Green@uhn.ca)



## BIKE MONTH MAINTENANCE STATION

**DATE:** JUNE 27TH, 2024  
**TIME:** 12:00PM - 1:30PM  
**LOCATION:** TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Safety checks, assessing air pressure and flat tires, tightening your brakes, lubing your brakes, lubing your chain, and ensuring your bike is the right fit.

For more information and to register contact [Green@uhn.ca](mailto:Green@uhn.ca)

