

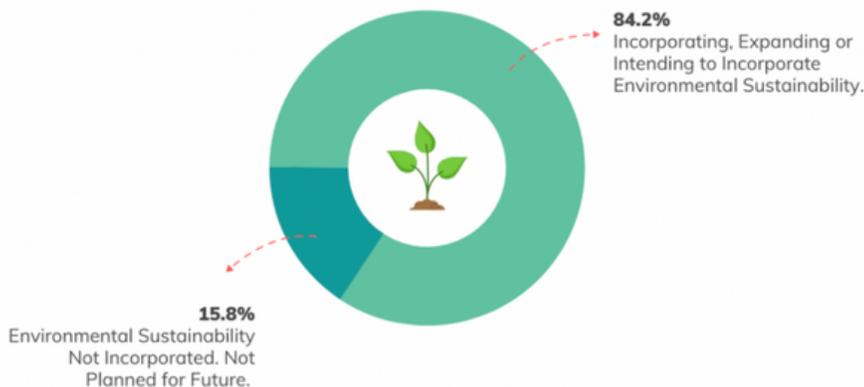


Environmental Sustainability at the GHHN

The Greater Hamilton Health Network recognizes that Environmental Sustainability is a key pillar of building healthy communities. In response to growing concerns by the public and health experts regarding the environmental impacts of health care, we have begun to research environmental sustainability among our partners. So, in case you missed our May 2022 report, here's a quick recap!

In November 2021, we surveyed our partners to get a better understanding of the ways in which our partners are currently perceiving and addressing environmental sustainability. We received responses from 16 different GHHN partners and, in the spring of 2022, we shared a formal report with recommendations, available [here](#). In essence, the results confirmed that health care professionals and organizations within the GHHN have enthusiasm for and interest in sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability GHHN PARTNERS



19+

Research Participants and Partners

73%

Interested in ES Programs

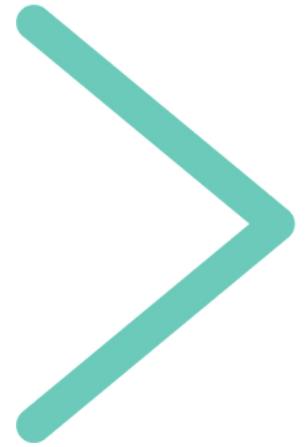
84%

Planning Env. Sustainability

47%

Interested in Green Networking

A focus on environmental sustainability in healthcare



However, it also became apparent that there are barriers to progress, including time, money, and lack of expertise/knowledge. We hope to help overcome barriers and promote environmental sustainability with four concrete recommendations:

- 1) Perform baseline audits of current sustainability practices;
- 2) Embed sustainability within Quality Improvement accountability framework;
- 3) Collaborate both externally and internally; and
- 4) Build capacity through education and funding.

In an effort to support our partners with these recommendations, we will begin with recommendations 3 and 4.

To help build capacity for this work (recommendation 4), our September 20th, Building Community Health Event, will be centered around bringing together our partners to discuss sustainability and to share our bold vision for the future of healthcare, recounting the progress of the past year, sharing lessons learned and growing together as a network. We are excited to welcome Dr. Soren Brothers, Inaugural Allan and Helaine Shiff Curator of Climate Change at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, as our keynote speaker. You can register for the event [here](#).

To improve communication about barriers to and solutions for environmental sustainability (recommendation 3), and provide education opportunities (recommendation 4), we have developed an Environmental Sustainability



Dr. Soren Brothers

Community of Practice (CoP) hosted through our online platform, EngageGHHN. Here we will share invaluable resources, host discussions, answer questions, and begin to support each other on our journeys towards being environmentally sustainable professionals and organizations. Our CoP is open to all regardless of your expertise or current involvement in environmentally sustainable work and is an asynchronous learning platform to help reduce any access barriers. If you are interested in joining or have any questions/thoughts about environmental sustainability, please email me at Marijke.Jurriaans@GHHN.ca.