



# 2023 to 2024 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

Veterans Affairs Canada

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# Introduction to the 2023 to 2024 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

The [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy \(FSDS\)](#) presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#). This is the first FSDS to be framed using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and provides a balanced view of the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In keeping with the purpose of the Act, to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and accountable to Parliament, Veterans Affairs Canada supports the goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in Veterans Affairs Canada's 2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS). This Report provides a report on progress related to Veterans Affairs Canada's DSDS in the fiscal year 2023 to 2024.

The [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#) also sets out [7 principles](#) that must be considered in the development of the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in Veterans Affairs Canada's DSDS and 2023 to 2024 DSDS Report.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada's departmental strategy reports on Canada's progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs, supported by the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators. The Report also now captures progress on SDG initiatives that fall outside the scope of the FSDS.



# Commitments for Veterans Affairs Canada





# GOAL 10: ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TAKE ACTION ON INEQUALITY

**Target theme:** Advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis communities

**Target:** Between 2023 and 2026, and every year on an ongoing basis develop and table annual progress reports on implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

- ▶ Implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>	Promote Indigenous cultural competency training and/or training on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	<b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of staff who have completed Indigenous cultural competency training (internal or external)	Public servants are in a unique position to help build respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This action encourages public service employees to increase their cultural competency skills and awareness of issues related to First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada, and	<b>Indicator result:</b> 44%  <b>Notes:</b> In fiscal year 2023-24 -employees participated in Department led training: 630 employees attended the "Meet Sgt.

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	<p><b>Program:</b> UN Declaration Act Implementation Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of staff who have completed Indigenous cultural competency training (internal or external)</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> Percentage of staff trained as of March 2023 = 23%</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 66% by March 31, 2026</p>	<p>their knowledge of the UN Declaration. This action contributes to the development of necessary cultural competency knowledge and skills to implement the UN Declaration.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions:</b> <i>GIF Target - 10.3</i> Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p>	<p>Susan Harper”, an Indigenous Cree member of the RCMP (Truth and Reconciliation event); we had 621 employees attend “Wellness - An Indigenous Perspective” presentation and 13 employees attended “Sharing circles for Indigenous People “.</p>
<p>Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i></p>	<p>Targeted recruitment efforts to support Indigenous representation</p>	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of staff who identify as Indigenous</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> current departmental representation is 2.47%</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Workforce representation target is 3.25% by January 2024; 5.7% of hires should be Indigenous people over the next three years.</p>	<p>Public servants are in a unique position to help build respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This action encourages public service employees to increase their cultural competency skills and awareness of issues related to First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada, and their knowledge of the UN Declaration. This action contributes to the development of necessary cultural competency knowledge and skills to implement the UN Declaration.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions:</b> <i>GIF Target - 10.3</i> Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> In fiscal year 2023–24 the current departmental representation is 3.70%. Workforce representation target set at 3.90% by January 2025.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> With the current representation at 3.70%, VAC is on track to meet the goal that 5.7% of hires be Indigenous people by end of fiscal 2027.</p>

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<p>Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i></p>	<p>As part of VAC's contribution to the Government of Canada's reconciliation efforts, an Indigenous Veterans Team has been created to deliver Nation-to-Nation and Inuit-to-Crown consultation and engagement activities. The team will act as a focal point to effect culture change within VAC; aid in the coordination of efforts with Indigenous stakeholders and leaders; and serve as a dedicated source of expertise that will provide guidance and information on how best to meet the needs of, and engage with, Indigenous Veterans. This will enable VAC to better understand needs and develop informed and more effective policies and programs for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Veterans.</p>	<p><b>IPP to be consulted to establish Performance indicators in 1<sup>st</sup> year of strategy.</b></p> <p><b>Recommended by DSDS core:</b> <b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of new/amended legislation, regulations, policies and programs that included a consultation and cooperation process with Indigenous peoples</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> New initiative started in 2023.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 90% (annual)</p>	<p>With the passage of the UN Declaration Act, the Government of Canada must, in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples, take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions</b></p> <p><i>GIF Target - 10.3</i> Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b></p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Over the course of FY 2023-24, VAC established the Indigenous Veteran Engagement team with a complement of approximately 4 FTEs. The team advanced VAC's relationships with the Assembly of First Nations and with the Métis National Council by meeting with their respective Veteran councils. The team also had approximately 80 outreach activities in Indigenous communities or with Indigenous partners. During these engagements, they shared information about VAC programs and services, and initiated discussions about ways in which the Department may need to adapt programs and services to better support Indigenous Veterans. These discussions will continue and the results will inform future policy discussions.</p>

**Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities**

The following initiatives demonstrate how Veterans Affairs Canada programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Veterans Affairs Canada remains committed to promoting awareness of Indigenous culture		VAC has been offering ongoing Indigenous training components/colonization of Canada for example; the Blanket Exercise. Learning on Indigenous Paths scheduled for 2024. Learning courses have been developed and are being offered via the Canada School of Public Service
Veterans Affairs Canada remains committed to promoting Indigenous recruitment efforts		VAC has developed an Indigenous Veterans Engagement Team to deliver Nation-to-Nation and Inuit-to-Crown consultation and engagement activities.



## GOAL 12: REDUCE WASTE AND TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

**Target theme:** Management of Waste, Resources, and Chemicals

**Target:** By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 75% of non-hazardous operational waste.

**Target:** By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 90% by weight of all construction and demolition waste.

**Target:** The Government of Canada’s procurement of goods and services will be net-zero emissions by 2050, to aid the transition to a net-zero, circular economy.

The targets are supported by the following three implementation strategies:

- ▶ Transform the federal light-duty fleet (all federal organizations owning conventional fleets)
- ▶ Strengthen green procurement criteria
- ▶ Maximize diversion of waste from landfills (all federal organizations owning real property)

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Maximize diversion of waste from landfill	From 2023 to 2027 Veterans Affairs Canada will:	<b>Performance indicator:</b> Percentage of business units, where applicable and feasible, adopting and	Actions that reduce the generation of non-hazardous operational waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of	<b>Indicator result: 80%</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop guidance to support the diversion of non-hazardous operational waste from landfills.</li> <li>implement procedures to track and disclose waste diversion rates by 2027.</li> <li>reduce the generation of non-hazardous waste.</li> </ul> <p>Program: Materiel Management and Field Operations</p>	<p>reporting on non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices.</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> 0% of business units have fully adopted non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices as of March 2027.</p> <p>0% of business units are accurately tracking/reporting diversion rates as of March 2027.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 100% of business units have adopted and are reporting on, where applicable and feasible, non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices by March 2027.</p>	<p>material. Diverting waste from landfill reduces landfill gas and transport hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner</p> <p><i>CIF Indicator:</i> 12.3.1 Total waste diversion per capita</p> <p><i>GIF Target:</i> 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b> 5.39 tonnes transferred to other Gov Depts/Schools</p> <p>31.21 tonnes sold via GCSurplus</p> <p>2.29 tonnes donated to various organizations within Prince Edward Island</p> <p>21.39 tonnes of metal converted from waste to energy</p> <p><b>Total:</b> 60.28 tonnes</p> <p>Additionally, VAC Head Office locations in Charlottetown participate in a battery recycling program.</p>
Maximize diversion of waste from landfill	<p>From 2023 to 2027 Veterans Affairs Canada will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop guidance to support the diversion of construction and demolition waste from landfills.</li> <li>implement procedures to track and disclose waste diversion rates by 2027.</li> <li>reduce the generation of construction and demolition waste.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Performance indicator:</b> Percentage of business units, where applicable and feasible, adopting and reporting on construction and demolition waste.</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> 0% of business units have fully adopted construction and demolition waste diversion practices as of March 2027.</p>	<p>Actions that reduce the generation of non-hazardous operational waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of material. Diverting waste from landfill reduces landfill gas and transport hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> 0%</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> As of 2024, VAC is developing/drafting internal processes to align the Dept with the existing policy to divert waste from landfills via Contracting and other avenues.</p> <p>Real Property Workplace Solutions has a new Real Property Portfolio Strategy that includes a reporting framework. This framework will help identify initiatives</p>

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	Program: Real Property and Facilities Management, Materiel Management and Field Operations	0% of business units are accurately tracking/reporting diversion rates as of March 2027.  <b>Target:</b>  100% of business units have adopted and are reporting on, where applicable and feasible, non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices by March 2027.	CIF Ambition: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner  CIF Indicator: 12.3.1 Total waste diversion per capita  GIF Target: 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	and opportunities relevant to sustainability efforts for future operational planning and reporting.
Transform the federal light-duty fleet	From 2023 to 2027, Veterans Affairs Canada will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>define targets for the Department for the number and types of vehicles that align with Greening Government targets, and embed in each business unit's 7-year fleet replacement plan.</li> <li>undertake analyses and apply techniques such as telematics to advance fleet right-sizing and the replacement of vehicles with low-carbon intensity vehicles.</li> <li>purchase only zero-emission vehicles or hybrids for executive vehicles.</li> <li>Promote zero idling policy among fleet drivers.</li> </ul>	<b>Starting points:</b> 60% of new light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchases within eligible categories are to be zero-emission vehicles or hybrids between April 1, 2023 and March 20, 2024  <b>Performance indicators:</b> Percentage of light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchases within eligible categories that are zero-emission vehicles in a fiscal year.  Percentage of business units that have approved 7-year fleet replacement plans.  <b>Targets:</b> 60% of light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchases are zero emission	Purchasing zero emission vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions from conventional fleet operations. This enhances sustainable consumption.  Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition: 12.1 Canadians consume in a sustainable manner</i>  <i>CIF Indicator: 12.1.1 Proportion of new light duty vehicle registrations that are zero-emission vehicles</i>  <i>GIF Target: 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the</i>	<b>Indicator result:</b> 100%  <b>Notes:</b> 2 Electric Vans purchased for Charlottetown PE  <b>Additional Note:</b> From March, 2023 to March 2024, we decreased our gas emission fleet vehicles from 11 to 2.

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	Program: Materiel Management and Field Operations	vehicles (3-year average; 2023/24 through 2026/27).  100% of business units have approved 7-year fleet replacement plans by 2023.	development and capabilities of developing countries	
Strengthen green procurement criteria	Departments will use environmental criteria to reduce the environmental impact and ensure best value in government procurement decisions	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green procurement within one year of being identified</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> In 2022-23, 100% of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green procurement within one year of being appointed.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> will maintain that 100% of procurement officers and material management specialists receive training with one year of being identified.</p>	<p>Green procurement incorporates environmental considerations into purchasing decisions and is expected to motivate suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services they deliver, and their supply chains.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions:</b>  <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner   <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 12.2.1 Proportion of businesses that adopted selected environmental protection activities and management practices   <i>GIF Target:</i> 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> 100%</p> <p><b>Notes:</b>                      Procurement information sessions are being offered internally throughout the year to Veterans Affairs Canada employees. Given the scope of VAC's procurement practices and material management practices, a substantial portion of their activities are completed by Functional Specialists, who have completed learning / training in their subject matter.</p> <p>Since September 2023 all acquisition cardholders are required to take Canada School of Public Service Green Procurement training. All acquisition cardholders are offered internal procurement training which includes environmental considerations when making purchase decisions.</p> <p>Also since September 2023, Procurement officers include standard language in</p>

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				solicitations and contracts to require or encourage suppliers to use reusable, returnable or recyclable packaging for all procurements of goods . The objective is to reduce plastic waste generated by requiring suppliers to package their goods in packaging that is reusable, returnable, or recyclable, as per the commitments in the Greening Government Strategy:. <a href="#">Greening Government Strategy: A Government of Canada Directive.</a>

### Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

The following initiatives demonstrate how Veterans Affairs Canada programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDG’S, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Maximize diversion of waste from landfill</p>	<p>By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 75% by weight of non-hazardous operational waste</p> <p>In order to reach this target, we will evaluate our current recycling program for commonly used items and develop a strategy that can be adapted to our various offices, land (leases, buildings, cemeteries, commemorative properties, landmarks)</p> <p><b>Key Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Understand and Plan:</b> We'll examine current waste practices, set a baseline, and create a plan to shift towards a circular economy approach.</li> <li>○ <b>Educate and Engage:</b> We'll teach employees and partners about waste reduction, recycling, and circular thinking.</li> <li>○ <b>Innovate:</b> We'll support new technologies and methods to tackle waste challenges creatively.</li> <li>○ <b>Policy and Partnerships:</b> We'll update rules and collaborate with others to ensure effective waste diversion.</li> <li>○ <b>Monitor and Adapt:</b> We'll keep track of progress and adjust strategies as needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits:</b>                      Less waste in landfills                      More responsible resource use                      Collaboration for a cleaner Canada</p>	<p>80% of business units have fully adopted the diversion of non-hazardous operations waste from landfills.</p> <p>100% of light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchased were within the eligible categories that are zero-emission vehicles and or Hybrid.</p> <p>100% of Procurement Officers and Material Management Specialist received training within one year of being identified.</p>



## GOAL 13: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

### FSDS Context:

**Target theme:** Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption

**Target:** The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon operations for facilities and conventional fleets by 2050.

**Target:** The Government of Canada will transition to climate resilient operations by 2050.

The targets are supported by the following four implementations strategies:

- ▶ Apply a greenhouse gas reduction life-cycle cost analysis for major building retrofits (all federal organizations owning real property)
- ▶ Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government's overall operations
- ▶ Modernize through net-zero carbon buildings (all federal organizations owning real property)
- ▶ Reduce risks posed by climate change impacts to federal assets, services and operations (owning real property)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government's overall operations</p>	<p>Ensure all relevant employees are trained on assessing climate change impacts, undertaking climate change risk assessments, and developing adaptation actions within one year of being identified.</p> <p><b>Program:</b> RPFM, Client Services (DSDS to recommend training program)</p>	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> Percentage of relevant employees trained on assessing climate change impacts, undertaking climate change risk assessments, and developing adaptation actions within one year of being identified</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> 0 % in 2022-23 trained</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 100% trained by 2025</p> <p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> % of total</p>	<p>Trained staff can identify risk to critical program delivery, and develop responses to increase the resilience of operations to impacts of climate change.</p> <p>CIF Ambition / Target: 13.3 Canadians are well-equipped and resilient to face the effects of Climate change</p> <p>GIF Targets: 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <p>13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b></p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Learning / training completed in 2023/24 by relevant employees on assessing climate change and its impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) Center of Excellence Workshop – Real Property Strategy Development;</li> <li>• Public Service and Procurement Canada's Real Property – Client Engagement Day;</li> <li>• Real Property Institute of Canada (RPIC) Real Property National Workshop; and</li> <li>• RPIC Federal Contaminated Sites Conference.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> as of now 14 employees (2 from International Operations and 12 from Real Property &amp; Facility Management) have been identified as "relevant" employees. We are still exploring whether additional areas across the Dept also have relevant employees who should complete the training on assessing climate change impacts and undertaking climate change risk assessments</p> <p>In support of TBS Horizontal Fixed Asset Review and Government of Canada priorities, Real Property and Workplace</p>

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				<p>Services has a new Real Property Portfolio Strategy that includes a reporting framework. This framework will help identify initiatives and opportunities relevant to sustainability efforts for future operational planning and reporting.</p> <p>Learning / Training being recommended by Client Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying Climate Literacy Foundations</li> <li>• Contributing to a Net-Zero Canada</li> <li>• Adapting to Changing Climate in Canada</li> </ul>
<p>Modernize through net-zero carbon buildings</p>	<p>All new buildings (including build-to-lease and public-private partnerships) will be net-zero carbon unless a life-cycle cost-benefit analysis indicates net-zero-carbon-ready construction</p> <p><b>Program:</b> RPFM</p>	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> % change in GHG emissions from real property from fiscal year 2005-06</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> X kt in 2005-06*</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 40% reduction by 2025</p>	<p>Actions that rationalize the portfolio, share facilities, reduce the demand for energy or switch to lower carbon sources of energy will lead to reductions in GHGs from real property operations.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions</b>  <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians reduce greenhouse gas emissions  <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 13.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions  <i>GIF Target:</i> 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> *X is an amount not yet identified.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> VAC's current portfolio of assets have historical and heritage significance. Therefore, there is no plan to replace those facilities with a newly constructed building. Any retrofits in these locations will have greenhouse gas reduction analysis completed. PSPC and DND are the custodians of VAC's office accommodation portfolio in Canada. VAC will partner and collaborate with these departments to ensure VAC's office footprint is reduced to meet GoC Office Portfolio Reduction Plan.</p>

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<p>Apply a greenhouse gas reduction life-cycle cost analysis for major building retrofits</p>	<p>Incorporate GHG emissions reduction into the departmental decision-making process using GHG options analysis methodology for major renovations and any other real property project that affects energy consumption.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p><b>Performance Indicator:</b> % change in GHG emissions from real property from fiscal year 2005-06</p> <p><b>Starting point:</b> X kt in 2005-06*</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 40% reduction by 2025</p>	<p>Actions that rationalize the portfolio, share facilities, reduce the demand for energy or switch to lower carbon sources of energy will lead to reductions in GHGs from real property operations.</p> <p><b>Relevant targets or ambitions :</b>  <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p><i>CIF Target:</i> 13.1 - By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><i>CIF Indicator:</i> 13.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> *X is an amount not yet identified.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b>                      In regards to our 2 cemeteries in Canada (Fort Massey in Nova Scotia and Veterans Cemetery in British Columbia), there are no future plans for the building located on the grounds at Fort Massey as all the materials such as furnace etc. have been removed and the space is now being used by PSPC to store salt for snow removal operations.</p> <p>At Veterans Cemetery, VAC completed a caretaker building in recent years. The building was constructed in accordance to all federal and provincial building standards including all “green” building requirements. The building uses high efficient heat, electrical and water supply devices. This is considered a 25yr construction and will be maintained through contract with PSPC.</p> <p>Additionally, in 2023 a new irrigation system was installed throughout the cemetery using highly efficient water sprinklers, piping, drainage etc. to greatly reduce any water waste. This system is a programmed system for auto on/off</p>

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				<p>designed to greatly reduce any potential water waste due to over watering etc. As for further “greening” of our groundskeeping operations at Veterans Cemetery, we continue to phase out all gasoline powered equipment and replace them with battery operated. As gas powered equipment meets its “end of life” – it is replaced with an electric option. Currently over 90% of equipment used in groundskeeping operations is electric with the last gas-powered mower phased out last fall. In partnership with our contract caretaker, our mandate is to always consider “green” based solutions for our mowers, trimmers and even our pressure washers when new equipment is needed. As batteries become more efficient, powerful and long lasting, we anticipate that within the next 3-5 years, our groundskeeping operations will be 100% electric.</p>
<p>Reduce risks posed by climate change to federal assets, services and operations</p>	<p>Assess the risk of climate change impacts at mission critical assets and where there are moderate to high risks, develop plans to reduce the risk <b>Program:</b> Client Service, Real Property and Facilities Management, European Operations, Commemoration and Field Operations</p>	<p><b>Performance:</b> % of mission critical assets at moderate to high risk of climate change impacts that have a risk reduction plan  <b>Starting point:</b> X% in 2022-23*  <b>Target:</b> Y% by 2026*</p>	<p>By assessing the risks of climate change impacts at mission critical assets, and developing plans to reduce the risks, the risk of disruption of critical service delivery to Canadians is reduced.  Relevant targets or ambitions</p>	<p><b>Indicator result:</b> *X and Y are amounts not yet identified.  <b>Notes:</b> European Operations title has been changed to International Operations.  International Operations (IO) conducts conditional assessments on all 15</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p><i>CIF Ambition/Target: 13.3</i> Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>	<p>overseas memorials every three years. This ensures that any climate-related effects on the memorials can be identified and repaired, while providing insight regarding actions that might be taken to mitigate any future issues regarding the condition of the memorials.</p> <p>They work closely with their Service Provider – the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to reduce and eliminate the use of harsh chemical and pesticides in the day-to-day maintenance &amp; horticultural management of the sites. They have incorporated low-flow plumbing fixtures in the visitor centres at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial as part of a larger effort to conserve water resources.</p> <p>They are in the early stages of redeveloping the parking lot at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. As part of the redevelopment, the parking lot asphalt will be replaced with more environmentally friendly material and vegetation.</p> <p>They have recently installed an HVAC system in the visitor center at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. The new system was designed to accommodate the impact of climate</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
				<p>change in increased summer temperatures.</p> <p>IO is in the fourth year of a reforestation program at both the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. This is part of the federal government's plan to fight climate change by reducing carbon pollution. It is also a key component of Canada's efforts to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>

### Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 13 – Climate Action

The following initiatives demonstrate how Veterans Affairs Canada programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Veterans Affairs Canada remains committed to improving our environmental footprint through their participation in the various initiatives of the Treasury Board of Canada. We remain committed to responding to the calls received by ECCC or TBS that request action on a VAC owned file.</p>	<p><b>SDG 13- Climate action</b>                      TBS Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory and ECCC Species at Risk program</p> <p><b>CIF Ambition:</b> We work as a partner with ECCC to provide evidence of VAC’s owned and managed assets demonstrating our commitment to greening operations.</p>	<p>VAC is committed to continue to work collaboratively with the ECCC Species at Risk program by ensuring any alerts or notifications for affected areas are properly directed and no negative specie impact occurs.</p> <p>To date due to the diligence taken by the ECCC and VAC working collaboratively, there has been no negative impact to any species identified to VAC by the ECCC Species at Risk Program.</p>

# Integrating Sustainable Development

Veterans Affairs Canada will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. An SEA for a policy, plan or program proposal includes an analysis of the impacts of the given proposal on the environment, including on relevant FSDS goals and targets.

Public statements on the results of Veterans Affairs Canada's assessments are made public when an initiative has undergone a detailed SEA. The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental effects, including the impacts on achieving the FSDS goals and targets, of the approved policy, plan or program have been considered during proposal development and decision making.

Veterans Affairs Canada did not complete any detailed SEAs in fiscal year 2023-24.

