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Canada



2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

Veterans Affairs Canada

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Introduction to the 2024 to 2025 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 2024 to 2025.

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 2024 to 2025 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> | <p>Promote Indigenous cultural competency training and/or training on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Program: UN Declaration Act Implementation Secretariat</p> | <p>Performance Indicator: Percentage of staff who have completed Indigenous cultural competency training (internal or external)</p> <p>Performance Indicator: Percentage of staff who have completed Indigenous</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. | <p>Indicator result: 63% (19% increase from previous FY report)</p> <p>Notes: FY 2024-25. Employees participated in Department led training:</p> |

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| | | <p>cultural competency training (internal or external)</p> <p>Starting point: Percentage of staff trained as of March 2023 = 23%</p> <p>Target: 66% by March 31, 2026</p> | <p>This action contributes to the development of necessary cultural competency knowledge and skills to implement the UN Declaration.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <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>Anti-Racism Training: 298 employees participated in sessions facilitated by <i>Culture Ally</i>, focusing on anti-racism education and inclusive workplace practices.</p> <p>Indigenous History Month: 600 employees attended and <i>Indigenous Drumming Ceremony</i>, a meaningful event that honored Indigenous traditions and deepened cultural understanding.</p> <p>KAIROS Blanket Exercise: 185 employees engaged in the <i>KAIROS Blanket Exercise</i>, an experiential learning activity that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.</p> <p>In addition to these events, a number of informative email communications and Carillon articles were shared with all staff, along with Canada School of Public Service courses. These resources offered a wide range of opportunities to support continued learning and reflection.</p> |
| Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> | Targeted recruitment efforts to support Indigenous representation | <p>Performance Indicator: Percentage of staff who identify as Indigenous</p> <p>Starting point: current departmental representation is 2.47%</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 | <p>Indicator result: In fiscal year 2024-25 departmental workforce representation was 4.1%</p> <p>In 2024–2025, 4.6% of new hires identified as Indigenous.</p> |

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|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | Target: Workforce representation target is 3.25% by January 2024; 5.7% of hires should be Indigenous people over the next three years. | their knowledge of the UN Declaration. This action contributes to the development of necessary cultural competency knowledge and skills to implement the UN Declaration. Relevant targets or ambitions: <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. | Notes: Internally, our targets for workforce representation are 3.9% by January 2025 and 4.1% by January 2026. VAC is focused on meeting the Workforce Availability representation rates, which have recently increased for fiscal 2025-2026. There was an increase in Indigenous new hires, rising from 3.91% in 2023–2024 to 4.6% in 2024–2025. |
| Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> | As part of VAC’s contribution to the Government of Canada’s reconciliation efforts, an Indigenous Veterans Team was 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 | IPP to be consulted to establish Performance indicators in 1st year of strategy. Recommended by DSDS core: Performance Indicator: Percentage of new/amended legislation, regulations, policies and programs that included a consultation and cooperation process with Indigenous peoples Starting point: New initiative started in 2023. Target: 90% (annual) | 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. Relevant targets or ambitions <i>GIF Target - 10.3</i> Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities | Indicator: 100% Notes: FY 2024-25 Outreach activities reported completing 118 engagements. Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), through its Indigenous Veterans Engagement Team, continues to collaborate with Indigenous communities and national organizations to improve services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Veterans. These efforts aim to reduce systemic barriers and ensure equitable access to VAC programs. |

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|-------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | and more effective policies and programs for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Veterans.) | | of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard | <p>In 2024, VAC partnered with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to connect Indigenous Veterans with trauma-informed health and cultural support programs. VAC also signed a second Letter of Understanding with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in February 2025 and is in discussions with the Métis National Council (MNC) to establish a similar agreement.</p> <p>Priority areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating Indigenous culture into commemorative events.• Documenting and sharing Indigenous Veterans’ histories.• Providing culturally appropriate supports.• Addressing barriers to VAC services. <p>This work is ongoing and guided by the pace and priorities of Indigenous partners.</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 | | <p>VAC has been offering ongoing Indigenous training components/colonization of Canada for example: <i>Culture Ally</i>; Anti-Racism training. <i>Indigenous Drumming Ceremony</i>; honoring and deepening cultural understanding, <i>KAIROS Blanket exercise</i>; exploring relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.</p> <p>VAC has year-round training, including training through the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation organization, a learning event with the ERG, and ongoing Canada School of Public Service training—to bring us to our goal of 66% employee participation.</p> |

| PLANNED INITIATIVES | ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS | RESULTS ACHIEVED |
|---|---|---|
| Veterans Affairs Canada remains committed to promoting Indigenous recruitment efforts | | Through a larger Veterans Engagement Team, VAC is strengthening its consultations with Indigenous partners—leading to more responsive services and policies that reflect the unique needs and perspectives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Veterans. |



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 demotion 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 | <p>From 2023 to 2027 Veterans Affairs Canada will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop guidance to support the diversion of non-hazardous operational waste from landfills.• implement procedures to track and disclose waste diversion rates by 2027.• reduce the generation of non-hazardous waste. <p>Program: Materiel Management and Field Operations</p> | <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of business units, where applicable and feasible, adopting and reporting on non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices.</p> <p>Starting point: 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>Target: 100% of business units have adopted and are reporting on, where applicable and</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: <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>Indicator result: 100%</p> <p>Notes: 2.75 tonnes transferred to other Gov Depts/Schools 13.77 tonnes sold via GCSurplus 0.26 tonnes donated to various organizations 2.33 tonnes of metal converted from waste to energy Total: 19.11 tonnes</p> <p>VAC Head Office locations in Charlottetown and Ottawa participate in a battery recycling program.</p> |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | feasible, non-hazardous operational waste diversion practices by March 2027. | <i>GIF Target:</i> 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse | |
| Maximize diversion of waste from landfill | <p>From 2023 to 2027 Veterans Affairs Canada will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">develop guidance to support the diversion of construction and demolition waste from landfills.implement procedures to track and disclose waste diversion rates by 2027.reduce the generation of construction and demolition waste. <p>Program: Real Property and Facilities Management, Materiel Management and Field Operations</p> | <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of business units, where applicable and feasible, adopting and reporting on construction and demolition waste.</p> <p>Starting point: 0% of business units have fully adopted construction and demolition 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>Target: 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>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: CIF Ambition: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner</p> <p>CIF Indicator: 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>Indicator result: 0%</p> <p>Notes: VAC has not had any contract/work performed in the past fiscal year.</p> <p>Real Property Workplace 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> |
| Transform the federal light-duty fleet | <p>From 2023 to 2027, Veterans Affairs Canada will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">define targets for the Department for the number and types of vehicles that align with Greening Government targets, and embed in | <p>Starting points: 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</p> | <p>Purchasing zero emission vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions from conventional fleet operations. This enhances sustainable consumption.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p> | <p>Indicator result: 84 % (cumulative 2023-24 and 2024-25)</p> <p>Notes:</p> |

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|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>each business unit’s 7-year fleet replacement plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• undertake analyses and apply techniques such as telematics to advance fleet right-sizing and the replacement of vehicles with low-carbon intensity vehicles.• purchase only zero-emission vehicles or hybrids for executive vehicles.• Promote zero idling policy among fleet drivers. <p>Program: Materiel Management and Field Operations</p> | <p>Performance indicators:</p> <p>Percentage of light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchases within eligible categories that are zero-emission vehicles in a fiscal year.</p> <p>Percentage of business units that have approved 7-year fleet replacement plans.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>60% of light-duty administrative fleet vehicle purchases are zero emission vehicles (3-year average; 2023/24 through 2026/27).</p> <p>100% of business units have approved 7-year fleet replacement plans by 2023.</p> | <p><i>CIF Ambition: 12.1 Canadians consume in a sustainable manner</i></p> <p><i>CIF Indicator: 12.1.1 Proportion of new light duty vehicle registrations that are zero-emission vehicles</i></p> <p><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 development and capabilities of developing countries</i></p> | <p>In 2024-25, three new vehicles were purchased, of which two were hybrids and one was gas emission (67%)</p> <p>The two Hybrid/electric vehicles were purchased for International Operations, decreasing their gas emission fleet vehicles from 11 to 9.</p> <p>The new gas emission truck was purchased as a replacement at Head Office Charlottetown. (The availability in the Government Motor Vehicle Ordering process of ZEVs impacted the department’s ability to acquire all ZEVs).</p> |
| Strengthen green procurement criteria | Departments will use environmental criteria to reduce the environmental impact and ensure best value in government procurement decisions | <p>Performance Indicator: Percentage of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green procurement within one year of being identified</p> <p>Starting point: In 2022-23, 100% of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green procurement within one year of being appointed.</p> <p>Target: will maintain that 100% of procurement officers and material</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>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p> <p><i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner</p> | <p>Indicator result: 100%</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Procurement information sessions are being offered internally throughout the year for VAC employees. Given the scope of our procurement and material management practices, many related activities are completed by Functional Specialists, who have received specialized training in these areas.</p> |

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|-------------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|
| | | management specialists receive training with one year of being identified. | <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 12.2.1Proportion 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 | All acquisition cardholders are required to take Canada School of Public Service Green Procurement training. Also since September 2023, Procurement officers include standard language in 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:. Greening Government Strategy: A Government of Canada Directive |

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 |
|---|---|---|
| Maximize diversion of waste from landfill | <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>Key Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Understand and Plan: We'll examine current waste practices, set a baseline, and create a plan to shift towards a circular economy approach.○ Educate and Engage: We'll teach employees and partners about waste reduction, recycling, and circular thinking.○ Innovate: We'll support new technologies and methods to tackle waste challenges creatively.○ Policy and Partnerships: We'll update rules and collaborate with others to ensure effective waste diversion.○ Monitor and Adapt: We'll keep track of progress and adjust strategies as needed. <p>Benefits: Less waste in landfills More responsible resource use Collaboration for a cleaner Canada</p> | <p>100% of business units have fully adopted the diversion of non-hazardous operations waste from landfills.</p> <p>84% of light duty vehicle purchased since 2023 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 |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government’s overall operations | <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>Program: RPFM, Client Services (DSDS to recommend training program)</p> | <p>Performance Indicator: 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>Starting point: 0 % in 2022-23 trained</p> <p>Target: 100% trained by 2025</p> <p>Performance Indicator: % 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>Indicator result: 79%</p> <p>Notes: By March 31, 2025, 79% of the 71 relevant employees had completed the required climate change training. By the end of June 2025, the rate has increased to 85%, with ongoing efforts to achieve full participation.</p> <p>The training completed by relevant employees in 2024/25 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying Climate Literacy• Foundations Contributing to a Net-Zero Canada• Adapting to Changing Climate in Canada |
| Modernize through net-zero carbon buildings | <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>Program: RPFM</p> | <p>Performance Indicator: % change in GHG emissions from real property from fiscal year 2005-06</p> <p>Starting point: X kt in 2005-06*</p> <p>Target: 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>Relevant targets or ambitions <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p><i>CIF Indicator:</i> 13.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p><i>GIF Target:</i> 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p> | <p>Indicator result: *X is an amount not yet identified.</p> <p>Notes: No new building projects were completed in 2024/25.</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 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Apply a greenhouse gas reduction life-cycle cost analysis for major building retrofits | <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>Performance Indicator: % change in GHG emissions from real property from fiscal year 2005-06</p> <p>Starting point: X kt in 2005-06*</p> <p>Target: 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>Relevant targets or ambitions : <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>Indicator result: *X is an amount not yet identified.</p> <p>Notes: No major building retrofits were completed in 2024/25.</p> |
| Reduce risks posed by climate change to federal assets, services and operations | <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</p> <p>Program: Client Service, Real Property and Facilities Management, European Operations, Commemoration and Field Operations</p> | <p>Performance: % of mission critical assets at moderate to high risk of climate change impacts that have a risk reduction plan</p> <p>Starting point: X% in 2022-23*</p> <p>Target: 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.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions</p> <p><i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p> | <p>Indicator result: 0% (We don’t have any mission critical assets identified)</p> <p>Notes: In year 4 of the reforestation program at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, a total of 3200 new trees were planted at both sites. 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. FY</p> |

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|-------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | <p>2025-26 will see a few thousand more trees planted at both sites.</p> <p>There are plans for a redevelopment of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial parking lot. The terms of reference and other contracting documents were developed by PSPC and completed in FY 2024-25. This will reduce the amount of asphalt and replace it with more environmentally friendly materials and enhanced vegetation.</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 |
|--|--|---|
| 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>SDG 13- Climate action TBS Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory and ECCC Species at Risk program</p> <p>CIF Ambition: 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 and Economic Assessment (SEEA) process. An SEEA 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 SEEA. The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental and economic 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 SEERs in fiscal year 2024-25.

