



2023

SUSTAINABILITY  
**Rounds**

navigating  
the  
**shift**

**Tools & Tactics for  
Sustainable Healthcare**

HealthPRO's recent Sustainability Rounds brought together nearly 200 stakeholders from across the global supply chain to share information and leading practices to improve sustainability in healthcare.

**Navigating the Shift: Tools & Tactics for Sustainable Healthcare** on April 25, 2023 featured discussions on tracking and measuring impact, the future of supplier requirements and steps health organizations should follow to begin their sustainability journeys.

HealthPRO is building on the momentum of its inaugural Sustainability Rounds last year, which began a critically important dialogue on actions – big or small – we can all take to improve our impact on the planet and the people we serve.

We're committed to continuing to support our members and stakeholders to find practical solutions to improve social, environmental and economic sustainability in healthcare.

Please continue reading the following report for a summary of key takeaways from expert panelists and speakers at our second annual Sustainability Rounds.

# Chris McLeod

NORTHERN STRATEGIC PARTNERS

In his keynote address, **Chris McLeod** talked about how those who interact with the health sector supply chain could draw lessons on sustainability from an Indigenous approach.

## What We Heard

McLeod spoke about community wellness and how it is the strength of Indigenous people and connected to spirituality and the land. He stressed how relationship building with Indigenous peoples is paramount to understand cultural context and build inclusive and understanding health systems. This means investing time getting to know their priorities and what is important to them. Indigenous communities are not interested in short-term contracts or business deals; maintaining and committing to long-term partnerships is critical.

McLeod encouraged all members of the healthcare supply chain to be catalysts for Indigenous business inclusion. He challenged participants to have those “1,000 cups of tea,” referring to the conversations and time it takes to build relationships with Indigenous communities to truly establish trust and meaningful partnerships.

## Key Takeaways

- Indigenous peoples should be involved in procurement projects from the very beginning.
- It is critical to understand the cultural context of the communities healthcare providers serve, including how procurement affects them or engages with them.
- Listening, participating, and being authentic are the best ways to become an ally to Indigenous peoples. Being honest about what you don't know or understand is completely acceptable.
- Many cities or towns will have an Indigenous friendship centre or community centre where you can get started on having conversations and asking questions.



## Call to Action

Start the process of having “1,000 cups of tea” with individuals from an Indigenous community to build long-term relationships.

# Making an Impact Means Measuring Performance: Tools and Tactics to Measure and Track your Organization's Sustainability Initiatives



## Key Takeaways

- 1 Organizations unsure where to begin tracking data and making reduction strategies can make progress with simple steps, such as tracking usage of utilities and energy.
- 2 It is important to engage with external experts and communities when determining how to define your methodology and determine how to measure data.
- 3 There is no such thing as perfect — just start and iterate as you go!



**Kendra Frey**, HealthPRO



**Dean Anderson**, Vancouver Island Health Authority



**Brittany Maguire**, University of Toronto

### What We Heard

To set the foundation for a discussion about measuring performance, each panelist shared what their organization is currently doing in the area of sustainability and how they are tracking their sustainability initiatives. Kendra Frey stressed the importance of organizations approaching sustainability with a balanced approach — including social, economic and environmental — and not leaving any areas behind at the expense of others. This can be seen in HealthPRO's scorecard that has been updated to include a better defined Scope 1 and 2, Scope 3 measurement, and water stewardship.

Panelists said they have found success in tracking sustainability initiatives when evaluation tools such as scorecards were kept simple. Brittany Maguire from the University of Toronto noted that including benchmarks that were possible to achieve was important to making measurable progress. Included in tracking sustainability initiatives, measuring Scope 1 and 2 emissions can be made simple and low-cost with the assistance of software and other resources. Measuring performance on sustainability initiatives doesn't need to be complicated.

Dean Anderson from Vancouver Island Health Authority ended the discussion by urging participants to start with small changes and keep it simple. There is a lot of room to collaborate and align with other organizations who can help you out on the journey of sustainability.



Identify a source of data from your organization that can be used to measure progress in the short, medium and long term.



# The Future of Supplier Requirements

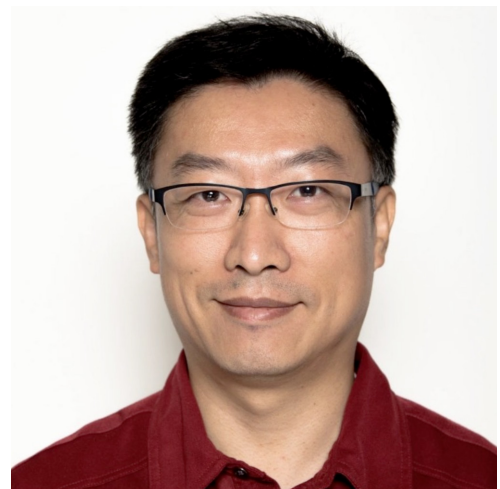


## Key Takeaways

- 1 Supplier requirements are changing. Those in the procurement space want to see social and environmental commitments included in landing contracts and expanding business.
- 2 In this new healthcare procurement landscape, suppliers are also expecting buyers to help inform sustainability changes.
- 3 Communication between buyers and sellers regarding sustainability changes is mixed. Not all buyers are communicating with their suppliers to advise them of their expectations around sustainability and understand supplier initiatives.



**Christine Donaldson**, HealthPRO



**Anthony Zhao**, Canada Masq Corporation



**Ryan Mitchell**, Sanofi

### What We Heard

Organizations are making many changes to ensure suppliers are taking steps to improve environmental, social and economic sustainability. Ryan Mitchell from Sanofi shared information about their supplier sustainability maturity levels that place suppliers on a spectrum of where they are at in their sustainability journey. Other organizations have introduced sustainable purchasing policies, setting the standard for how social and environmental commitments must be front and centre. Christine Donaldson, Interim President and CEO at HealthPRO, noted that organizations have been evolving procurement decision making far beyond cost for many years. As sustainability grows in importance, suppliers must be taking steps of some kind in this direction.

Panel participants also discussed simple actions suppliers can take to get started on their sustainability journey – reducing energy consumption, increasing renewable energy, reducing water consumption, and using ocean or truck freight as transportation options over air freight, among other actions. Panelists agreed that a collaborative way to approaching sustainability produces the best outputs.

**100%**  
of respondents would like to see supplier requirements change to include social and environmental commitments as an important aspect of landing contracts and expanding business.



### Call to Action

1. Embed aspects of sustainability into your organization's strategy.
2. Set external commitments to increase accountability.
3. Look at ways to communicate and set expectations with suppliers that you work with.

# Kickstart Your Sustainability Mission



## Key Takeaways

1

An important first step to launching your sustainability mission is defining your organization's priorities in the short, medium and long run.

2

There is a clear appetite among organizations to start their sustainability mission. Many organizations have already started their sustainability missions while other have plans to within the year.

3

Starting and maintaining sustainability initiatives is challenging and organizations face many hurdles including tracking data, getting buy-in from leadership, getting enough resources and funding, or just not being sure where to begin.



**Oriol Estrada Cuxart**, Institut Català de la Salut, Spain



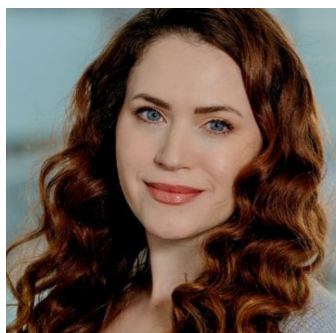
**Sophie Meisser**, Geneva University Hospital, Switzerland



**Neil Hind**, National Health Service, England



**Thibaut Fraiteur**, Groupe Jolimont, Belgium



**Nicole Simms**, University of Toronto, Canada



### What We Heard

This panel discussed a variety of ways that organizations can start their sustainability journey in a practical way that focuses on maintaining momentum. Panelists echoed the need to create a realistic plan with practical, easy steps to get started. These quick wins and easy achievements don't negate the importance of having big structural changes planned for your organization. In fact, they build trust and articulate the value of sustainable practices within an organization. It's also important to take the time to think about what your organization has already done, think through the sustainability implications that action might have, and apply a green lens to different functions of your organization.

In terms of getting buy-in from leadership and others in your organization, panelists recommended focusing on projects that everyone can get involved in. It's also helpful to frame sustainability actions in a way that appeals to leadership on the benefits to cost savings, efficiencies and reducing risk. Finally, share success stories from inside or outside your organization and collect simple metrics from smaller projects that you can then communicate to others as proof points. This helps get the conversation started and turns your successes into language that people can understand.

**50%**  
of respondents have not started their sustainability mission but plan to this year. The biggest challenge for starting and maintaining participants' sustainability initiatives is having enough resources and funding.



**Call to  
Action**

Identify a small, visible action that people across your organization can get involved in.

# Ask Us Anything Panel



## Key Takeaways

- 1 Implementing sustainability practices is a challenge across all industries — not just healthcare. The health sector has a lot to learn from other industries, but it is learning and trying new things as well.
- 2 Start by measuring and understanding your organization's carbon footprint and use that analysis to set the foundation for your work to drive change.
- 3 To ensure that your sustainability initiatives are maintained in the long run, align your activities within the context of your specific organization. This not only helps embed these initiatives across the business, but also helps to seamlessly connect these initiatives with your brand.
- 4 It is up to the industry to hold suppliers accountable for their social and environmental impact to see positive change.



**Alicia Martin**, HealthPRO



**Frances Edmonds**, HP Canada



**Elisa Frenz**, Health Proc Europe

### What We Heard

Panelists emphasized the importance of transparency and the difficulty of improving sustainability without being open about your organization's performance and the goals you have set. The panel also noted that organizations must continue to refine how they define sustainability criteria for suppliers.

There was consensus among panelists on the idea that sustainability actions affect everyone within an organization. It is crucial that sustainability is built into business decisions at the leadership level. Sustainability committees are a great way to accomplish this as they involve people across the organization. Sustainability is about collaboration. In addition to internal collaboration, it's also important to consult others in your industry and region to share ideas and make progress.



### **Call to Action**

Identify other organizations within your industry that are already making steps towards sustainability and actions that you can replicate.



HEALTHPRO



# Take the **Health Without Harm Pledge!**

HealthPRO recognizes the need to implement better sustainability practices across all aspects: social, environmental, and economic. We're working with partners, global and domestic, to raise awareness and empower procurement professionals to make more sustainable decisions in healthcare.

We believe that a commitment to sustainability is multi-pronged and must include focus to the social, environmental and economic challenges.

Sustainability also means commitment to innovation and continuous learning as we discover new ways to better serve Canadians.

[healthprocanada.com/sustainability](https://healthprocanada.com/sustainability)

