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# It's not easy being green.... Sustainability and renal care in BC

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# Objectives of the plenary sessions

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1. describe the provincial government initiative “Carbon Neutral Operation”
2. identify the impact of the carbon neutral operation on healthcare in BC
3. recognize the myths and realities of sustainability

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- 4. apply the concepts of sustainability to renal care
- 5. champion green initiatives in your renal program
- 6. identify next steps for enhancing green initiatives across the BC renal community

# The idea is....



The presenters will raise the questions – you must find the answers in yourselves.

# The idea

*(Top 10 myths about Sustainability, Michael D. Lemonick, Scientific American, March 2009)*





# The “chosen” myths

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- “it’s all about recycling”
- “new technology is always the answer”
- “sustainability is all about the environment”
- “sustainability is too expensive”
- “consumer choices, not policy intervention, are the fastest route to sustainability”



# “it’s all about recycling”



- Recycling is important but so are reduction and re-use.
- *The challenge:* can we reduce the environmental impact of BC renal programs by reduction of resource consumption or re-use – for example, less travel for patients and staff, less use of artificial light, exchanging washables for disposables, etc?

# “new technology is always the answer”

- Barack Obama was ridiculed for pointing out that better tire inflation would save Americans millions of litres of gasoline daily, but he was right.
- *The challenge: identify existing technologies we could adopt or use differently within BC’s renal programs to reduce our impact or consumption of resources.*





# “sustainability is all about the environment”

- Change or damage to the environment is certainly one aspect of compromising the ability of future generations to meet needs, but so is using scarce non replaceable resources even without environmental harm. In the case of renal programs, one scarce resource is skilled people.
- *The challenge:* how should we change BC renal programs so that we will always attract and retain enough people with all the skills we need?



# “sustainability is too expensive”



- If you have a failing furnace, leaky windows and a Hummer in your driveway, you will have ante up some capital to become more sustainable, but over the long term, you will save money.
- *The challenge:* Identify areas where, even if we swallowed some start up costs, you think we could reduce our environmental impact and save money in the long run.



## “consumer choices, not policy intervention, are the fastest route to sustainability”



- Grassroots actions and popular movements are useful and valuable, but sometimes systems will only change if required to do so. Sometimes the right thing to do is not popular (tickets got more people wearing seatbelts than safety arguments!).
- *The challenge:* Identify areas where the BCPRA can make policy that will quickly reduce our environmental impact and make the renal programs more sustainable.

# The process

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- Each table will be given one of these topics
- Brainstorm for 30 minutes, have someone record your ideas (we will be keeping them!)
- Presentation from each table
- “Voting” on priority projects throughout the day
- Temperature check next year – did we execute?