



# **FY2023 Environmental Sustainability Disclosure**

Singapore Dental Council  
Singapore Medical Council  
Singapore Nursing Board  
Singapore Pharmacy Council  
Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board

# ABOUT US

## Healthcare Professional Boards and Councils

There are 11 healthcare professional boards and councils (PBs) in Singapore, of which five are statutory boards and six are professional bodies under the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The five statutory boards are the Singapore Dental Council (SDC), Singapore Medical Council (SMC), Singapore Nursing Board (SNB), Singapore Pharmacy Council (SPC) and Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (TCMPB).

The six professional bodies under MOH are the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC), Optometrists and Opticians Board (OOB), Family Physicians Accreditation Board (FPAB), Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB), Dental Specialists Accreditation Board (DSAB) and Pharmacy Specialists Accreditation Board (PSAB).

Together, the 11 PBs are the regulatory authorities for registered healthcare professionals in Singapore, as stipulated by their respective Acts, i.e. the dentists and oral health therapists, doctors, nurses and midwives, pharmacists, traditional chinese medicine practitioners, allied health professionals, optometrists and opticians, family physicians, medical specialists, dental specialists and pharmacist specialists.

The missions of the PBs are to protect the health and safety of the public and uphold high standards of practice of the healthcare professionals.

## Secretariat of healthcare Professional Boards

The Secretariat of healthcare Professional Boards (SPB) was formed on 1 January 2020 to support the secretariat and operational functions of the 11 healthcare PBs. The environmental sustainability disclosures for the healthcare PBs have been prepared and consolidated as one entity by SPB.

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# SCOPE AND BOUNDARY

This is the first Environmental Sustainability Disclosure for the healthcare PBs. It articulates our sustainability goals, governance framework, and performance indicators. We are committed to releasing this disclosure annually, demonstrating our dedication to transparency and accountability in our sustainability efforts.

This sustainability disclosure covers the period for Financial Year 2023 (FY2023) from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. It includes sustainability performances and practices for all the 11 PBs as the SPB secretariat is housed in two tenanted offices at 81 Kim Keat Road and College of Medicine Building, unless otherwise stated.

The disclosure does not include performance data for water and waste. Water usage is currently being monitored through the installation of private water meters within our tenanted office premises. The data collected will be included in the FY2025 sustainability disclosure. As for waste disposal, unlike electricity usage, it is not metered. Therefore, additional time is needed to improve the data collection processes, and it will be reported in the next sustainability disclosure for FY2024.



# PREFACE

In 2023, the healthcare PBs experienced a pivotal year amidst the global uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This period prompted the Government to prioritise building resilience for the future, particularly within the healthcare system, and provided opportunities for the PBs and secretariat staff to explore ways to enhance the accessibility and efficiency of the regulatory framework.

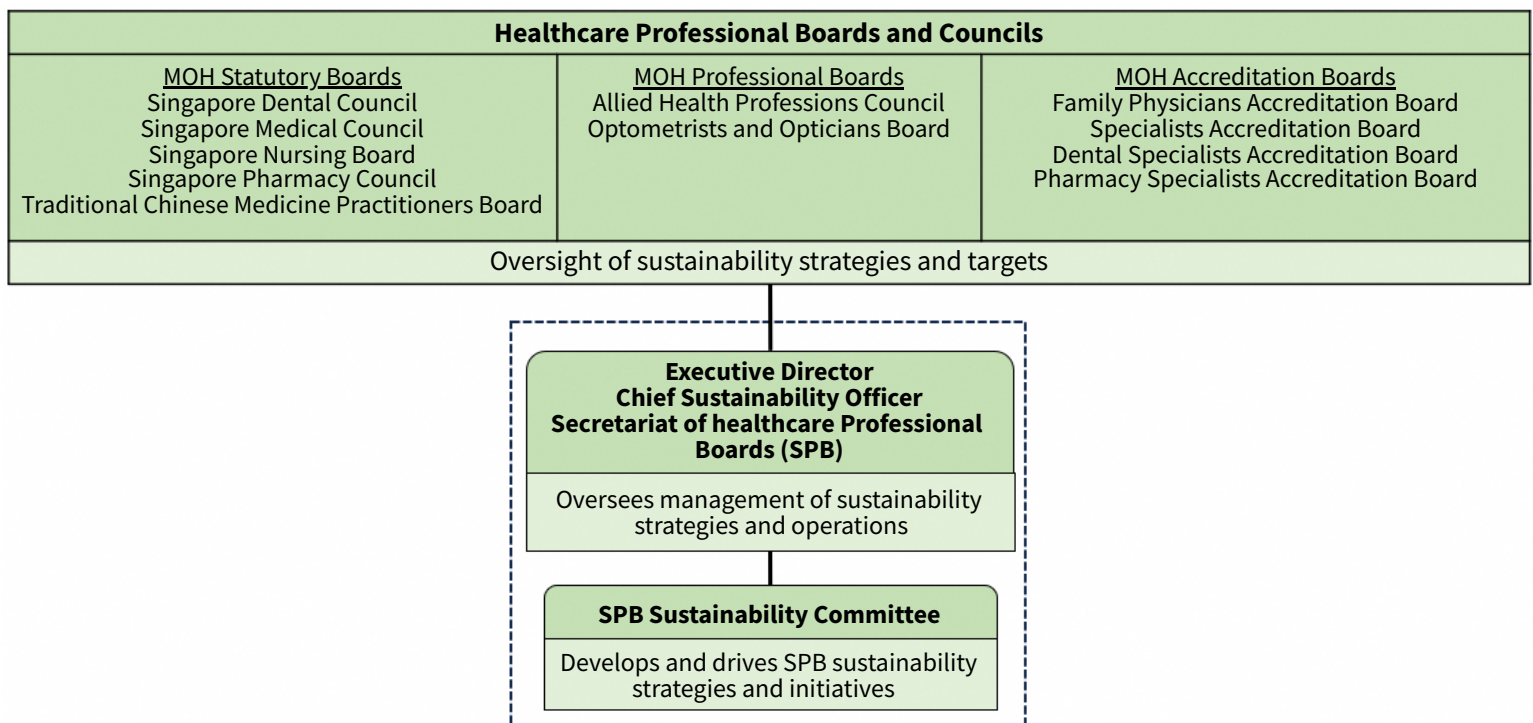
Sustainability has emerged as a fundamental strategy for forward-thinking organisations. Aligned with the goals of GreenGov.SG, the public sector is committed to achieving ambitious sustainability targets in carbon abatement and resource efficiency, serving as a catalyst for green initiatives. Climate considerations have been integrated into every aspect of our work, reflecting our commitment to minimising environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices. Our objectives include improving energy utilisation, optimising water usage, minimising waste, and working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2045, while also fostering green advocacy among our staff.

This first report reflects our dedication to transparency and accountability in our sustainability journey. We will continue to measure and report progress in sustainability performance and remain responsive to the evolving circumstances. We will also inspire our staff and partners to embrace green practices and make sustainability a way of life.

# SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Executive Director of SPB, who is also the Chief Sustainability Officer of SPB, is instrumental in leading and aligning organisational initiatives towards sustainability targets for the 11 healthcare PBs. Supported by the SPB’s Sustainability Committee, she drives the direction of sustainability efforts within the SPB.

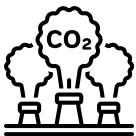
The SPB Sustainability Committee plays a crucial role in reporting to the 11 healthcare PBs, ensuring oversight of sustainability matters and strategies.



Note: SPB supports the secretariat and operational functions of the healthcare Professional Boards and Councils

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE

The 11 healthcare PBs are dedicated to gradually reducing our environmental footprint. Greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water usage, and waste disposal have been identified as key parameters to initiate our sustainability journey. The environmental sustainability targets outlined in this disclosure are aligned with the targets set under GreenGov.SG, introduced in 2021 as a pivotal component of the Singapore Green Plan 2030 by the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE).



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Our target is to achieve net zero emissions by around year 2045.

In FY2023, the 11 healthcare PBs emitted a total of approximately 136 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> under Scope 2 emissions<sup>[1]</sup>, reflecting a commendable 16% reduction from the baseline<sup>[2]</sup>. This decrease in emissions can be attributed to several factors, including:

- a. The replacement of VRV air-conditioner units with central remote controller and timer.
- b. The replacement of fluorescent tubes with energy-efficient LED light fittings.
- c. Staff initiatives to reduce energy consumption, such as switching off lights and air-conditioning in non-operational areas.
- d. Implementation of hybrid work arrangements.
- e. Reduced office operations during office renovation.

These initiatives have significantly contributed to the reduction in our carbon footprint and demonstrated our commitment to sustainability.

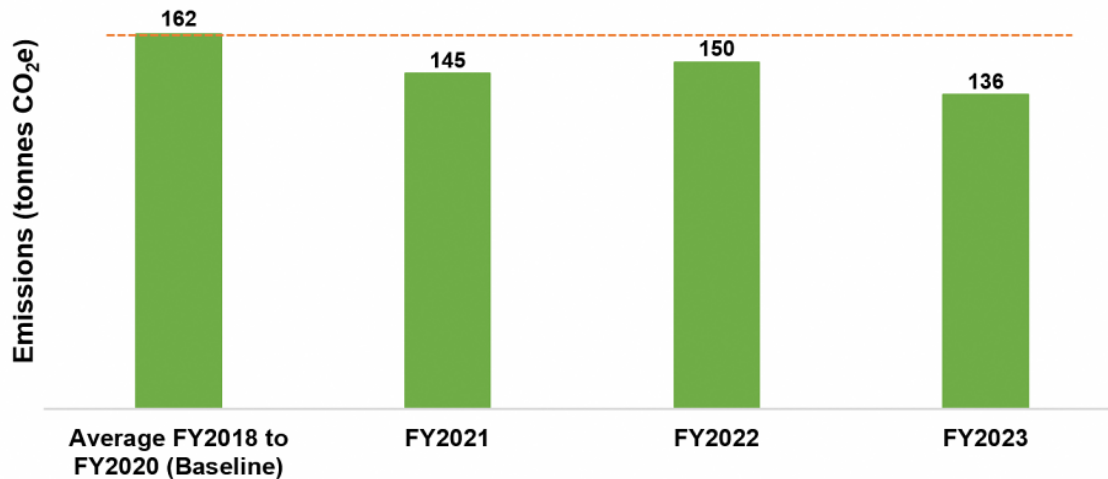
Scope 1 emissions are not applicable to the healthcare PBs, as the direct usage of petrol and diesel is not required by the organisations. Therefore, our focus remains on managing and reducing Scope 2 emissions through various sustainable initiatives.

[1] Scope 1 emissions refer to direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by an organisation, such as petrol and diesel. Scope 2 emissions refer to indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity.

[2] For emissions measurement, the average of FY2018 to FY2020 was adopted as the baseline, aligned with Whole-of-Government GreenGov.SG baseline. This period was chosen to better reflect hybrid working arrangements post-pandemic and historical records were available.



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Scope 2 Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)



## Electricity Consumption

Our target is to reduce 10% in Energy Utilisation Index (EUI) by 2030 as compared to the average of FY2018 to FY2020 levels<sup>[3]</sup>.

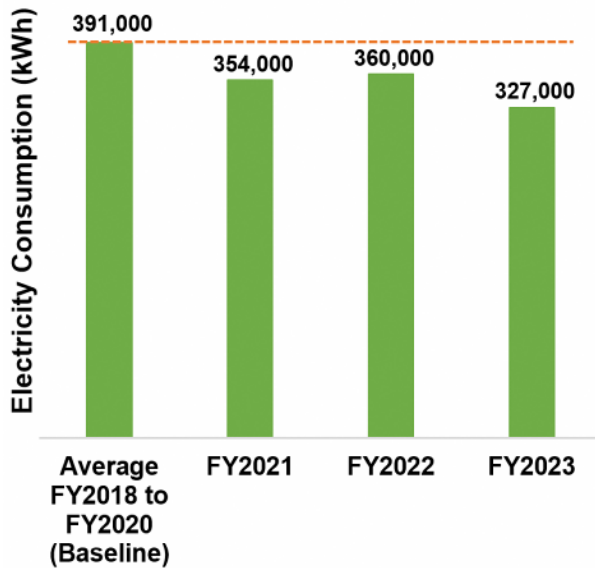
In FY2023, the healthcare PBs' electricity consumption was approximately 327,000 kWh with EUI of 181 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, representing a 16% reduction from the baseline. This reduction was primarily attributed to the following factors:

- The replacement of VRV air-conditioner units with central remote controller and timer.
- The replacement of fluorescent tubes with energy-efficient LED light fittings.
- Staff initiatives to reduce energy consumption, such as switching off lights and air-conditioning in non-operational areas.
- Implementation of hybrid work arrangements.
- Reduced office operations during office renovation.

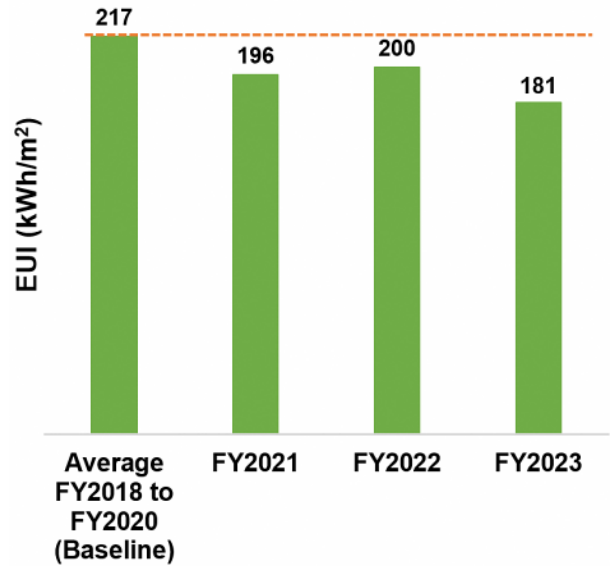
[3] For electricity usage, the average of FY2018 to FY2020 was adopted as the baseline, aligned with Whole-of-Government GreenGov.SG baseline. This period was chosen to better reflect hybrid working arrangements post-pandemic and historical records were available.



## Electricity Consumption (kWh)



## Energy Utilisation Index [EUI] (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>)



Note: Electricity consumption rounded to the nearest 1,000



## Water Consumption

Our target is to achieve a 10% reduction in Water Efficiency Index (WEI) by 2030 compared to the baseline<sup>[4]</sup>. However, this disclosure currently excludes performance data for water.

We are actively monitoring water usage through the installation of private water meters in our tenanted office premises, particularly during the recent office renovation. The data will be included in the FY2025 sustainability disclosure.



[4] For water consumption, FY2024 usage will be adopted as the baseline as historical records for the healthcare PBs' offices are not available. The water usage was metered as a whole building and makes it challenging to attribute the usage to the healthcare PBs' offices.



## Waste Generation

Our target is to reduce 30% in Waste Disposal Index (WDI) by 2030 as compared to the baseline<sup>[5]</sup>

This disclosure excludes performance data for waste. As waste disposal is not metered, unlike electricity usage, more time is required to enhance the data collection processes and it will be reported in the sustainability disclosure for FY2024.



## Overall Assessment

In FY2023, the 11 healthcare PBs achieved a commendable 16% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions and successfully met the 10% reduction target for the Energy Utilisation Index (EUI) ahead of the GreenGov.SG 2030 target. This achievement can be attributed to the proactive measures taken, including the replacement of energy-efficient equipment, staff initiatives to save energy, and reduced office operations during office renovation.

While we have met the target for EUI, we remain dedicated to continuous improvement in this area. Our commitment to enhancing energy efficiency remains unwavering, and we are actively planning to implement additional initiatives to further reduce energy consumption in the coming years.

[5] For waste reduction, FY2023 disposal will be adopted as the baseline as historical records for the healthcare PBs offices were not available.

# SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS



## Measures Implemented to Achieve our Targets

The healthcare PBs have adopted various measures to achieve our sustainability targets. These include:

- Adoption of energy-efficient appliances, such as air-conditioners and lighting, with reminders to switch off all air-conditioners and lighting when not in use or at the end of the day
- Installation of water efficient fittings, with reminder to turn off water taps properly after use
- Promotion of good and practical recycling habits, such as recycling paper products, plastic containers and packaging, and aluminum cans
- Discontinuation of the supply of bottled or packaged water for all meetings organised within our premises



## Incorporating Sustainability into our Core Business Areas and Procurement Practices

Since 2021, the healthcare PBs, in collaboration with MOH, has introduced electronic Registration Certificates (e-RC) and electronic Practising Certificates (e-PC), collectively known as e-Certs, in our Professional Registration System to new registrants and existing healthcare professionals upon successful renewal of Practising Certificates (PC). We also collaborated with MOH and GovTech to launch the digital Practising Certificates (digital PC) in Singpass in January 2022 for all registered healthcare professionals who hold a valid PC. These digital initiatives have significantly enhanced access and convenience for registered healthcare professionals and users, while also contributing to sustainability by stopping the issuance of hardcopy certificates and thereby reduced the number of printers and the carbon footprint. In 2023, approximately 70,000 e-RCs/e-PCs were issued, resulting in a substantial reduction in paper usage.

Furthermore, we have integrated green procurement into our core operations. For instance, the equipment and products procured are certified under the Mandatory Energy Labelling Scheme (MELS) or the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, reflecting our commitment to enforce sustainable procurement practices.



## Building a Sustainable Culture

The healthcare PBs aim to elevate environmental sustainability awareness and knowledge among staff. In 2023, the following outreach activities were organised for SPB secretariat team to drive and promote sustainability practices:

- Learning journey to CDL Green Gallery at the Singapore Botanic Gardens
- Participation in SG Clean Day 2023, recorded in the Singapore Book of Records with most number of people in a multiple-location mass clean-up
- Organised Pre-Loved Items Rescue Days
- Organised Sustainability Briefing on Recycling
- Participation in Earth Hour

These activities have played a significant role in fostering a culture of sustainability within our organisation and promoting environmentally responsible practices among our staff.



# ANNEX

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Target: Peak emissions (Scope 1 and 2) around 2025

Performance			Assessment
Scope 1 emissions	Average FY2018 to FY2020 (Baseline)	0	Carbon emissions: 16% reduction from baseline 162 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
	FY2021	0	
	FY2022	0	
	FY2023	0	
Scope 2 emissions	Average FY2018 to FY2020 (Baseline)	162 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2021	145 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2022	150 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2023	136 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
Total Scope 1 and 2 emissions	Average FY2018 to FY2020 (Baseline)	162 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2021	145 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2022	150 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
	FY2023	136 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	

### Notes:

1. Scope 1 emissions refer to direct emissions occurs from sources that are owned or controlled by the healthcare Professional Boards and Councils.
2. Scope 2 emissions refer to indirect emissions that result from the use of purchased electricity.
3. The following Grid Emission Factors (GEF) were obtained from the Energy Market Authority's website<sup>[6]</sup>:

Year	GEF (kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kWh)
2023	0.4168 <sup>[7]</sup>
2022	0.4168
2021	0.4085
2020	0.4074
2019	0.4085
2018	0.4206

[6] SES Chapter 2: Energy Transformation, Energy Market Authority.

[7] The GEF for 2023 is not available at the time of this disclosure's publication. Therefore, the 2022 figure was used for 2023.

## Electricity Consumption

Target: 10% reduction in Energy Utilisation Index (EUI) by 2030, compared to average of FY2018 to FY2020 levels

Performance			Assessment
Electricity Consumption	Average FY2018 to FY2020 (Baseline)	391,000 kWh	EUI: 16% reduction from baseline 217 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>
	FY2021	354,000 kWh	
	FY2022	360,000 kWh	
	FY2023	327,000 kWh	
EUI	Average FY2018 to FY2020 (Baseline)	217 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	
	FY2021	196 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	
	FY2022	200 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	
	FY2023	181 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	

Note: Electricity consumption rounded to the nearest 1,000

### Notes:

- EUI is defined as the total electricity consumed by a facility in one year divided by its total gross floor area (GFA).
- The formula used to calculate the EUI is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Total Electricity Used in Year X}}{\text{Total GFA in Year X}}$$

- For the calculation of the baseline and FY2023 performance, GFA is taken to be 1,805.64 m<sup>2</sup>.