

Environmental Sustainability Report FY2025

This report reflects the Communicable Diseases Agency (CDA)'s environmental sustainability efforts for the Financial Year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Board and Senior Management Statement

In alignment with the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which established a national blueprint for sustainable development, CDA is committed to environmental sustainability. This commitment is captured in CDA's sustainability statement:

“ The Communicable Diseases Agency is dedicated to advancing environmental sustainability and safeguarding Singapore against communicable diseases. Recognising the vital connection between environmental and human health, we strive to protect both — ensuring the well-being of present and future generations. ”

For CDA, environmental sustainability is not a separate obligation but an important strategic thrust that is integral to our public health mission. Climate change and environmental degradation are well-established drivers of disease emergence and spread, from the expansion of vector habitats to the disruption of ecosystems that harbour infectious pathogens. As the agency mandated to protect Singapore against communicable diseases, there is recognition that a healthier environment is foundational to a healthier population. By embedding sustainable practices into how we operate, procure, and plan, we ensure that our work today does not come at the expense of the health and well-being of future generations, and continues to contribute to an ecosystem which safeguards the health of the population.

Sustainability Governance Structure

Effective sustainability governance is fundamental to ensuring that CDA's environmental commitments translate into meaningful action. CDA has put in place a clear governance structure that embeds sustainability accountability at every level of the organisation, from Board oversight to operational implementation. This structure ensures that sustainability goals are not only set and monitored at the highest level, but are also driven and delivered on the ground, with clear lines of responsibility and regular reporting across all tiers.

Board of Directors	- Provides oversight on CDA's sustainability goals and strategies. - Receives periodic updates on sustainability performance. - Brings diverse professional backgrounds to provide strategic guidance.
Leadership Group (CDA's Executive Group Members)	- Oversees progress against environmental goals and targets. - Responsible for building internal capability. - Works to instil sustainability culture among staff and stakeholders.
Agency Manager (Head of Workplace Services Branch)	- Reports to Ministry of Health's Sustainability Manager. - Oversees and drives formulation and implementation of sustainability initiatives. - Aligns workstreams towards sustainability targets. - Provides updates to Leadership Group and Board on environmental issues and performance.

Our Approach

Guided by the principles of GreenGov.SG, CDA's approach to sustainability is one of continuous improvement, embedding greener practices into every aspect of how we operate, from the way we manage our facilities to the way we procure goods and services. We have implemented energy-efficient measures, upgraded to water-efficient fittings, improved waste management practices, encouraged greater recycling efforts, and fostered a sustainable culture through employee participation in sustainability activities e.g. recycling. We have also adopted green procurement practices, ensuring that our equipment and appliances meet ENERGY STAR standards and that eco-friendly office supplies are used across our operations. We will continue to evolve our practices to reduce our environmental impact and foster a greener workplace.

Our Premises

Understanding our physical footprint is an important part of this journey. CDA's primary offices are located at Novena Square Tower (NST), with additional units occupying office and laboratory spaces at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) building. The NST offices will undergo a major renovation in CY2026-2027 and specifications have been derived according to GreenGov.sg standards. The plan is to work towards Green Mark for Office Interiors (GMI) Gold-plus certification upon the completion of the renovation.

For CDA units at TTSH/NCID, power, water, and waste consumption are monitored and reported under TTSH as part of their sustainability requirements. TTSH operates under a comprehensive and well-recognised sustainability framework, having been awarded the BCA Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy (SLE) in 2023, the first acute hospital in Singapore to receive this prestigious accolade. This recognition reflects TTSH's commitment to retrofitting its facilities with innovative sustainability technologies to improve energy efficiency and minimise waste. TTSH's sustainability efforts have also received international recognition, earning an Honourable Mention in the Geneva Sustainability Centre Excellence Award for Hospital Sustainability Acceleration at the International Hospital Federation Awards 2025. These accolades provide assurance that the premises in which CDA units are housed are managed to high environmental and operational standards.

CDA will monitor TTSH's sustainability developments and requirements to ensure that our units continue to operate in alignment with these good standards and practices. We will continue to work closely with our TTSH counterparts to align on joint sustainability efforts, wherever feasible.

Environmental Sustainability Targets and Performance

Setting meaningful targets requires a sound foundation. For CDA, establishing that foundation is of immediate priority. As a newly established agency, we are in the process of establishing our environmental sustainability baseline. Given that the renovation will significantly alter the physical environment and operating conditions of our primary offices at NST, we will monitor consumption rates for a period following the completion of the renovation before establishing our baseline by end CY2027. We will then work towards meeting the GreenGov.sg 2030 targets for our Energy Utilisation Index (EUI), Water Efficiency Index (WEI), and Waste Disposal Index (WDI) by CY2030.

Sustainability in Action: Our Sustainability Efforts to Date

Even as we work towards establishing our formal baseline, we have taken steps to reduce our environmental footprint across the areas of energy, water, and waste.

Energy Consumption

In our ongoing efforts to enhance energy efficiency, we have implemented a range of measures to reduce energy consumption. These include maintaining a comfortable office ambient temperature of around 25 degrees Celsius, installing energy-efficient LED lights with motion-activated controls across our office spaces to ensure lighting is only in use when the space is occupied, using window blinds and partitions to reduce heat gain, optimising air conditioning operating hours to align with occupied periods on weekdays while maintaining a full shutdown over weekends, conducting routine checks to ensure lights are turned off after office hours, and procuring at least 3-tick rated energy-efficient electrical appliances.

Water Consumption

Complementing our energy consumption reduction efforts, we have implemented water conservation measures to reduce consumption without compromising functionality. These include upgrading to water-efficient fittings with at least a 3-tick water-efficient rating under PUB's Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) and installing leak detection systems to ensure prompt identification and repair of water leakages.

Waste Management

On the waste front, we have taken steps to reduce what we consume and improve how we manage what remains. We have placed recycling bins at convenient locations across our offices to facilitate proper waste segregation, adopted paperless workflows through digital forms and e-signatures, reduced single-use plastics and digitalised key clinical and operational processes. Notably, the digitalisation of our work processes in disease surveillance have saved approximately 102.5 kg of paper annually, directly reducing CDA's waste footprint.

Greening Our Future Workplace: Sustainability in the Upcoming Renovation

The current efforts lay the groundwork for what will be a significant step forward in CDA's sustainability journey: the major renovation of the NST offices from the third quarter of CY2026 to the second quarter of CY2027. Sustainability is central to the office design and specifications, with the aim of achieving Green Mark for Office Interiors (GMI) Gold-plus certification. The renovation represents an opportunity to build a workplace that does not merely accommodate sustainable practices but is designed from the ground up to enable them.

Key features of the renovation include the following:

Office Design. A Sustainability Consultant has been engaged as part of the Design Consultancy contract to guide the certification process and ensure sustainable materials, practices, and energy-efficient design solutions are incorporated throughout the renovation. For instance, the renovation will feature an open-plan design with glass partitions and daylight harvesting features to optimise natural light, as well as biophilic design elements such as herb gardens, ceiling planters, and moss walls to promote a healthier and more sustainable work environment.

Smart Energy and Climate Systems. The renovation will install zone-controlled LED lighting with occupancy sensors, photocell perimeter lighting, glare control blinds, and temperature sensors, to minimise energy consumption while ensuring staff comfort.

Sustainable Materials and Fittings. All workstations, furniture, and flooring will be Singapore Green Building Product (SGBP)/Green Label certified. Low-Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints and acoustic panels will be used throughout, all electrical appliances will be at least 3-tick rated and water-efficient WELS-rated fittings will be installed across all wet areas.

Waste and Water Management. The renovation will incorporate water monitoring systems with leak detection, dedicated recycling stations, and infrastructure to support ongoing waste reduction campaigns.

Building a Sustainable Culture

Sustainability at CDA is a collective effort that extends across our entire organisation, including CDA officers based at TTSH and NCID. While the consumption of CDA's units at TTSH/NCID is reported under TTSH's sustainability framework, we believe that building an agency-wide sustainability culture must involve all CDA officers, regardless of where they are physically located.

To foster this sense of shared ownership, CDA will develop a sustainability engagement programme that reaches all staff across all premises. This will include organisation-wide sustainability communications through electronic direct mailers and internal staff channels. We will also organise sustainability events such as recycling challenges and participation in national initiatives like Earth Hour or the Bring Your Own (BYO) movement, for all CDA staff.