

# Sustainability Intern

## Nicole Mayer

### About SickKids

Canada's most research-intensive hospital and a global leader in pediatric healthcare.

### About KidsGoGreen

A team comprised of interdisciplinary backgrounds focused on spearheading initiatives to mobilize a green-friendly SickKids.

### Did you know?

- 🩺 Health-care facilities account for 3-8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- 🩺 Hazardous healthcare waste is often incinerated, releasing toxic air pollutants.
- 🩺 Most waste from health-care facilities ends up in landfill, which releases methane gas.

### Role & Responsibilities

Worked within the Sustainability Facilities Department to facilitate stakeholder outreach and engagement initiatives for waste, transportation and wastewater management within the hospital.

**SickKids**



**Healthier Children.  
A Better World.**

**Kids Go  
Green**

### Key Contributions

- 🩺 Leveraged strong communication and relationship-building skills to increase the diversion rate of non-hazardous waste through the education of all staff.
- 🩺 Analyzed Sickkids Pollution Prevention Plan and Assessment, synthesized data and created presentations for select departments to ensure green procurement policies and practices were being followed to reduce the chemical impact on the environment.
- 🩺 Published articles to raise awareness on sustainability covering topics from single-use plastic to green transportation in alignment with provincial, national and international environmental campaigns and challenges.

### Sustainability Challenges

- 🩺 Health and safety comes first: Sustainability initiatives become challenging to integrate while ensuring the health and safety of all.
- 🩺 Vulnerability of projects to the ever-changing environment: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability to complete data collection on the waste diversion rate of non-hazardous waste in patient rooms.