



Canadian Nuclear  
Laboratories

Laboratoires Nucléaires  
Canadiens

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Catalyzing a Better Tomorrow, Today

2024 Sustainability Report

Read our Full Report





**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories** (CNL) operates on sites located on the traditional lands, waterways and ceded and unceded territories of Indigenous Peoples. CNL recognizes and affirms all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit on this land we now know as Canada. We acknowledge, respect and seek to better understand Indigenous history, rights and title on the lands where we work. We honour and respect the importance of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and their lands, waters and territories.



*“We are excited to be on our sustainability journey at the same time as we are seeing a pivotal shift in the ever-important role of nuclear energy and technology as an important tool to address important challenges such as climate change and health care, confronting the biggest challenges facing our country and indeed, the globe.”*  
- **Jack Craig**, President and CEO, CNL

At CNL, we believe that a strong focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) will help us to deliver our mandate in a more responsible way, build meaningful relationships that help earn the trust of Rightsholders and communities, and create a workplace that brings pride to our employees.

Each year we prepare a Sustainability Report that looks at ESG issues that are important for CNL, our clients, our Rightsholders and stakeholders. This report tracks our

**CNL contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with an emphasis on the eight shown at right.**

**Guided by Vision 2030, and incorporating the ESG ambitions of AECL and the Government of Canada, we strive for positive local, national and global impact through the delivery of our mandate.**

**Clean energy**

CNL is well positioned to advance the next generation of clean energy technologies that are critical to achieving Canada’s net-zero ambitions, including advanced nuclear reactors, hydrogen solutions and hybrid energy systems.

**Healthcare innovation**

Building on its longstanding history in health sciences, CNL is pursuing the industrial-scale production of Actinium-225, a promising medical isotope that could serve as a breakthrough in cancer treatment.



*“As I step into this new role as CSSO, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for CNL to contribute to clean energy, manage legacy nuclear waste and advance medical science all with a view to create a better future for generations to come.”*  
- **Dilhari Fernando**, Chief Sustainability Strategy Officer

progress and recaps the many activities that are underway to pursue a more sustainable future at CNL. This summary provides an overview of our Sustainability Report and highlights how we drive value for all who engage with us.



**Legacy nuclear remediation**

CNL is leading efforts to manage legacy nuclear liabilities by decommissioning, remediating, restoring and protecting the environment, and working globally to find long-term, safe solutions for the by-products of nuclear innovation.

**Industry innovation and partnerships**

CNL has formalized relationships with academic institutions and industry to accelerate early-stage research and demonstrate the commercial viability of new and innovative technologies while harnessing the next generation of highly qualified scientists.

**Sustainability Highlights (2023-2024)**

Environmental Stewardship



- Achieved a combined Scope 1 & 2 emissions reduction of 51% from 2005 levels at Chalk River Laboratories, bringing us closer to being carbon neutral by 2040
- Diverted 231 metric tons of conventional waste and 9,130 metric tons of construction and demolition waste from landfills, exceeding our 2023 annual targets
- Celebrated the opening of the Science Collaboration Centre at Chalk River Laboratories, an office and collaboration complex that has received multiple awards for sustainable design including the use of Canadian mass timber, water and energy efficient design
- 2,690 hectares of forest sustainably managed under the Forest Management Plan that was developed by Natural Resources Canada’s Canadian Forest Service

Social Responsibility



- Signed two long-term agreements with Indigenous communities, contributing to a total of 33 agreements that formalize our commitment to mutual respect, collaboration, and economic opportunities with neighbouring First Nations
- Entered into new academic partnerships with universities to advance research priorities, access talent and facilities, bringing the total number of academic partnerships to seven
- Operated for 2.6 million consecutive hours in 2023 without a lost-time injury, keeping us on track with our safety targets
- Launched our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Strategy, including formalizing the Accessibility Plan, the appointment of our Accessibility Manager and the establishment of the Accessibility Steering Committee

Responsible Management



- Appointed a Chief Sustainability Strategy Officer (CSSO) to develop our ESG strategy, oversee ESG integration and enhance collaboration across CNL and with Indigenous Nations, communities and organizations, and stakeholders on ESG issues
- Updated the Board of Directors Terms of Reference to include ESG priorities, ensuring that the Board has line of sight on this strategic area.
- Released CNL’s first Modern Slavery Statement outlining our new integrated third party due diligence program, which enables us to vet all third parties, evaluate risks, and ensure that they share our commitment to human rights, ethics and integrity



*“We are firmly committed to being an active participant in Canada’s journey towards healing and reconciliation. Relationships with Indigenous Peoples are something we care deeply about at CNL, and we are working to integrate reconciliation throughout our strategies, policies, processes, and engagement approaches. We aim to foster meaningful relationships and dialogue with Indigenous communities, across our ESG efforts.”*  
- **Dale LeClair**, Director, Indigenous Relations

**Our commitment to local communities**

In addition to being a major local employer, CNL provides opportunities for local companies to supply goods and services across all CNL managed sites. We are proud of the nearly \$300,000 donated by the Canadian National Energy Alliance (CNEA) on behalf of CNL to 41 charities and organizations, and over \$150,000 raised by our workforce

through our annual United Way campaign and Black Bears charity hockey tournament for local causes. CNL welcomed 20 school visits, participated in over 15 classroom engagements, and hosted the CNL summer camp at the Chalk River Laboratories to spark the curiosity of young people and grow the next generation of scientists.



Northern Transportation Route  
Itinéraire de transport dans le Nord

National Innovation Centre  
for Cyber Security  
Centre national d'innovation  
pour la cybersécurité

Whiteshell Laboratories  
Laboratoires de Whiteshell

Nuclear Power Demonstration  
Réacteur nucléaire de démonstration

Douglas Point Prototype Reactor  
La centrale nucléaire de Douglas Point

Port Hope Area Initiative  
Initiative dans la région de Port Hope

Laprade  
Gentilly 1

Chalk River Laboratories  
Laboratoires de Chalk River

**4,400**  
EMPLOYEES  
(approximate total workforce)

**9**  
MANAGED SITES

**30+**  
AGREEMENTS  
WITH  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES

**7**  
PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH  
UNIVERSITIES

**70 YEARS**  
OF EXPERTISE

**14**  
FEDERAL  
DEPARTMENTS  
& AGENCIES  
SUPPORTED

## About CNL

As Canada's premier nuclear science and technology laboratory, and working under the direction of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), CNL is a world leader in the development of innovative nuclear science and technology products and services. Guided by an ambitious corporate strategy known as Vision 2030, CNL fulfills three strategic priorities of national importance – restoring and protecting the environment, advancing clean energy technologies, and contributing to the health of Canadians.

By leveraging the assets owned by AECL, CNL also serves as the nexus between government, the nuclear industry, the broader private sector and the academic community. CNL works in collaboration with these sectors to advance innovative Canadian products and services towards real-world use, including carbon-free energy, cancer treatments and other therapies, non-proliferation technologies and waste management solutions.

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