

# sustainability

## Sustainable Development Strategy

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2009-2015



# sustainability

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Climate change is one of the greatest threats to our health and wellbeing. It is already affecting health across the globe. The NHS, as one of the largest employers in the world, has an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions, a key cause of climate change.

(NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy, 2009)

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## Statement of support

NHS Gloucestershire recognises the health impacts of climate change and as a healthcare provider our important role to reduce our contribution to climate change. We are working to raise awareness of sustainability at all levels in our organisation so that staff are empowered to feed into the sustainable development of our services. This strategy is a major landmark in driving forward carbon reduction. It is absolutely vital that performance against reducing carbon is measured and managed effectively as part of core business and not considered as an additional agenda item.

We recognise that tackling climate change and moving toward a more sustainable future will provide many healthcare benefits. Active travel is a prime example of where a no carbon solution works to address many of our current health challenges from tackling obesity to reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The buildings that we deliver services from can play an important role in driving down our carbon footprint. We recognise that there is lots of scope for improving the energy efficiency of our buildings and we are working with the Carbon Trust to identify where improvements can be made. Equally we need to look at all ways to reduce the carbon footprint of travel whilst focusing on our strategic objectives such as the delivery of care closer to home. The theme of sustainability can apply to all aspects of our service delivery and development and, as a test of how we provide services in the future; we need to ensure that sustainability sits alongside quality of patient experience, effectiveness of services, and safety for patients and staff.

**NHS Gloucestershire Board**

## Introduction

In January 2009 the Department of Health issued the carbon reduction strategy for England, entitled *'Saving Carbon, Improving Health'*, which sets out key actions for the NHS in England to reduce its carbon emissions. The Good Corporate Citizen Model was developed in 2003 to encourage NHS trusts to consider their responsibilities to local communities and the local environment and this self assessment model can be used to benchmark performance.

"The goal of sustainable development is to meet the needs of today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Stabilising, and then reducing our carbon emissions is key to 'living within environmental limits', just as addressing climate change is central to a 'healthy, just and fair society.' Sustainable development is the framework within which carbon emissions will be reduced"

NHS Gloucestershire's Sustainable Development Strategy identifies key objectives to raise awareness of sustainable development for all staff and embed it in our decision making processes and achievement of the principal target in the carbon reduction strategy. This being a reduction in carbon emissions by 10% from 2007 to 2015. This is the first move towards meeting the Governments target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 (Climate Change Act 2008) for all NHS Trusts.

Climate Change is recognised as one of the most significant challenges facing the world and it will have serious implications for health and for the NHS. It poses major and unfamiliar challenges. Any positive effects of a warmer climate, such as a reduction in cold-related deaths, are likely to be outweighed by heat-related deaths, increased cases of skin cancer and cataracts, injuries and infectious diseases as a result of increased flooding, an increase in anxiety and depression linked to physical and economic insecurity and increases in respiratory disease, insect-borne disease, and food poisoning<sup>1</sup>.

### **So why should NHS Gloucestershire act now?**

1. To capitalise upon the complementary nature of sustainability and health and well-being
2. To harness the willingness and commitment of NHS organisations and staff to act now
3. To meet the legally binding Government framework and national targets
4. To reap the benefits of cost savings through efficiency

The key principles of sustainability involve social, environmental and economic equity. Therefore embedding sustainability will synchronise with the PCT's overarching strategic priorities and our vision for the future of NHS Gloucestershire.

# NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy – Saving Carbon, Improving Health

The NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy is prescriptive in terms of what NHS trusts need to take action on. The four key areas that NHS Trusts should begin with are:

## **1. Have a board approved Sustainable Development Plan**

NHS Gloucestershire (NHSG) have developed this strategy to underpin our work over the next 6 years and is developing a Carbon Management Action Plan with the Carbon Trust to sit alongside our strategy

## **2. Sign up to the good corporate citizen assessment model**

The good corporate citizen assessment model is a self-assessment tool to allow NHS trusts to benchmark their progress in six key areas these are transport, procurement, facilities management, employment and skills, community engagement and new buildings.

It recognises the responsibility of NHS organisations as large employers to influence the health and well-being of staff and to reduce impacts upon the local environment.

NHS Gloucestershire will use the tool to benchmark performance on an annual basis.

## **3. Monitor, review and report on carbon**

All NHS Trusts are required to report on their building energy use and transport emissions. Increasingly, Trusts will be required to have a better understanding of our carbon emissions to meet carbon reduction targets, levies will be introduced for failures to reduce emissions. The Climate Change Agreement committed the UK Government to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 with a 34% reduction by 2020 (based on 1990 levels). The NHS has a target of a 10% carbon footprint reduction (relating to buildings, transport and procurement) from 2007 levels by 2015. NHS Gloucestershire's involvement in the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme will bring a better understanding of the NHSG carbon footprint and identify areas that will help to meet organisational goals. Actively raise carbon awareness at every level of the organisation

## **4. Actively raise carbon awareness at every level of the organisation**

Sustainable development and carbon reduction can only be achieved if all staff of NHS Gloucestershire understand that they are jointly responsible for making it happen. This can only be achieved by raising awareness on the key issues of climate change and how we can all reduce our impact by changing our behaviour regarding water, waste, energy and procurement.

NHS Gloucestershire's objectives in the key areas of Organisational and workforce development; Travel, transport and access; Energy, buildings and carbon reduction; Commissioning, procurement and food; Nature and communities; and Water, waste and chemicals. We understand that meeting these objectives will require the commitment of staff resource and finance. NHS Gloucestershire will focus on 'quick wins' that will provide rapid carbon reduction benefits whilst developing a thorough understanding of areas that need to be tackled over a longer period.

# Organisational and workforce development

## Key facts:

- Education and raising awareness is an important feature of any programme of change. To become a sustainable organisation the key principles of sustainability need to be firmly embedded in corporate culture and understood at all levels
- Individual members of staff have direct control over many issues such as energy used, travel choices and goods purchased so their support is essential
- Carbon literacy is becoming increasingly important with the emergence of 'cap and trade' schemes to reduce carbon emissions. There is a need for all organisations to be transparent about their environmental impacts and demonstrate how these emissions are being tackled.

## Strategic objectives

- To ensure all staff are trained to appreciate the key principles of carbon reduction and sustainability as part of their mandatory training and are engaged with the sustainability programmes as they develop
- To ensure projects are evaluated in terms of their impact upon carbon reduction and sustainability
- To ensure that carbon reduction and sustainable development are reviewed annually at NHS Gloucestershire Board and Gloucestershire Care Services Board
- To develop 'energy champions' across NHS Gloucestershire to disseminate key messages to staff and collect any staff ideas regarding sustainability
- To collaborate in local frameworks and networks that take decisions regarding the progression of carbon reduction and sustainability in Gloucestershire.



### Key Performance Indicators

- Progress against the Good Corporate Citizen Assessment Tool
- To undertake sustainability impacts assessments for projects
- Number of building energy action plans developed by energy champions

### Targets

- To reach 37% across all areas by December 2012
- To provide evidence of the use of sustainability impact assessments by April 2011
- To have energy action plans developed by energy champions by April 2011

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# Low carbon travel, transport and access

## Key facts:

- The NHS accounts for 5% of all road traffic in England<sup>3</sup> and travel is responsible for 18% of the NHS carbon footprint.
- Global climate change, rapidly rising oil prices and concerns over security of energy supply mean we need to change the way we travel. By shifting from motorised transport to active travel we can make a significant contribution towards tackling all these issues, and at the same time reverse the declining trend in physical activity.
- "Physical activity is the key to stopping this country becoming the obesity capital of the world – and people who live active lives also feel better. To get more of us doing the magic 30 minutes, five days a week, we need to make it easier to choose physically active ways of living; for most people, choosing walking and cycling instead of sedentary transport is among the most practical and realistic healthy options." *Dawn Primarolo, Minister of State for Public Health, Department of Health*<sup>2</sup>
- Reductions in single-occupancy car use and non-essential journeys will benefit carbon reduction and carry financial benefits and reduce wasted time.

## Strategic objectives

- Establish effective active and sustainable travel plans across NHS Gloucestershire with incentives to use sustainable travel options and monitor staff, visitor and patient travel
- To reduce carbon emissions from all business and commuter travel
- To maximise use of IT solutions to support reduced mileage for example video, telephone conferencing and effective home working solutions
- To ensure accessibility is given paramount importance in all primary care development
- To be involved with Local Transport Planning in Gloucestershire to ensure that the plans support access to healthcare premises and support active travel.



### Key Performance Indicators

Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> from transport (business mileage, commuter mileage and visitor mileage)

Sustainable and active travel plans

### Targets

To reduce business mileage from 'grey fleet' by 5% by April 2015 compared to 2008/2009 levels

To identify commuter mileage and visitor mileage through surveys by April 2011

To have sustainable and active travel plans for headquarters and community hospitals by April 2011

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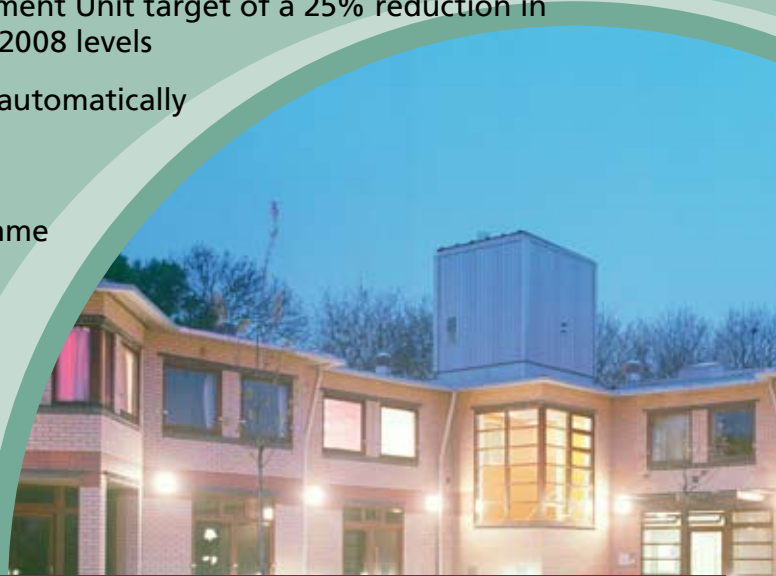
# Energy, Buildings and Carbon Reduction

## Key facts:

- The energy use in NHS buildings contributes approximately 20% of the NHS carbon footprint<sup>3</sup>
- The NHS is currently involved in a significant building programme that offers an opportunity to influence the performance of its built estate for many decades to come: 25% of hospitals are being replaced or upgraded; 100 new hospitals are to be provided by 2010; and up to 3000 GP premises are being built/replaced/refurbished
- NHS Gloucestershire has several planned capital developments including community hospitals and primary care centres
- NHS Gloucestershire has a diverse estate with differing standards of energy efficiency.

## Strategic objectives

- To aim to meet the required Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) 'Excellent' standard for new buildings
- To increase use of renewable energy solutions to fulfil our energy demands
- To reduce our primary energy consumption (gas, oil and electricity) to meet the NHS Sustainable Development Unit target of a 25% reduction in energy use by 2015 based on 2008 levels
- To use smart technologies to automatically turn off lighting and non-essential equipment
- To establish a rolling programme of energy improvements to our existing buildings based on the results of the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme.



Key Performance Indicators	Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kg CO<sub>2</sub> from building energy use</li> <li>• Kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> occupied floor area and total tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from energy use</li> <li>• % of energy supplied by renewable technologies</li> <li>• BREEAM 'Excellent' certificates attained for new buildings and BREEAM 'Very good' certificates obtained for significant refurbishments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from building energy use by 25% by April 2015 against 2008/2009 baseline</li> <li>• To increase to 5% of energy supplied by renewables by April 2015</li> <li>• For all required buildings to meet required level post-construction</li> </ul>

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# Commissioning, Procurement and Food

## Key facts:

- The NHS in England spends £20 billion every year on goods and services. Emissions from this comprise the largest contribution to the NHS carbon footprint totalling over 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum: nearly 60% of the total NHS carbon footprint<sup>3</sup>
- Through its commissioning and procurement functions NHS Gloucestershire can have a positive influence on economic, social and environmental outcomes in the local area.
- For every purchase we need to consider whole life costs, the environmental and social impacts of the product and its longevity and durability.

## Strategic objectives

- To develop and implement a framework to ensure that all commissions are evaluated against sustainability principles and the potential they have to add value to other core principles
- To increase opportunities for procurement of local seasonal food
- To ensure that contractors, providers and suppliers understand our commitment to sustainable development and demonstrate their commitment to sustainable development through submission of sustainability (environmental) policy and action plan.
- To increase the sustainability credentials of products that are procured using whole life costing methodology where appropriate
- To ensure that we procure ethically with expected labour standards defined in our contract specifications.



### Key Performance Indicators

- Contractor, supplier and provider information on their commitment to sustainability
- Utilisation of the 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins' minimum standards
- Use of whole life costing (WLC)
- Ethical labour standards included in specifications

### Targets

- To provide evidence of contractor, supplier and provider information on their commitment to sustainability
- To provide evidence of use of 'Buy Sustainable Quick Wins' minimum standards by April 2011
- To provide evidence of use of WLC by April 2011
- To provide evidence of ethical labour standards included in specifications by April 2011

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# Nature and Communities

## Key facts:

- Increasing physical activity levels in the population will help prevent or manage over 20 conditions and diseases. This includes coronary heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and obesity. It can help to improve mental health. It can also help older people to maintain independent lives<sup>2</sup>. Access to green spaces and flora and fauna has proven health benefits.<sup>6</sup>
- NHS Gloucestershire is an active member in the Local Strategic Partnerships across all boroughs and districts in Gloucestershire and recognises the importance of the Sustainable Community Strategies across the county as a whole.

## Strategic objectives:

- To encourage and increase access to nature through 'notable trees' project where walks will be recorded as journeys through green space into the wider countryside to improve opportunities for access to green space
- To take part in the development of the 'NHS Forest' by planting the number of trees in the Gloucestershire area equivalent to the number of staff
- To encourage people to undertake activity outdoors and make effective use of green spaces
- To collaborate with partners in Gloucestershire area to deliver carbon reduction programmes and engage on wider issues of planning and accessibility to reduce health inequalities.



### Key Performance Indicators

- Number of trees planted

### Targets

- To plant 3300 trees by 2030 (this is the number of staff in 2008/2009)

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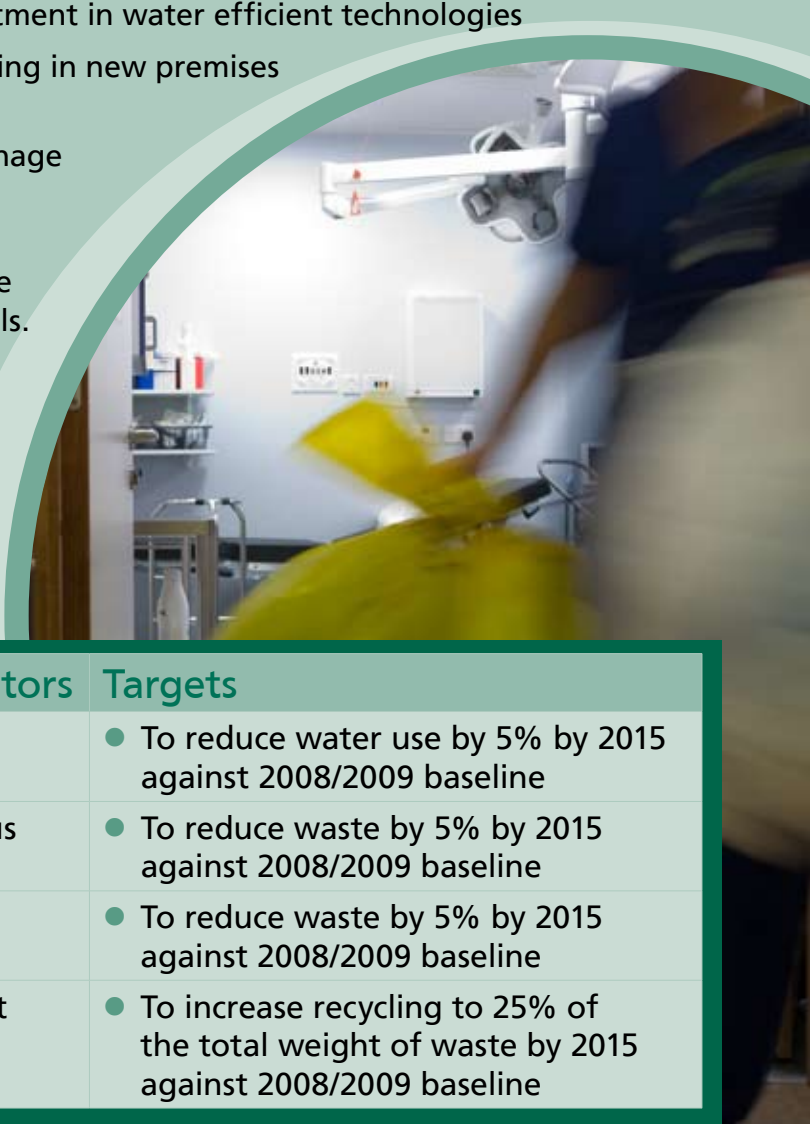
# Water, Waste and Chemicals

## Key facts:

- Water should be considered and managed as a precious resource. In 2007-2008, the NHS in England consumed an estimated 38.8 million cubic metres of water and generated approximately 26.3 million cubic metres of sewage at a cost of approximately £145 million<sup>4</sup>
- Waste in the NHS continues to increase and in 2007/08 waste cost the NHS £71.2 million<sup>5</sup>
- The transport of both waste and water creates carbon emissions for the NHS
- Hazardous chemicals can contribute to climate change and their storage and disposal is more costly than less toxic alternatives.

## Strategic objectives

- To monitor the quantity and cost of all waste streams and reduce total waste by 5% by 2015
- To establish effective recycling systems set up at for recycling paper, cardboard, plastics, glass and metals to recycle 25% of waste arising by 2015
- To reduce water use by 5% by 2015 through development of water management plans and investment in water efficient technologies
- To invest in rainwater harvesting in new premises where possible
- To use sustainable urban drainage systems (to reduce run-off) in suitable new premises
- To monitor and seek to reduce our use of hazardous chemicals.



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Key Performance Indicators	Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water use m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce water use by 5% by 2015 against 2008/2009 baseline</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tonnes of clinical/hazardous waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce waste by 5% by 2015 against 2008/2009 baseline</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tonnes of domestic waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce waste by 5% by 2015 against 2008/2009 baseline</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % recycling by total weight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase recycling to 25% of the total weight of waste by 2015 against 2008/2009 baseline</li> </ul>

# References

- 1 *Taking the Temperature – Towards an NHS response to Global Warming*, 2007. London: NHS Confederation
- 2 *Take Action on Active Travel*, 2008. Bristol: Sustrans and the Association of Directors of Public Health
- 3 *NHS England Carbon Emissions: Carbon footprint study*, 2008. London: Sustainable Development Commission and Stockholm Environment Institute.
- 4 Health Technical Memorandum 07-04: *Water management and water efficiency*, 2008; (HTM) Department of Health: London: HMSO
- 5 Eric data 2007/08 (online) available at <http://www.hefs.ic.nhs.uk>
- 6 *Natural England*, 2008 <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/health/default.aspx>

For more information on the NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy, Saving Carbon Improving Lives go to [www.sdu.nhs.uk](http://www.sdu.nhs.uk)

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