

# Progress in Practice

## Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust Environmental Management System

The largest NHS Trust in Wales is working to improve its contribution to good corporate citizenship by reducing its negative environmental impacts through an integrated, and award winning, environmental management system.

### Summary

The Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust is actively engaging an environmental management system as part of its efforts towards sustainable development. The Trust is the largest in Wales, with a vast and diverse estate providing day to day health services to a population of around 500,000 and employing 12,000 people. The Trust recognises their consequent environmental impacts as extensive and acknowledges their responsibility to behave as a good corporate citizen in order to achieve greater social inclusion and equity and improvement in the health of the community it serves.

Towards this end, the Trust set up an environmental management structure with a steering group that reports directly to the Trust Board on the environmental management of the Trust. An Environmental Policy is in place and an Environmental Management System (EMS), now certified to ISO14001, is in operation, providing a practical framework for managing energy, water, procurement of goods and services, waste management, land, water and air pollution, discharges to drains and use of resources.

Strategies and projects include:

- An integrated environmental, waste and energy training package, distributed to all new members of staff, and in conjunction with mandatory annual training for existing staff.
- Investment in energy efficient technologies and buildings services including lighting, inverter controls and energy conservation for refrigeration systems.
- Combined heat and power (CHP) installations.
- An Environmental Procurement Policy.
- An Integrated Travel Strategy including initiatives such as improved on-site cycle routes, Public Transport Information Days and a Public Transport Guide that has been widely distributed within the community.
- Working with local authorities and waste contractors on schemes to encourage staff to reduce waste and recycle.



*"The environmental impact and ecological footprint of the Trust is considerable, and we have a duty and a role as a provider, an employer, a neighbour, a property holder, a purchaser and a supply chain manager, and ultimately must behave as a good corporate citizen."* Keith Jones, Estates Controls Assurance Officer, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust

### Links and organisations involved:

Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust [http://www.cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk/portal/page?\\_pageid=33,1&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk/portal/page?_pageid=33,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

### Contact:

Keith Jones, Estate Controls Assurance Officer, Planning and Asset Management Department, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XW, 029 2074 2899, [keith.jones@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:keith.jones@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk)

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As a result of the Trust's environmental initiatives their recent achievements have included:

- Maintaining ISO 14001 certification for their EMS, with continued improvement in overall performance,
- Reducing energy consumption by 3.6%,
- Reducing clinical waste by 4.1% (78 tonnes),
- Reducing water usage by 9.6%,
- Raising the profile of the environment within the Trust through training, promotional and publicity initiatives, and
- Improved Welsh Risk Management compliance in all of the environmental related Standards.

These achievements contributed towards the Trust being awarded the prestigious Arena Network Award for Energy Best Practice in the Welsh NHS Sector.

### Key Learning Points:

- 1) Improved environmental management comes as a result of integrating environmental considerations into all business activities.
- 2) A formalised Environmental Management System, such as ISO14001, and an Environmental Management Structure that reports at Trust Board level, aid in delivering environmental improvements.
- 3) Successful environmental management comes from the combined work of many individuals and teams across a wide range of disciplines and support services.
- 4) There are real benefits to be gained from producing an environmental report, and these can be realised from a relatively small investment of resources.



### Contact:

**Keith Jones**, Estate Controls Assurance Officer, Planning and Asset Management Department, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XW, 029 2074 2899,  
[keith.jones@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:keith.jones@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk)