

Progress in Practice

Rosie Hospital Energy Awareness Campaign

This campaign challenged staff to come up with ways of saving energy or time, results showing that combining individually small and simple energy-saving measures can have a significant impact on reducing energy consumption.

Summary

The Rosie Hospital, which provides services for women's health at Addenbrookes Hospital, challenged staff to come up with ways of saving energy or time, and the Rosie Energy Awareness Programme was born. Led by staff initiative, the programme's success has resulted in the Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust launching a trust-wide energy campaign, and a shortlisting for the HSJ Award for Good Corporate Citizenship 2007.

The Rosie's Approach

In May 2006, the Rosie Hospital launched a month-long competition encouraging its staff to come up with ways of saving money, energy or time in their daily working practices.

Such was the success of the competition, with large numbers of staff taking part, a project team was set up including the Service Delivery Manager, Operations Manager and the Trust Energy Manager to start the Rosie Energy Awareness Programme.

Building on staff suggestions of small measures to save energy, such as turning off lights and PC monitors when not in use, the programme initially monitored various electrical equipment in order to match the energy consumption to the services provided within the building:

e.g. *12 lights left on for an hour could power an ultrasound machine for 60 minutes*

Using examples such as this has enabled staff to understand the effect small actions can have on the energy consumption of the hospital.



A challenge for the project team was to come up with a way of promoting their findings to the staff in a way that could influence behaviour. They came up with the innovative idea of light switch-sized plastic holders to contain the key energy-saving messages, placed in a highly visible position alongside every light switch in the hospital.

Links & organisations involved: Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (<http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/>), The Carbon Trust (www.carbontrust.co.uk)

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Achievements

Since the program began in May 2006 :

- 334 lights within the Rosie have been upgraded to more energy efficient bulbs
- There is now an energy-saving message next to every light switch in the hospital
- An Energy Awareness Day was held in May 2007 to highlight the progress and results of the scheme
- Since the campaign began the Rosie have saved an estimated £7,000 from reduced energy consumption and reduced their carbon emissions by 48 tonnes per year

By investing time and thought into becoming more energy efficient, the Rosie is working towards more sustainable facilities management, reducing its carbon footprint as well as saving money. This is advantageous not only to the hospital, but to the local community as the savings are reinvested into further sustainability programmes and also back into the hospital.

Future Plans

The Rosie is not resting on its laurels; light upgrades are ongoing, and they are planning to install thermostatic radiator valves which give a more responsive control of the radiator heat output according to room air temperature, which would save an estimated £9,000 per annum. In addition to this, a planned ventilation plant and heating upgrade is anticipated to save a further £10,000 per annum.

As a result of the Rosie's success, the Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust is launching a trust-wide energy campaign.

"This campaign was borne out of a belief that staff at Addenbrookes are committed to building a culture of innovation and excellence which is demonstrated in our desire to improve the quality of patient services as well as improving the environment. The success of the campaign which quantifies energy use with services provided has shown that this belief is correct."

Ian Jackson, Energy Manager



Energy Saver staff member

Key Learning Points

- A bottom up strategy to engage staff provides a sense of ownership, and greater input into the process.
- 'Champions' can help to maintain a programme's momentum.
- Combining individually small and simple energy-saving measures can have a large impact.

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