

# Progress in Practice

## St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust

St Georges have worked hard to reduce their carbon footprint, and have encouraged staff to 'Think Green' with an initiative aimed to raise staff awareness and change behaviour around a wide range of issues.

### Summary

St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust have put the NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Model to good use amongst a suite of other initiatives such as the Carbon Trust NHS Carbon Management programme, resulting in social, economic and environmental benefits, felt both locally and as far afield as the Sudan. Shortlisted for the HSJ Award for Good Corporate Citizenship 2007, the Trust have made great progress and continue to develop new initiatives.



Midwives and their "Think Green" reusable bags

### Energy

Back in 2002, recognising the inefficiencies in the energy system, the Trust sought advice from the Carbon Trust. Measures such as a boiler house automation system, refurbishment of the energy management system and various other spend-to-save energy projects led to a nomination for an Energy Management Award and estimated annual savings of £157,000 and 2230 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Energy saving initiatives as a result of more recent participation in the Carbon Trust NHS Carbon Management programme are estimated to reduce their carbon footprint by a further 10% (3,422 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>) by 2012, delivering annual cost savings of £485,000.

Standardised finishes have been implemented for wards and departments, with efficiency measures including heating controls, infrared light sensors in the toilets and automated taps and flushes.

### Think Green

Significant achievements have also been made through raising staff awareness and low or no cost options. 'Think Green' was launched in September 2006 to incorporate all Good Corporate Citizenship initiatives and has made huge achievements.

Over 140 trained Green Champions have been spreading the message, coming up with ideas, and monitoring progress throughout the Trust.

Other measures taken through 'Think Green' include water saving tools, energy efficiency and recycling campaigns (see overleaf), and catering initiatives to encourage use of organic food and decreased deliveries.

**Links and organisations involved:** NHS Good Corporate Citizen Assessment Model ([www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk](http://www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk)), The Carbon Trust ([www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)), Afrimed ([www.afrimed.org.uk](http://www.afrimed.org.uk)), St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust ([www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk))

### Contact:

**Andrew Beattie**, Waste Advisory Manager, St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London, SW17 0QT  
[andrew.beattie@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.beattie@stgeorges.nhs.uk), 0208 7253169

**Jenni Doman**, General Manager, St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust, [jenni.doman@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:jenni.doman@stgeorges.nhs.uk), 0208 7250871

# Progress in Practice

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Since the launch of 'Think Green' the Trust has recycled at least 45 tonnes of paper, plastics, glass and cans - roughly the weight of five and a half London double-decker buses. Similar amounts of cardboard have been removed from the waste stream, such that the number of collections from the Trust's waste compactor has been reduced from seven to four times a week. The savings made from the reduction in waste have allowed the self-funding of a screw compactor, which has further reduced the number of collections required.

Over 70% of green waste from St Georges' grounds is composted, and the gardeners pride themselves on their environmentally-friendly approach, favouring bio-degradable weed killers and natural measures over chemical insecticides. These measures have helped to increase the biodiversity of this city site, attracting a wide range of wildlife including a pair of kestrels which return each year.

Rather than send old equipment to landfill, St George's has set up a scheme with Afrimed, an organisation that has been sending medical equipment to Africa since 2004. Disused items such as walking sticks, beds and patient lifting equipment are now donated to hospitals in Sudan.



Green Champions at St Georges NHS Trust

### Key learning points:

- Financial savings made, for example by reducing waste compacted, can be reinvested to make further savings.
- Measures can yield multiple benefits – for example composting reduces waste to landfill and helps to increase biodiversity.
- By actively engaging and educating staff, NHS trusts can ensure that a consistent message is communicated throughout the organisation.

## Future Developments

Attention is also spreading to other areas such as transport and procurement.

- A green travel plan is being developed, which includes implementation of a car-sharing scheme.
- Implementation of the Mayor's London Procurement Code is being investigated.
- The Trust has set up a regular 'Meet the Buyers' event, to encourage engagement with local suppliers and purchasing of seasonal produce wherever possible.

*“Using plastic bags every time I went to a home birth was ridiculous! So I went to the “Think Green” team who found a company that provided reusable bags and the funding was provided by the Trust's internal charity - I think it's great that staff are encouraged to take action.”*

**Clare Edgley, Midwife at St Georges NHS Trust**

**Links and organisations involved:** NHS Good Corporate Citizen Assessment Model ([www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk](http://www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk)), The Carbon Trust ([www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)), Afrimed ([www.afrimed.org.uk](http://www.afrimed.org.uk)), St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust ([www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk))

### Contact:

**Andrew Beattie**, Waste Advisory Manager, St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London, SW17 0QT  
[andrew.beattie@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.beattie@stgeorges.nhs.uk), 0208 7253169

**Jenni Doman**, General Manager, St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust, [jenni.doman@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:jenni.doman@stgeorges.nhs.uk), 0208 7250871