

NHS Borders 2012/13 Annual Accounts - extract from the Director's Report.

4. Sustainability and Environmental Reporting

In conjunction with the Carbon Trust, the Board produced a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) aimed at delivering a substantial reduction in its carbon impact by 2016. The Board currently has an annual energy spend of almost £2m and a carbon footprint of 10,604 tonnes of CO₂. In meeting proposed targets, NHS Borders will save £1.8m and avoid emissions of 7,396 tonnes of CO₂ in total over the 8 year period.

Key principles within the Board's CMP are detailed below:

- Raising staff awareness, education and training from the first day at work to the last day at work to encourage good housekeeping practices throughout the organisation's diverse property portfolio;
- Reducing energy consumption in buildings by eliminating unnecessary usage (via "Switch Off" campaigns), increasing energy efficiency (heating, insulation and lighting) and prioritising and strengthening the approach to data monitoring;
- Reducing waste sent to landfill by waste minimisation and recycling initiatives within the property portfolio and decreasing paper consumption;
- Reducing emissions from the vehicle fleet by procuring fuel efficient and low emission vehicles allied to specific driver training and improved monitoring of the fleet; and
- The introduction of carbon life cycle costing to the procurement process for all capital and revenue projects which will assist in assessing the efficiency of equipment and property and the related cost/carbon impact.

During 2012/13, a number of carbon reduction projects have been undertaken in-line with the CMP. £389,000 was allocated in 2012/13 through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund and invested as detailed below:

- The continuation of the energy saving internal and external light replacement programme across NHS Borders' estate, including installation of external LED lights;
- The installation of a 50kW photo voltaic array, consisting of 200PV panels, on the roof of the Borders General Hospital;
- An annual energy audit on the complete property portfolio in respect of heating times and temperatures and adjustments made to provide optimal efficiency and a reduction in carbon emissions;
- The installation of a biomass boilers at Hawick Community Hospital and Stow Health Centre to reduce CO₂ emissions and to provide fuel security for the site;
- The continuation of the driver training programme to improve fleet vehicle efficiency;
- The replacement at Greenlaw Medical Centre of old inefficient electric heaters with new technology electric gel heaters.

NHS Borders has been monitoring its utility energy consumption, emissions and costs in excess of 15 years and reports this information on an annual basis to Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) for inclusion in the NHS Scotland Annual Environmental Report. The information is also used to monitor compliance with HEAT targets which are reported by HFS quarterly. The latest available figures, from Quarter 3 in 2012/13 compared with a 2009/10 base date, indicate that NHS Borders has exceeded the energy efficiency target by 1.54 % and under achieved the CO₂ target by 1.64%. The phased introduction of biomass boilers in 2013 continuing into 2014 will ensure a reduction in emissions and compliance with the target.