

Annual Accounts 2014/15 Extract from the Directors Report.

4. Sustainability and Environmental Reporting

In conjunction with the Carbon Trust, the Board produced a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) aimed at addressing a reduction in our carbon impact substantially 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 reducing unnecessary usage (via "Switch Off" campaigns), increasing energy efficiency (heating, insulation and lighting) and prioritising and strengthening our approach to data monitoring;
- Reducing waste sent to landfill by improving waste minimisation and recycling initiatives within our property portfolio and reducing paper consumption;
- Reducing emissions from our vehicle fleet by procuring fuel efficient vehicles 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 2014/15, a number of carbon reduction projects have been undertaken in-line with the CMP, funds allocated through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund have been invested and a space utilisation and property review carried out:

- The installation of biomass boilers at Kelso and Knoll Community Hospitals, Huntlyburn & Melburn Lodge Mental Health Units and West Linton Health Centre continues to assist in reducing CO₂ emissions and to providing fuel security for the sites;
- The annual energy audit has been carried out 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;
- Increased awareness and increase in number of videoconferencing facilities available throughout the organisation, allowing members of staff to attend meetings remotely, thereby reducing business travel CO₂ emissions;
- The continuation of the "Bike to Work Scheme" has resulted in excess of one hundred members of staff participating in the scheme, and the introduction of a "Liftshare" scheme utilising the intranet and the web and the introduction of a car share pass both linked to dedicated spaces in the main Borders General Hospital car park has led to a reduction in vehicles being utilised for travelling to work reducing staff travel to work CO₂ emissions;
- The utilisation of the National Procurement delivery service has led to more efficient purchase and delivery of goods, resulting in a reduction of delivery road mileage and a reduction in CO₂ emissions;
- The space utilisation project and property review carried out over the last two years has led to more efficient occupation of the organisation buildings, leading to the organisations property portfolio being reduced by six properties with the resultant reduction in CO₂.

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 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 Q3 in 2014/15 compared with a 2009/10 base date, indicate that NHS Borders has achieved an energy efficiency reduction of 5.55% against a target of 4.29%, and a CO₂ reduction of 11.8% against a target of 12.6%.