



Environmental policy

European Union legislation (December 2008) is targeting a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and 20% increases in energy efficiency and use of renewables by the year 2020. The Climate Change Act is equally demanding. A national 10:10 campaign wants a 10% reduction in carbon emissions by 2010. The NHS has a carbon footprint of 18 million tonnes of CO₂ per year attributable across energy (22%), travel (18%) and procurement (60%). The NHS Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) has published a carbon reduction strategy aiming to reduce its 2007 carbon footprint by 10% by the year 2015. Core areas of activity are:

- energy and carbon management
- procurement and food
- low carbon travel, transport and access
- waste
- water
- designing the built environment.

A Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme is being introduced in April 2010 with a three-year plan to involve more than 6000 public and private sector organisations in accountability for their annual emissions. The SDU document, *Fit for the Future*, envisages a healthcare system placing more emphasis on health promotion, wellness and screening through use of contemporary IT, technology and efficient use of resources.

The College acknowledges that it has a responsibility to promote the prudent use of resources amongst its Fellows and staff as appropriate in order to protect the environment. The headquarters building is Grade 1 listed, which imposes certain constraints on how much can be done in practical terms, but adoption of the measures listed are being promoted, as far as possible and in line with an on-site Carbon Trust Survey (January 2010), as detailed below.

Office activities

- Promoting the policy of the 'paperless office' to use less paper by adopting electronic means such as scanning documents for filing and sending committee papers by email.
- Placing used paper in the bags on 1st and 2nd floors to be sent for recycling.
- Using publishers/printers for publications who supply paper from sustainable sources and/or have Forest Stewardship Council accreditation.
- Sending toner/laser cartridges for recycling.
- Using photocopiers that incorporate copying, scanning, faxing and printing facilities, thus avoiding the need for separate, additional machines.
- Photocopying on both sides of the paper.
- Using the photocopiers/printers to print to double-sided wherever possible.



- Recycling PCs at the end of their useful life.
- Exploring the feasibility of setting computers to 'sleep' mode (i.e. to switch off after a certain time when not in use).

Meetings

- Encouraging those attending meetings to travel by public transport in favour of cars, planes, taxis.
- Offering alternatives such as tele/video conferencing for meetings and expediting committee business by email.
- Reviewing the frequency of meetings and the number of committee members attending.

Power consumption

- Switching off lights, particularly when rooms/toilets are not in use.
- Ensuring that low-energy light bulbs are used where appropriate.
- Ensuring all radiators have thermostats.
- Turning off computers, computer screens, photocopiers and printers at night.
- Managing the heating/cooling utilities by facilities staff to minimise power consumption.
- Monitoring gas/electricity consumption to calculate CO₂ omissions and if there is any scope for reductions.
- Exploring the feasibility of installing more sensor/motion lights throughout the building.

Kitchen waste

- Placing food waste only into the designated waste bins situated in the staff room and elsewhere in the College.
- Filling the kettle with only as much water as you want to use.
- Using filtered tap water instead of bottled water.
- Monitoring water leaks.

Information resources

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit, www.sdu.nhs.uk

- *Saving Carbon, Improving Health. NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy for England.* January 2009
- *Fit for the Future. Scenarios for Low Carbon Healthcare 2030.* September 2009

NHS Confederation, www.nhsconfed.org/publications

- *Climate Change and the NHS: New Legislation and Initiatives.* June 2009. Issue 185.
- *The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and the NHS.* October 2009. Issue 190.

Carbon Trust at <http://carbontrust.co.uk>

**Approved by Council
May 2010**