

# Progress in Practice

## North Glamorgan NHS Trust's Integrated Sustainability Strategy

Sustainable waste management, energy conservation and community partnerships are key components of the North Glamorgan NHS Trust's award winning integrated sustainability strategy

### Summary

North Glamorgan NHS Trust has successfully integrated NHS objectives on sustainable management of energy, waste, transport and procurement.

Its integrated sustainability strategy aims to improve comfort levels of staff and patients whilst reducing negative environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gas emissions and waste to landfill.

### Waste

Waste management initiatives are based on a 'waste hierarchy' of reduce, reuse, recycle, energy generation and disposal.

**Reduce:** As part of a wider NHS programme the Trust switched from polythene to stronger and thinner metallocene bags reducing the input of crude oil to make the bags and the weight of clinical waste packaging sent to landfill. The Trust's procurement department also ensures that waste is minimised at source by following the principles of the Sustainable Public Sector Procurement Initiative.

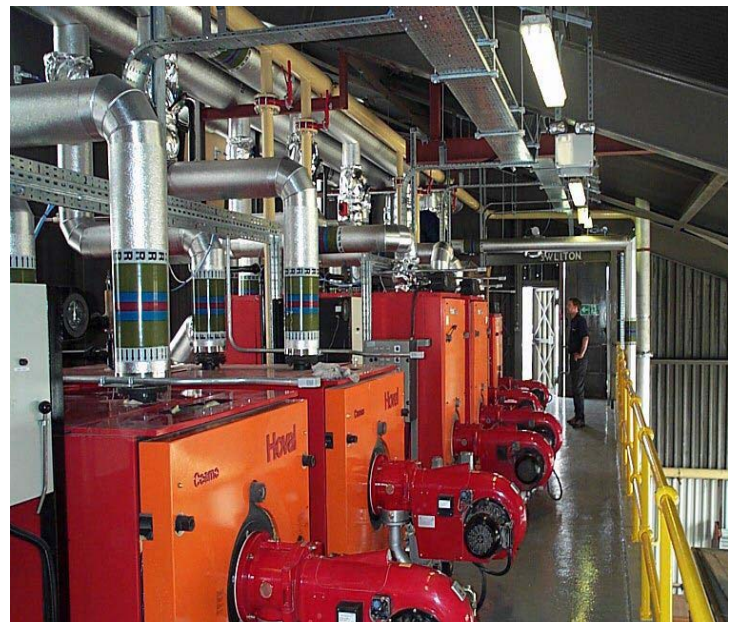
**Reuse:** IT equipment is refurbished and reused in schools. Suppliers are also encouraged to provide reusable packaging whenever possible.

**Recycle:** 9.6 % of general waste is now recycled. Per annum 30 tonnes of packaging waste, 30 tonnes of confidential waste and 15 tonnes of other waste (including florescent tubes, fridges and white goods, office paper, plastic vending cups, scrap metal and batteries) are recycled.

**Energy generation:** clinical sharps are sent to a Gas Pyrolysis plant to be converted into energy. The Trust now uses a local disposal facility for community clinical waste, which has reduced costs and transportation and generates local employment.

**Disposal:** new waste compactors reduce waste storage space, transport costs and reduce on site vehicle movements by 65%.

(Continued overleaf)



### Strategic Learning

- Multidisciplinary teams help to champion the sustainability agenda. For example, the North Glamorgan NHS Trust developed the energy user group and environmental management steering group.
- Raising awareness of staff, patients and local communities about sustainable development can help change behaviour.

**Links and organisations involved:** North Glamorgan NHS Trust ([www.n glam-tr.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.n glam-tr.wales.nhs.uk)), Biffa ([www.biffa.co.uk](http://www.biffa.co.uk)), Dalkia ([www.dalkia.co.uk](http://www.dalkia.co.uk)) and Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme ([www.natenergy.org.uk/eeas](http://www.natenergy.org.uk/eeas))

### Contact:

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## Energy

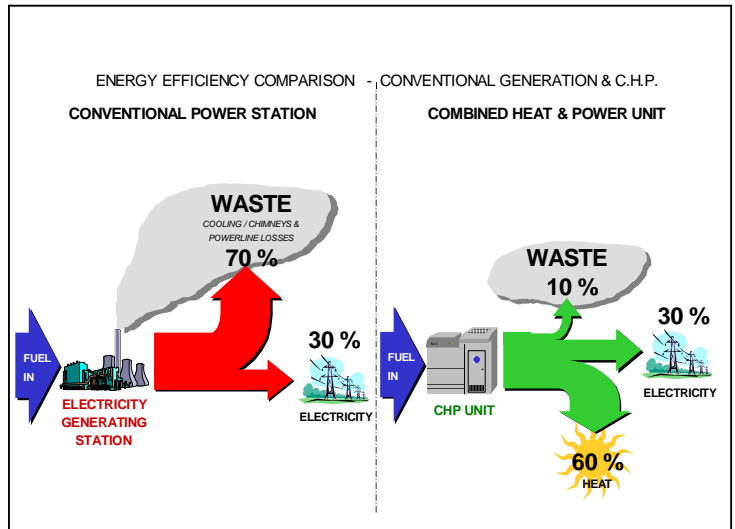
The Trust opened an energy centre in April 2004. This was funded by a flagship £1m private finance initiative (PFI) contract in association with Dalkia. New installations include a 500kW combined heat and power (CHP) plant and energy efficient boilers; this system uses excess heat to heat the hospital. The Trust also has a new computerised building energy management system. The hospital is sectioned into 47 zones and the temperature of each is regulated by the system. Energy efficient lighting has also been installed.

Overall the Trust has made energy savings of 10% and has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 3,968 tonnes per annum. Financial savings include £6,000 per month from reducing energy importation, and £34,000 per annum from the climate change levy.

In September 2005 the Trust received accreditation to the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme, only the second Trust in Wales to achieve this accolade.

## Awareness raising

Staff and local communities are involved in a series of events including an annual Trust Environmental Award (in partnership with Biffa) for school children to design awareness raising posters and NHS Wales Environment Week. The week of events includes themed days on energy, transport and waste.



## Award Winners

**In 2005 the Trust won awards for Good Corporate Citizenship from the Health Service Journal (HSJ) and Sustainable Waste Management in the Public Sector from ARENA Network, Wales.**



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