

## Sustainable Development Strategy.



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## 1.0 What sustainable development is.

Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future.

The term was used by the Brundtland Commission which coined what has become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development as development that; "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development ties together concern for the resource capacity of our planets natural systems with the social and economic challenges facing humanity.

The dimensions of sustainability are generally taken to be:

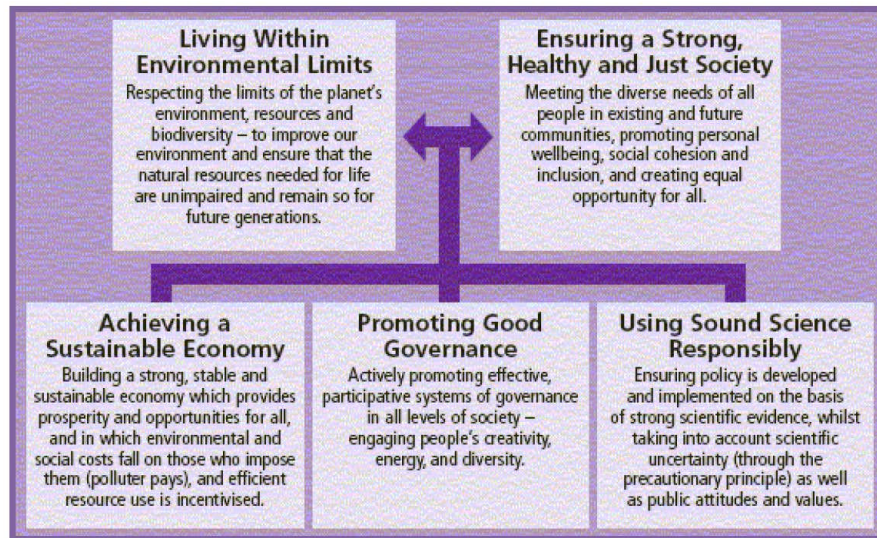
Environmental Social, and Economic.

In order to achieve sustainability these three aspects must be considered together and it must be understood that they are not mutually exclusive and can be mutually reinforcing.

## 2.0 The National picture

Securing the Future', the UK's sustainable development strategy recognises that although climate change is the most serious global environmental threat, promoting new, modern, sustainable ways of living, working, producing and travelling also stand to achieve wider benefits to human health and well-being.

The Strategy contains five guiding principles – see diagram



Source: Securing the Future, UK Government strategy for sustainable development, 2005 London: HMSO [online] Available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm> [accessed 7th September 2009].

### **3.0 Sustainable development and the NHS**

As one of the major service providers and procurer of goods and services from local, national and international economies, the NHS has a large carbon footprint (18 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum in England) and is the biggest public sector contributor to climate change. Central government has set ambitious carbon reduction targets and is increasingly looking towards public sector organisations to spearhead the downward trend in carbon emissions from within the UK. Central government has already set mandatory sustainability targets for all government department and agencies, including the Department of Health. Strategic Health Authorities are starting to ask about the sustainability performance of individual Trusts. This is due to an increase in NHS policy and guidance documents focusing on sustainable development, all of which designed to improve the sustainability performance of the NHS.

The most important strategic sustainability document is the recently published NHS Sustainable Development Units Carbon Reduction Strategy, '**Saving Carbon, Improving Health**'. This challenges NHS organisations to measure and monitor progress towards a 10% carbon reduction by 2015 on 2007 levels. This builds upon the Climate Change Act targets of reducing carbon emissions by 26% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, based on 1990 levels, where the data exists.

### **4.0 Sustainable Development in Bedford Hospital NHS Trust**

Sustainable development in Bedford Hospital NHS Trust will be based on the policies described above, and comprise the following aspects .

#### **4.1 Adoption of the Good Corporate Citizen model**

The Good Corporate Citizen model was developed by the Sustainable Development Commission in 2006 with funding from the Department of Health. The model was revised in 2009 with input from the NHS Sustainable Development Unit. The input from the Sustainable Development Unit ensures synergy with the commitments made in 'Saving Carbon, Improving Health'

The Good Corporate Citizen model enables NHS Trusts to identify their contribution to sustainable development. The resource model provides Trusts with ways in which to integrate social, economic and environmental considerations into the core activities of NHS Trusts. The Good Corporate Citizen Model also provides NHS Trusts with a framework to monitor sustainable development performance under six key areas, namely:

- Travel
- Procurement
- Facilities Management
- Workforce
- Community Engagement
- Buildings

## **4.2 Working in partnership with identified stakeholders under Local Strategic Partnerships**

This is to ensure that collaboration aids the integration of sustainable development, both within the organisation and also in a wider setting.

## **4.3 Meeting UK environmental legislative requirements and following best practice guidance**

The UK has a robust set of environmental laws and regulations, all of which are designed to reduce the environmental impacts associated with the operations undertaken by organisations throughout the UK.

The main areas covered by legislation that are applicable to the trust include:

- Air Quality
- Waste Management
- Water Quality
- Hazardous substances
- Land Contamination
- Energy
- Noise

Key best practice guidance includes BREEAM Healthcare, which provides the NHS with a tool to ensure that the best environmental practice is incorporated into the design and construction of new builds and major refurbishments. The Department of Health now require, that all new builds achieve an Excellent and all refurbishments achieve a Very Good rating under BREEAM a best practice guide to address sustainable development throughout a healthcare building's life cycle stages. These include the design, procurement, construction, post-completion, operational and end of life stages

## **5.0 Where we are now**

An initial assessment has been undertaken using the Good Corporate Citizenship assessment tool, and a copy is attached. Strengths are the work done through the transport plan and bicycle user group, existing energy reduction programmes, including the current scheme to replace the old, oil-burning main boilers with much more efficient gas ones, the pioneer integrated waste contract, with its waste reduction aim and its recent recycling initiative, the work done to embed "Improving Working Lives", including on-site nursery, Heartbeat awarded catering and home working policy, the use of local, fresh, catering supplies, recently commended by The Soil Association, and the BREEAM standard decontamination unit.

Areas for development are consolidating the initiatives into an environmental report, updating existing strategies, including the estates strategy and transport plan, and greater work in educating staff and the community on sustainability issues

## **6.0 The Way Forward**

Taking the themes in the Good Corporate Citizenship assessment, the following analysis of the way forward has been developed, setting out the aim, steps to be taken, benefits and targets.

Significant carbon emissions are generated from transport within the NHS, by patients, staff and suppliers. The Trust is committed to playing its part in driving down carbon emissions associated with transport. A combination of eliminating unnecessary travel and promoting more sustainable forms of transport will ensure that the Trust achieves this objective.

Steps will include, in partnership with the NHS Bedfordshire and colleagues in planning and transport, Updating the travel plan provision of local services, improved public transport and cycling routes to the hospital extending home working policies and video/telephone conferencing, supporting the adoption of less polluting vehicles. Benefits for the Trust and the wider community will include:

- Reduced environmental impact
- Tackling healthcare issues such as obesity and heart disease
- reducing risks to health by reducing air pollution and the risk of road accidents
- Targets against baselines need to be established
- To increase the proportion of patients and staff travelling to the hospital other than by private car by 10% by 2015
- To reduce staff business mileage by 10% by 2015

## **6.2 Procurement**

Procurement is the largest contributor to the NHS's carbon footprint. The Trust is committed to reducing carbon creation associated with the sourcing and buying processes.

Steps will include,

- engaging with the NHS Supply Chain, the East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub, suppliers and service providers,
- Local sourcing, especially of local fresh produce
- Reducing packaging
- Encouraging fair trade/ ethical approaches to purchasing.

Benefits

- Reduced waste
- More ethical procurement

Targets

Reduce overall supplier base to reduce the volume of transport used to deliver goods and services to the Trust. In particular work with NHS Supply Chain to maximise the volume of goods procured from that route.

Move to full P2P procurement system

Identify more local suppliers of goods and services that can deliver value for money and the level of quality required

Work with suppliers to develop waste disposal/recycling schemes from products purchased from them e.g. podiatry packs.

### **6.3 Facilities management**

This aspect includes all utilities, waste disposal, use of hazardous substances and the overall environmental impact of the Trust's sites.

The Trust recognises the impact heating and lighting its buildings has on the environment through associated emissions of carbon and understands that significant savings can be made both environmentally and economically in addressing the energy demands of the estate.

The Trust regards water as a precious resource and is aware of the amount of energy and resources used/consumed to produce potable water. The Trust is also aware that this contributes to our carbon footprint.

Robust waste management practices, covering the production, collection, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of waste material offer opportunities for environmental and economic savings. The Trust also understands that its buildings should cater for wider sustainability issues such as community inclusion, enhancing therapeutic care and contributing to greening the local area.

Steps to be taken include the development of an energy carbon reduction plan, linked to the revised estates strategy, building on recent waste recycling initiatives continuing to try to reduce the use of hazardous substances, and their replacement with eco-friendly products.

Continue through the revised estates strategy to improve access to building, improve the quality of design and ensure that opportunities are taken to enhance the greening of the local area (recognising the limited opportunities presented in an built up urban environment)

#### **Benefits**

- Reduced expenditure.
- Avoidance of / reduction in carbon payments

#### **Targets**

- achieve a carbon reduction of 10% in total over the next 5 years
- reduce water consumption by 5% in total over the next 5 years
- increase the amount of recycled waste by 15% in total over the next 5 years
- create one area of green environment linked to decontamination unit and conserve and protect other areas within the Trust.

### **6.4 Workforce**

The Trust understands that in order to implement this Strategy a culture of sustainable development needs to become an integral part of the activities and services of the Trust.

To ensure that this takes place the Trust will ensure that strong leadership pertaining to sustainable development is delivered throughout all levels of the Trust. The Improving Working Lives standard goes a long way towards ensuring that NHS organisations operate as good corporate citizens.

Steps to be taken, in conjunction with staff interests, include

- Agreeing an integrated equalities policy, supported by a training strategy
- Extending home working arrangements where these are in the best interests of the trust.
- Further develop the “healthy hospital “ programme.
- Offer learning in sustainability issues

Benefits

Elements of good corporate citizenship such as training and recruiting local people, encouraging appropriate work life balance, offering a pleasant work environment and promoting employees' health can improve staff retention, increase productivity and contribute to population health.

Being an environmentally and socially responsible organisation may also help attract staff.

Targets

Implement Trust workforce strategy

Implementation of the Trust's Single Equality Scheme

Ongoing improvements to results from the staff and patient surveys

Reduce Staff Sickness levels to a level of 3.5%

## **6.5 Community engagement**

The trust recognises the importance of being seen to support the national approach to sustainability.

Steps to be taken

- work with key stakeholders to promote the importance of sustainability, especially in relation to healthy food and sustainable food choice.
- encouraging low carbon lifestyles and travel habits, investing in energy from sustainable sources and using the most energy efficient goods and services by acting as an exemplar

Benefits

- Community support for the hospital
- Better health through eg reduced effects of climate change, more activity, reduced pollution, more attractive environment.

Targets

- Demonstrate where sustainable food is locally –sourced
- One article per year in newsletter and 1 press release per year on theme of what we are doing to improve sustainability in the hospital.

## **6.6 Buildings**

The Trust views the planning, design and construction of new buildings and the refurbishment of the existing estate portfolio as an opportunity to contribute to a more

sustainable future.

- The Trust recognises that buildings must have a significantly lower carbon footprint during their entire lifecycle, contribute to recovery and rehabilitation and be as fully utilised as possible.

Steps to be taken include:

- Identifying through the estates strategy where there is the maximum potential for carbon reduction in existing building stock
- Ensuring that new build and refurbishment schemes meet the required BREEAM rating
- Working with partners to ensure that full use is made of the public sector building stock.

Benefits

- Long term reduction in carbon generation/ more effective use of scarce natural resources
- Reduced revenue expenditure

Targets

- Achieve BREEAM standards in all schemes, including those below threshold.

## **7.0 Finance**

*Every organisation should become carbon literate, carbon numerate and ensure appropriate investment to meet the commitments required to become part of a low carbon NHS and in preparation for a carbon tax regime.*

*Partnership working will be required to deliver appropriate incentives, economies and training to support this shift in culture and for the local economy."*

NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy for England: Saving Carbon, Improving Health. NHS Sustainable Development Unit: 2009

Much of the cost of implementing this strategy will be in time, rather than cash. Indeed, energy saving measures, reduced waste, more recycling, more tele conferencing will actually reduce costs, and minimise the impact of the carbon tax.

Capital funding for major energy -reduction schemes is available at low cost from eg the Carbon Trust, and BREEAM standards have to be achieved within capital expenditure allowances.

Overall, therefore, there should be a positive financial implication from implementing this strategy.