



## Case study

### Governance

### NHS North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust

#### Background

NHS North Yorkshire and York PCT have developed a Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) to save money and carbon.

The three reasons for developing the SDMP were to improve the health of the local community, benefit the PCT financially and also to achieve external targets (Audit Commission, local SHA targets and Carbon Reduction Commitment).

The PCT covers 3,200 square miles and has the largest population of any in England.

#### Carbon and Financial Savings

The cost of implementing the SDMP is expected to be £4 million over five years.

NHS North Yorkshire and York's SDMP will help them meet their target to reduce baseline emissions by 25% by 2014, and it's believed could save their organisation £5 million over five years.

It's hoped the SDMP will also benefit staff and stakeholders by encouraging them to follow healthier, lower carbon lifestyles. It will also benefit the environment, with any money saved going towards more energy efficient projects.



NHS Yorkshire and York PCT staff engagement day

#### How did NHS North Yorkshire and York improve sustainability?

The PCT set out five strategic themes for the SDMP:

- Reduce their carbon footprint
- Work with partners to reduce community emissions
- Ensure commissioners commission low carbon healthcare
- Maximise opportunities to link health improvements with carbon reduction
- Protect the population against the health effects of climate change

"Whilst carbon reduction is everybody's responsibility, it's important that the NHS takes a lead in these matters, as there is a clear link between reducing carbon and improving health, as well as building a sustainable future for everyone."

Kevin McAleese  
Chairman  
NHS North Yorkshire and York PCT



# Sustainable Development Unit

To accomplish the SDMP, NHS North Yorkshire and York have set up a network of 'energy champions'. These are people who are interested in carbon reduction and sustainability, and who help reduce emissions in their workplace. They receive training on carbon reduction and communicate this information to staff via notice boards and meetings.

Awareness campaigns urge staff to consider the effects of climate change and of their own carbon footprint.

At the launch of the Carbon Management Programme, staff were invited to see how carbon-friendly their driving skills were on a special car simulator provided by the York-based Energy Saving Trust. The Driving Challenge encouraged motorists to think about their driving style and to adopt habits that would help them use less fuel on the road, saving them money and reducing their carbon emissions.

In addition, staff members are being asked to reduce waste, energy consumption and water, and to minimise their carbon footprint by reducing the number of journeys they make.

The PCT's communications plan also improved staff awareness, with regular team briefings and frequent comments and suggestions received from staff.

## Difficulties

Any difficulties were minimised by having the Board involved in the early stages, setting the direction for the plan. This meant when the SDMP was finalised it was well received by the executives. This shows how important it is to have a high level sign up and engagement with the Board as early as possible.

## Success factors

Having the Board agree the strategy for the SDMP was an important step. It gave the entire project the green light and a high level seal of approval.

The SDMP has led to many new initiatives including the Carbon Reduction Implementation Group helping to reduce staff travel by 10%. The communications team is also engaging staff via the PCT's intranet site. This allows Energy Champions to broadcast carbon reduction messages.

## Further information

North Yorkshire and York PCT website:

<http://www.nyypct.nhs.uk/AboutUs/CarbonManagement/index.htm>

SDU website:

<http://www.sdu.nhs.uk/> > [search SDMP guidance]

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The NHS Sustainable Development Unit develops organisations, people, tools, policy, and research to help the NHS in England fulfil its potential as a leading sustainable and low carbon organisation.