



Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy

Co-ordinator:

Head of
Sustainability,
Compliance & Risk

Reviewer:

GAPF Policies
Subgroup

Approver:

Grampian Area
Partnership Forum
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The provisions of this policy, which was developed by a partnership group on behalf of Grampian Area Partnership Forum, apply equally to all employees of NHS Grampian except where specific exclusions have been identified.

NHS Grampian
Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy

This document is also available in large print and other formats and languages, upon request. Please call NHS Grampian Corporate Communications on Aberdeen (01224) 551116 or (01224) 552245.

This Policy has undergone Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.

Revision History:

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Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy	1		

Any issues or concerns regarding this policy, please contact the Sustainability, Compliance & Risk team (nhsq.scar@nhs.net).

NHS Grampian Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy

Contents

Section Number	Section Title	Page Number
1	Purpose & Scope	1
2	Statement of Policy	1
3	Management	2
4	Roles & Responsibilities	2
4.1	All NHS Grampian Staff	2
4.2	Energy Manager	3
4.3	Environment Manager	3
4.4	Waste Manager	3
4.5	Sustainability Support Officer	3
4.6	Head of Sustainability, Compliance & Risk	3
5	Reporting	3
6	Awareness	4
7	Emissions	4
8	Waste	4
9	Transport	4
10	Procurement	5
11	Key Outcomes	5
12	Policy Review	6
13	Key Contacts	6

NHS Grampian Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy

1. Purpose & Scope

NHS Grampian believes that the effect of its operations and actions on the environment is of significant importance, and is a fundamental part of its responsibility for the health and wellbeing of the community. NHS Grampian is committed to responsible energy and environmental management, and practice energy efficiency throughout its premises. In addition, NHS Grampian promotes sustainable practices throughout its premises, without adversely affecting the standard of care.

2. Statement of Policy

NHS Grampian is committed to ensuring that our obligation towards implementing energy management and improving energy efficiency throughout all of our premises are met. Compliance with all relevant legislation is undertaken, and every effort shall be made to satisfy any additional recommendations.

NHS Grampian seeks to reduce our total energy consumption, as well as minimise our pollution and carbon output. In part, through the promotion of more economical use of energy. The Board advocates a cultural change in practices in order to maintain principles of sustainable development in planning, management and operational practices.

NHS Grampian aims to:

- provide advice and guidance towards energy efficiency for capital projects
- play our part in the development of a sustainable future for Scotland in the way we use resources, plan and develop services and deliver effective and efficient healthcare to the community
- comply with legal requirements, in addition to other policy requirements of the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland
- continually work towards improving our energy and environmental performance by promoting energy awareness, sustainable practices and pollution prevention

All staff carrying out work, training or volunteering within NHS Grampian must adhere to this policy and are expected to support and cooperate with achieving our aims.

3. Management

NHS Grampian places a high priority on the efficient management and use of fossil fuels, electricity and water:

- the efficient management of energy is important to conserve non-renewable fuel reserves therefore reducing the harmful effects on the environment by their use
- the efficient management and control of temperatures in healthcare premises is important to the comfort and well-being of patients, staff and visitors
- the efficient management and control of water quality is important as it is a finite resource that requires treatment so that it is safe for human consumption and use. Additionally, water consumption is monitored as electricity is required to pump water around the mains system
- the efficient management of emissions to air, water (including discharges to sewer) and land, the philosophy being that environmental issues should be addressed in an integrated way in order to achieve the highest level of environmental protection from the largest industrial activities

To assist with energy management, NHS Grampian has adopted the guidance provided in ISO 50001 to develop and implement an Energy Management System.

For environmental management, NHS Grampian's management structure allows the effective delivery of the following action points:

- protecting the environment by preventing or reducing adverse environmental impacts
- mitigating the potential adverse effect of environmental conditions on the organisation
- fulfilling of all compliance obligations

To assist with environmental management, NHS Grampian has adopted the guidance provided in ISO 14001 to develop and implement an Environment Management System.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

4.1 All NHS Grampian Staff

Sustainable practices, the efficient use of energy and the correct disposal of waste is everyone's responsibility.

4.2 Energy Manager:

The management of energy through the monitoring of energy consumption, ensuring national and legislative targets are met, and the planning of energy matters services and projects.

4.3 Environment Manager:

The implementation of an environmental management system, incorporating strategies to continually improve environmental performance based on Scottish Government targets.

4.4 Waste Manager:

All aspects of waste management, including the implementation of the waste policy and procedures, the minimisation of waste and meeting the zero waste target from the Scottish Government.

4.5 Sustainability Support Officer:

Ensuring that the systems and procedures used across sustainable development, environmental, waste and energy management are efficient and meet local and national performance.

4.6 Head of Sustainability, Compliance & Risk:

The provision of specialist advice to all staff in NHS Grampian in relation Sustainability, Environment, Energy, Waste and Risk Management, as well as the reporting of NHS Grampian's performance to the Scottish Government and other agencies is the responsibility of the Head of Sustainability, Compliance & Risk.

5. Reporting

Reports will be issued quarterly to the Facilities Senior Management Team, detailing energy performance – this will be used to provide clarity on areas for improvement. These reports will be submitted by the Sustainability, Compliance & Risk team and will involve comparisons of energy usage from the previous year's performance.

Climate change reporting is also conducted and submitted annually to the Scottish Government, via the Keep Scotland Beautiful enterprise, which is part of the Sustainable Scotland Network.

Regular audits will be undertaken to monitor efficiency and effectiveness of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as defined in relevant procedural guidance. Performance is monitored at a corporate level and reported on annually to NHS Grampian. Subject to further developments, consideration will be given to inclusion of performance information within Local/National performance assessment frameworks.

6. Awareness

NHS Grampian raises awareness on the Board's impact on the environment, highlighting; energy efficiency, sustainable and economical practices. These run on a regular basis and will be targeted at staff, patients and visitors to promote a change of behaviour through a variety of media, and endeavours to make environmental awareness and sustainable habits common practice.

Energy, environmental & sustainability awareness is also targeted towards capital projects and new builds, in order to ensure that energy efficiency and environmental impact are made a high priority during these projects across all time scales. In addition to this, we will promote a design philosophy which focusses on environmental responsibility and increasing the efficiency of the resources used.

7. Emissions

It is a requirement that monitoring, reporting and recording of discharges and emissions to air, land and water be undertaken as a means of assessing and prioritising necessary actions to reduce pollution or the potential risk of pollution.

Emissions reporting is done in line with current legislation e.g. European Union Emissions Trading System. For more details, please see the Sustainability, Environment & Energy Procedures Manual.

8. Waste

For details on waste management, please refer to NHS Grampian's [Waste Policy](#) and the [Waste Disposal Procedures](#) available on the intranet.

9. Transport

NHS Grampian will continue to promote and encourage active and sustainable forms of travel where possible. In association with different partner groups, NHS Grampian advocates the Health & Transport Action Plan (HTAP). This strategic program aims to improve the integration between transport and health by:

- encouraging active travel (walking & cycling) to increase physical activity
- reduce the adverse effects of the transport system on public health e.g. reducing pollution, traffic noise and road casualties

When travel with a vehicle is necessary, effective travel planning will be carried out by staff to reduce the Board's consumption of fuel and production of CO₂. NHS Grampian include the use of electric and hydrogen (H₂) vehicles in its cohort of pool vehicles available for staff use, and shall prioritise these vehicles over petrol or diesel vehicles. Shuttle buses are available for staff travel between sites.

10. Procurement

With the cooperation of the Procurement Department, every effort shall be made to ensure that energy purchases reflect NHS Grampian's policy to adopt the most efficient and cost effective resources. The purchasing of items must take into consideration the energy usage and energy rating of the equipment. Where possible, NHS Grampian will look to replace parts of an item first, before purchasing a new replacement.

All NHS Grampian departments should seek items from suppliers who are committed to using less packaging, or are looking to re-use and/or recycle packaging.

NHS Grampian is registered with [Warp-IT Reuse Network](#). This web tool allows the organisation to keep equipment, assets and other items circulating within NHS Grampian or partner groups, in order to reduce spend, waste and supply chain environmental impacts. All NHS Grampian staff involved in purchasing will look for items first on the Warp-IT system before procuring new items.

Sustainability must be evidenced in the both the tendering and awarding of all supply contracts, both of goods and services. It will be the responsibility of prospective requisitioners, contractors and suppliers to demonstrate good practice in this regard prior to the award of the contract. Construction materials, whether use by external contractors or in-house staff should comply with current sustainability standards.

11. Key Outcomes will be to:

- invest in energy saving initiatives and make sure energy efficiency is built into the design of all new builds, upgrades and refurbishments
- reduce energy consumption and harmful emissions
- an annual review of energy and environmental management activities will be undertaken

- maintain an effective Corporate Governance framework for Sustainability, including a Sustainable Development Action Plan
- regularly monitor, review and report on the energy and environmental performance of NHS Grampian against Scottish Government targets
- raise awareness among staff of environmental and social considerations, and the importance of incorporating these into business as usual decision making processes
- seek to adopt environmental best practice measures where practicable
- put in place control measures to ensure that all parties working, training or volunteering are aware of their environmental responsibilities
- prepare appropriate strategies for improving the sustainability of our services in Facilities, Transport, Buildings, Procurement, Community Engagement and Employment and Skills
- promote NHS Grampian's Sustainability, Environment & Energy Policy encouraging staff, visitors and patients to contribute to its success, through the publishing of KPIs and awareness campaigns

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every five years. Subject to major legislative changes, a review may be conducted more frequently to ensure all aspects remain up to date. The review will be undertaken by the Sustainability, Compliance & Risk team for the subsequent approval from the Director of Facilities.

13. Contact Information

Enquires can be sent to: nhsq.scar@nhs.net

Sustainability, Compliance & Risk Team,
 Facilities & Estates Directorate,
 Foresterhill Health Campus,
 Aberdeen,
 AB25 2ZN.