

Additional reporting requirements

energy efficiency and waste management

Energy efficiency and effective waste management are vital for good public health and ecological sustainability.

As part of its commitment to managing waste and using energy efficiently, the Queensland Health Waste Management Strategic Plan and the Queensland Health Waste Management System were introduced in May 2002.

Key achievements

- Contracted with Origin Energy for the re-engineering of the existing energy plants at Toowoomba and Baillie Henderson Hospitals, and the future supply of energy to these hospitals under an Operation and Maintenance Agreement

The arrangement provides for the replacement of existing coal-fired boilers with efficient technology; on-site generation of electricity from natural gas; and reduced global greenhouse emissions

The new system at Toowoomba Hospital commenced operation in July 2003, and the Baillie Henderson Hospital plant is to be fully commissioned in September 2003

- Worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop strategies to improve levels of ecological sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the existing Greenhouse Challenge partnership
- Worked closely with the Government Energy Management Strategy Team in Queensland Treasury and the Sustainable Industries Branch of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish whole-of-government energy management strategies
- Implemented an eco-efficiency pilot program in which individual energy service companies undertook Level 3 energy audits at Ipswich, Cairns and Nambour Hospitals

The resulting recommendations have the potential to lower operational costs and improve energy efficiency. Independent audits indicated potential savings of 10-15 per cent on the

implementation of the recommended efficiencies

- Implemented a waste management rating system in health service districts. Districts are awarded ratings in categories of waste management, waste minimisation, policy and procedures, eco-efficiency, environmental controls, staff training and education and scheduled areas (remote locations only)

The Herston Hospitals Complex achieved a rating of 90 per cent, and Royal Children's Hospital was upgraded from 'some achievement' to 'extensive achievement' by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards Waste Management Criteria

- Achieved an estimated saving of \$691,880 in waste, energy and water consumption in Central Zone health service district hospitals
- Reviewed electricity consumption in The Prince Charles Hospital, with expected energy saving strategies to be undertaken as part of a Queensland Health coordinated initiative
- Introduced needle supply services and public access sharps disposal units at Ayr and Bowen Hospitals, an initiative which encourages single use of needles and improves sharps waste management. Early indications are that there is increased responsibility in safe disposal practices
- Replaced Royal Children's Hospital's wet chemical processor with a dry laser, which eliminates all glutaraldehyde-based chemicals
- Decommissioned the incinerator at Roma Hospital and implemented alternative waste management processes in that hospital and every other hospital and facility in the district
- Conducted an energy efficiency audit in Queensland Health's Southern Zone. Full implementation of the audit's recommendations could be expected to achieve savings of a minimum of \$1.2 million and reduce carbon dioxide



greenhouse gas production by 21 million tonnes

- Reconfigured waste management processes in Bayside and Logan Health Service Districts. Bayside achieved savings of \$74,800 in the 2002-03 year, and Logan achieved savings of \$79,700 for the previous financial year
- Implemented a water management plan in Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Service District, in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council. These measures are expected to save a minimum of \$70,000 per annum through discounted water tariff

Outlook

- Continue the program of energy audits, including the possibility of a further nine Level 3 energy audits which are anticipated to result in energy savings of \$3 million per year two years from implementation

Implementation is planned for the 2003-04 financial year

- Establish partnerships with organisations to introduce innovative, efficient and cost-effective energy management programs into Queensland Health's environment
- Invite additional health care facilities in each zone to participate in the eco-efficiency pilot program