



## Energy and waste management

### Energy and water management

As part of its obligations under the Government Energy Management Strategy, Queensland Health continues to work on strategies to improve levels of ecological sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This is part of the existing Greenhouse Challenge Partnership and Eco-efficiency Program.

Queensland Health's Eco-efficiency Unit has:

- created a panel of energy service companies (ESCOs), capable of delivering low risk energy performance contracting (i.e. contracting for guaranteed outcomes) and the financial capacity to provide contractual guarantees;
- consulted with health service district managers to explain Queensland Health's obligations under the Government Energy Management Strategy – a key State environmental protection initiative;
- developed plans for a series of tenders to be called by ESCOs to identify the most appropriate solution for each site intending to participate in the Eco-efficiency Program;
- devised a process including a detailed facility study, project definition agreement and energy performance contract to be initiated for each site. This is to obtain the preferred energy conservation measure and guaranteed energy savings;

- engaged a measurement and verification specialist to validate all offers to Queensland Health for energy performance contracting;
- established a minimum 12 per cent return on investment; and
- worked as members of the Whole-of-Government Working Party for Energy Efficiency to assist in the preparation of a common document across government for the implementation of energy efficiencies.

The following health services districts (HSDs) and Statewide Business Units participate in the Eco-efficiency Program:

Bundaberg HSD  
Cairns HSD  
Gladstone HSD  
Logan-Beaudesert HSD  
Mackay HSD  
Mt Isa HSD  
Princess Alexandra Hospital HSD  
QEI Hospital HSD  
Rockhampton HSD  
Roma HSD  
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital HSD  
Royal Children's Hospital HSD  
Sunshine Coast HSD  
The Prince Charles Hospital HSD  
West Moreton HSD  
Scientific Services

Princess Alexandra Hospital also reviewed and renewed the Water Efficiency Management Plan it holds with Brisbane City Council, resulting in further savings in water charges through discounted tariffs.

*capable of delivering low risk energy performance contracting*



### Waste management

Queensland Health is committed to maintaining a waste management policy and systems that protect public health, is safe, efficient, cost-effective and minimises environmental harm. Initiatives undertaken in Queensland Health districts and facilities to improve waste management practices during 2003-04 included:

- Northern Zone hosting its first one-day zonal waste workshop in May 2004, attended by



35 staff from 10 of its health service districts to network and exchange ideas on waste management;

- Cairns Base Hospital establishing an Environmental Management Co-ordinator position to deal with issues of waste management from district facilities and matters including tendering processes and new technologies;
- Bowen Health Service District implementing changes to waste management practices that saw a 26.6 per cent cut in waste costs, mostly from Ayr Hospital;
- Moranbah Health Service District beginning regular internal audits of waste and providing regular feedback to staff, which has resulted in a high standard of waste management;
- a contract being negotiated by the Charleville, Roma and Northern Downs districts for waste disposal, expected to lead to greater legislative compliance and savings in transport and treatment costs;
- reviews in a number of Southern Zone districts of waste segregation processes took place

at hospitals, which improved processes for segregating waste resulting in cost savings and less clinical waste;

- the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital conserved energy (CEP gas and electricity) saving \$209,611. In addition the Waste Management Section achieved an outstanding achievement in the ACHS survey and saved \$20,441;
- the Royal Children's Hospital achieved an excellent achievement during the ACHS survey and the costs of waste management have saved \$5,000;
- Nambour saved \$24,000 in waste management costs;
- the Prince Charles Hospital saved \$33,000 on the previous year; and
- a number of services were improved substantially through the provision of colour coded segregation bins for waste, sharps management reviews, and contractor negotiations. The group contract for the Rockhampton, Banana, Gladstone, and Central Highlands Districts allowed for an approximate saving of \$25,000.

*improved processes for segregating waste resulting in cost savings and less clinical waste*