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RUH reducing carbon footprint

The RUH is making great strides in reducing its carbon footprint by sending much less waste to landfill.

The hospital has achieved a significant reduction of 149 tonnes of waste destined for landfill, by increasing the amount of waste it recycles. In the last financial year, 723 tonnes of waste was recycled, compared to 482 tonnes for the same period in 2010-11.

Staff at the hospital routinely separate waste such as plastic, paper, steel, aluminium and glass for recycling.

Luke Champion, Environment and Sustainability Manager for the RUH, says; "This is a fantastic achievement. It clearly demonstrates that increased recycling and improved waste segregation results in significant cost savings and environmental improvements.

"Selling our waste brings in income too. Things like cardboard, scrap metal and lead acid batteries has generated over £5,000. Combined with a cost saving of £32,300 from reduced landfill waste, it is all money that can be reinvested in improving patient care.

"Our staff have really embraced recycling; it's become part of our culture here. It's their commitment which is making such a difference."

Recycling is just one example of the RUH actively reducing its carbon footprint. The most significant contribution has been made by the Trust's Energy Centre; a gas-fired combined heat and power plant that replaced inefficient steam boilers, which opened in September. A reduction from 15,000* tonnes CO₂e to 12,000* tonnes has already been achieved, and the hospital is on target to reduce its footprint even further, to 10,000 tonnes CO₂e.

The RUH will continue to increase its recycling output and make further reductions in landfill waste in 2012. The purchase of a biodigester machine will make for more efficient disposal of food waste, and more recycling bins will be provided across the site.

You can visit the hospital's website www.ruh.nhs.uk for more information, and click on the Team Green icon at the bottom of the page.

*15,000 tonnes of CO₂e for 2009/10 to 12,000 tones in 2010/11.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Tonnes CO₂e is the amount of CO₂ that would cause the same global warming effect as a given type and concentration of greenhouse gas. Examples of such greenhouse gases are methane, perfluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide.