

2 October 2012

Media Release

‘Team Green’ wins national award

Our ‘Team Green’ has won a national award for its environmental work at the Royal United Hospital.

The team’s efforts were recognised with the Energy Efficiency award at the Health Service Journal’s Efficiency Awards 2012.

Team Green is a group of staff across all grades of the hospital who have joined together with the goal of improving the environment by cutting carbon and waste, and saving both energy and money.

Director of Estates and Facilities Howard Jones says: “We are absolutely delighted that our work to reduce our impact on the environment has been recognised nationally.

“We are committed to being sustainable and recognise that we have an important role to play, both as a large employer in Bath and as part of the wider NHS, in reducing our carbon emissions and becoming even more sustainable.

“This award is recognition of the amount of work we have done so far to become greener, and we are actively seeking new ways to become as environmentally-friendly an organisation as we possibly can.”

Several projects have been carried out to improve our environmental performance, which have helped us reduce our carbon footprint from 15,000 to 10,000tCO₂ in the last three years.

Our most significant project has been the opening of a new Energy Centre at a cost of almost £5m. This is helping us to save 3,000 tonnes of carbon a year and is cutting around £600,000 in fuel bills.

We have also installed mini combined heat and power units in our residential blocks, which generate electricity and heat for the accommodation with the spare electricity being exported to the grid.

The hospital is also promoting greener travel, installing new cycle sheds and shower facilities which have led to an increase in numbers of staff cycling to and from work. We also offer discounted bus tickets to staff, half-price parking for staff who share cars, and contribute financially to the running of the Park and Ride service to and from the RUH.

Our new Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit has been given a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method rating of ‘excellent’ by for its low energy use.

Our waste recycling has increased significantly, and we have reduced the amount of water we use by 20,000 cubic metres, saving thousands of pounds a year in bills.

We also have ‘environmental awareness representatives’ in every department – these are green champions who promote environmental schemes in their work area.

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