The sustainability team at Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) teamed up with their award-winning arts programme, GO Create! and the House of Illustration to create a Sustainability-themed artwork by engaging with our patients and visitors. The artwork is being unveiled on NHS Sustainability Day 2015 in a prominent hospital setting to promote the importance of sustainability to child health.

The project objective was to use drawing and illustration, to show how GOSH can reduce its environmental impact in the short and long term and involve patients and families in identifying how this might be achieved. The project gave us an opportunity to educate young people about practical solutions but also took a ‘blue sky thinking’ approach, firing their imaginations and inspiring them to get excited about what could be possible, now and in the future.

Illustrator Sion Ap Tomos, ran two weeks of creative workshops with children and young people at the hospital in wards, the hospital school and out-patients departments. The theme of ‘Building a Sustainable Hospital’ was explored, linked to the three strands of activity that make up the Trust’s Sustainability Plan:

- **Strand 1** – Being efficient; focusing on efficiency (using fewer resources, reduce reducing waste and being energy efficient)
- **Strand 2** – Improving patient care through sustainability: focusing on sustainable activities, which improve patient health and experience
- **Strand 3** – Taking a public advocacy position on children’s health and sustainability with a view to benefiting children nationally and globally

With the help of an illustrator, our patients were challenged to think creatively about topics including ‘spaceship earth’, ‘one planet living’ and telehealth technologies such as remote monitoring and video consultations creating a ‘virtual GOSH’. The creative sessions were structured so that complex ideas about sustainability and the future could be easily understood by children of all ages. The imaginative illustrations they produced tell a story of what the hospital could look like in 2015, 2020 and 2050.

**2015: Planting Seeds**

Thinking about some of the things that we can do now to prepare for a sustainable future, children explored ideas around self-sufficiency, growing, nurturing and collecting resources that might be used by the hospital in the future. Lush green rooftop gardens were imagined, with beehives and areas to keep animals – from cows and chickens to provide us with food, to parrots and giraffes that would be there “just to make us feel happy”! (Natasha age 8, Badger ward)

**2020: Doing Things Better**

Learning about renewable energy sources from the hospital’s Energy Manager Brendan Rouse, patients thought about wind farms, solar panels floating on giant balloons above the hospital and how we might harness the energy created by people moving around the hospital. They explored home-grown building materials and invented new modes of sustainable transport. Ellie, age 6 suggested that instead of using cars we should harness wind power to travel to the hospital on kites.
2050: Virtual Hospital

Participants pictured an entirely new healthcare experience, with even more ambitious and surprising solutions for how to save energy. A fundamental theme was looking at the environmental impact of everyone travelling to GOSH buildings and exploring more sustainable ways for patients, families and carers to connect with our staff. Children and young people addressed concerns about where treatment might take place if this was to happen and who might deliver this. Kian, age 5, designed a rocket-powered hospital bed and Salim, age 11, thought about telecommunication with doctors.

Illustrator, Sion Ap Tomos has created a montage of the children’s drawings that tells their story of ‘Building a Sustainable Hospital’. The artwork will be displayed within the hospital to inspire everyone who passes by. The children’s ideas and artwork will also be commemorated in a publication, either electronic or hard copy.

How has your project improved sustainable development within your organisation or community setting?

Creating the artwork offered an opportunity to engage with children and young people on the issue of sustainability and to consider what is most important for them. We hope that this will inspire them to consider sustainability as they grow and become more influential members of society.

This was an also educational and creative endeavour that has provided a lasting visual representation of what Sustainability means for GOSH’s patients.

The final installation is positioned for maximum thoroughfare for both staff and visitors being directly outside the Trust’s restaurant. The sustainability story will inspire all the staff and visitors who pass by it. This will bring to life the importance of sustainability to child health and demonstrate the Trust’s commitment to becoming a more sustainable organisation.

The artwork will be displayed next to the site of a major construction project, which in 2017 will deliver a brand new hospital building packed with sustainable features.

During our consultation for our Sustainability Plan, it was clear that the best way to engage GOSH staff is sustainability is by articulating that the issue is important to patients and families. The artwork provides visual proof of the importance of sustainability to young people so will be a really powerful motivator for action.

What role does sustainable development play within patient and staff services within your organisation?

Our guiding principle at Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) is “the child first and always”, which is why we care about our environmental impact. We believe that the health and well-being of the population is closely linked to environmental issues and climate change is even more significant in the context of child health. We are committed to providing world class healthcare whilst being environmentally responsible.

We are making improvements to our buildings and processes, and helping our staff to take actions to create the best surroundings and service for our patients and staff. We aim to be world-class in our energy and water use and to limit the waste we produce, creating a healthier world for generations to come.

GOSH are rolling out a comprehensive behaviour change campaign to promote sustainable development and influence patient and staff services. The campaign consists of a bespoke campaign backed up by a range of digital and online communication tools provided by the Carbon Culture online platform.

We are currently in the process of upgrading over 1,000 lights across the hospital to reduce
our electricity cost, reduce our carbon footprint and to improve the patient experience by provided a brighter environment.

Our catering department are in the process of undergoing Soil Association accreditation to improve the catering provision to our patients and minimise the environmental impact of the service.

Who has led the way on sustainable development within your organisation?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Lead</td>
<td>Matthew Tulley, Development Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy Lead</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Management Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability Action Group</td>
<td>Brendan Rouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Manager</td>
<td>Carol Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Will McCready</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications lead</td>
<td>Louisa Desborough</td>
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First Image: [Engagement](http://nhssustainabilityawards.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Engagement.jpg)

Second Image: [Underground Hospital](http://nhssustainabilityawards.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Underground-Hospital.jpg)

Third Image: [Solar Balloons](http://nhssustainabilityawards.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Solar-Balloons.jpg)

Fourth Image: [Future Inventions](http://nhssustainabilityawards.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Future-Inventions.jpg)