

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER

GUY'S & ST
THOMAS' NHS
FOUNDATION
TRUST



Guys' and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust – comprises Guys' and St Thomas' Hospitals, the Evelina London Children's Hospital and 30 community sites across Southwark and Lambeth boroughs. The trust seeks not only to be a leader in medicine, but a leader in sustainability; improving the quality of patient care and, of course, reducing their carbon footprint.

Fit for the Future is the Trust's key cross-organisational programme aimed at improving safety, quality and efficiency. The sustainability programme aims to reduce fixed costs, such as energy, water and waste, as well as designing efficiency and sustainability into procurement of goods and services.

The Trust's SAVE initiative has been tasked with identifying at least £150,000 in savings per annum. On waste we worked closely with Bywaters, the appointed waste management service provider, to determine potential efficiency and cost savings.

The resulting multi-faceted strategy aimed to reduce overall waste generation, divert materials from landfill and maximise recycling rates without diluting service quality, efficiency and compliance. Sustainability metrics included data provided from Bywaters and from the Trust Waste Team's mini-weighbridge systems. These feed into a sustainability dashboard for each Directorate that is taken seriously by decision makers to influence change. The target of £140,000 was on track to being met or just short thereof.

All 15,000+ staff are regularly trained in responsible waste. This is through an extensive training program that instils a sense of responsibility in each individual so that they are fully aware of their impact on the environment as a result of their work. The high calibre training is seen as the benchmark for environmental education within the NHS. Sustainability efforts are further

supported by extensive communications, regular news updates (including their own GiST magazine), reward programmes and promotion of responsible resource management via the Trust's internal graphics and signage department.

The Trust identified methods to reduce food production to reduce food waste generation, improving overall recycling efforts by increasingly accurate segregation of food waste.

The Trust now organically compost over 12t of food waste per month, and recycles over 400 litres of used oil which is blended to make biofuel for London's black cabs, as well as the PWC building (1 Embankment Place) –. Working with AMT (the onsite caf), the Trust has been able to encourage the recycling of coffee waste. Since the start of this project in January 2017, the Trust has managed to divert over 5 tonnes of coffee waste via Recovery into bio-pellets.

The Trust's advanced weigh-bridge system acts as a complete auditing tool, giving precise real-time data on waste activity and offers numerous benefits to the Trust's waste management team:

Each bin is assigned a unique barcoded sticker; allowing waste managers to monitor which areas are generating high levels of waste, why it's being produced and how the Trust can make changes to improve recycling. This allows waste managers to hone in on 'time in motion' elements, gives the Trust complete transparency of their waste generation: they know, ward-by-ward, exactly which waste streams are being produced, the times when waste generation fluctuates, which waste streams generate the highest costs, and how staff can be managed for maximum productivity.

Considering the c. 5,400t of waste generated by the Trust in 2017, this insight has been massively beneficial to their recycling efforts. The Trust are the only hospitals in the UK to use such an advanced system to manage waste generation and disposal!