

CASE STUDY 3

Wealth Creation

IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT, SAVING RESOURCES

Challenging national targets

The UK is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 34% up to 2020. As the most significant public sector contributor to climate change, the NHS has some of the greatest challenges in meeting these targets.

In one year, our region's NHS Trusts and universities spend over £60m on energy. Introducing energy-efficient technology and practices will lead to early wins.

SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY

Oxford AHSN is coordinating regional efforts in the drive for sustainable service delivery. Our universities and NHS Trusts have agreed to combine experience and expertise to face this task together.

The aim is to identify, pilot and diffuse validated working practices and technology helping partners meet national guidelines, save money, benefit patients and staff, and preserve the environment.

COMMON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Sustainability consultants Zexu reviewed partner organisations' performance. They showed that optimising performance to benchmark values requires a 28% reduction of electricity consumption and 5% reduction of fossil fuels. This would return annual savings of £12m. Considering rising energy costs and a five-year implementation period, the total value at stake across the region is £77.5m.

The report identified potential annual savings of £8.7m from an initial investment of £32m in more sustainable, energy-efficient technology and practices.

Work is under way on four projects, identified as offering the greatest potential with combined savings of more than £5m, across six Trusts and universities in the region.

Feasibility studies producing evidenced business cases are progressing through the Carbon and Energy Fund.



“*...carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the NHS in England are greater than the annual emissions from all aircraft departing from Heathrow Airport.*”

SOURCE NHS

“*...thanks to our involvement with the Oxford AHSN we have the opportunity to learn from the experience of other organisations and to benefit from external expertise tailored to our specific needs. We have already started to move forward with a major project to address energy use and sustainability within our hospitals.*”

David Hounslea

Director of Estates & Facilities Management, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust