

## **Green Teams Counties Manukau Health**

### **GGHH Agenda Goals**

- **Leadership**

### **Hospital Goal**

- **Reduce energy costs**
- **Reduce carbon dioxide emissions**

### **Progress Achieved**

- Financial benefits (savings, spending reductions or costs reductions)
- Environmental benefit (energy consumption saved, reduced emissions)
- Human health benefit
- Other quantitative results (increased job satisfaction, improved morale, direct and indirect benefits)

### **The Issue**

Working on sustainability involves staff engagement and behavior change. Identifying clinical champions and setting up green teams helps remove obstacles to system wide sustainability innovation. A green team is a team of informed and engaged people all aiming to activate the organisation's sustainability mission, raise awareness of sustainable practices and facilitate education to help stimulate ideas and actions for system improvements. Working with green teams helps identify relevant problems and solutions, fostering a sense of personal responsibility and ownership.

### **Sustainability Strategy Implemented**

Green teams believe that tackling issues using the environmentally orientated lens saves money, reduces emissions and results in a 'feel good' factor. A strategy was developed following a project management framework. In doing, so the process had rigor and resulted in a streamlined approach. Green teams fall under the organisations Environmental Sustainability programme.

### **Implementation process**

Clinical champions make themselves known relatively early on in any change programme. In this instance, clinical champions formed as a result of being members of the Environmental Sustainability Board. Board members represent different clinical and non-clinical services. Each champion communicated to their respective areas and identified colleagues within those areas who were keen to join forces and focus on sustainability. Once key people were identified, meetings were established and priorities identified. Common focal areas include:

- Energy- not switching computers and lights off when not in use
- Waste- no or minimal recycling
- Procurement/supply chain- over reliance on single use kitchenware
- Clinical practices- over stocking of trolleys



Green teams within each area then determine priorities and timeframes, allocating responsibilities to members of the team and gathering more information around process costs and implications of making changes.

## Tracking Progress

## Challenges and lessons learned

The main challenge is often related to maintaining momentum. Green teams are often allocated a small amount of time to work on sustainability projects and time is often in short supply. Being realistic at the outset and setting SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely)

objectives avoids the teams becoming frustrated and disillusioned.

## Next Steps

The green team model works well and will continue to be replicated as the Sustainability programme unfolds.

## Demographic information

CM Health is a major provider of both community- based and secondary health care services to the estimated 520,130 people residing in the Counties Manukau district. Counties Manukau Health is New Zealand's fast growing multicultural area, and is also home to more new immigrants than any other region.

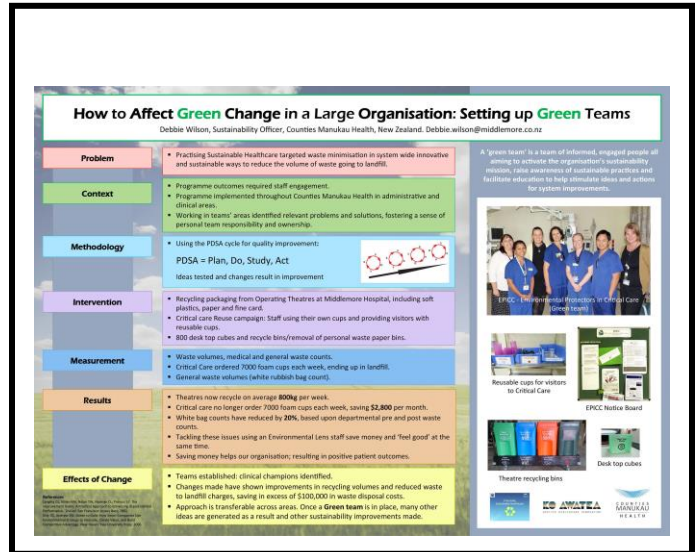
CM Health operated services are delivered at 7 in-patient facilities and a number of community outpatient sites and community health sites across the District. The Middlemore Hospital and Manukau Health Park (comprising the SuperClinic and Surgery Centre) contain the largest elective, ambulatory and inpatient facilities.

There are 1,000 beds across these facilities, and the services discharge in excess of 115,000 people per annum (across acute, surgical, mental health, maternity and health of older people/ rehab), with Emergency Care seeing over 100,000 people per annum. There are also over 80,000 outpatient first appointments, and 215,000 follow-up events each year.

The organisation is one of the largest of New Zealand's District Health Boards and a significantly large employer in the Counties Manukau district, providing jobs for over 7,000 people across the region, 5,700 FTE. Counties Manukau Health employs over 400 Senior Medical Officers and over 480 medical trainees covering most specialty areas working within our various sites. Counties Manukau employs over 2,500 Nursing staff (Registered and HCA), and over 1,000 Allied Health and Technical Staff.

More information can be found on the website: [www.cmdhb.org.nz](http://www.cmdhb.org.nz)

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