

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM Bill Newton, NHS Lothian

NHS Lothian welcomes SG's ambitious plan to reduce emissions targets to reach a 90% reduction by 2050 on the 1990's base year value and will continue to work with SG to achieve the goal.

Since 1990 NHS Lothian has replaced many of its older building stock with new builds and always aims to achieve a BREEAM excellent score and where possible has introduced Low Carbon technologies with the build. We have had several projects completed over the years to replace Health Care provision buildings and most recently have taken occupation of Phase 1 of the New Royal Edinburgh Hospital Building, Ground floor of the New East Lothian Hospital and several Health Centres. Very shortly we shall take occupation of our new Sick Children's hospital building that replaces a very inefficient building constructed in the 1860's. The replacement of the energy centre at our St John's Hospital is well under way and this will be managed for the next 25 years under an "Energy Performance Contract" that will also assist us in meeting our emissions targets. The energy infrastructure replacement project Board at our second main hospital campus within Edinburgh (The Western General Hospital) has recently been convened with a view to modernise the energy distribution network (heat and electricity) and the re-provision will likely include Low Carbon Technologies as well as capability of connecting to external heat energy sources. We are also engaged in contractual negotiations with the PFI provider at The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh to resolve many issues and amongst them the reduction of the site's carbon footprint.

There are several actions and behaviours of NHS Lothian's stakeholders that would help on the way to meeting these new SG targets:

1. A review of the tight control that some PFI contracts have imposed on NHS Lothian where we find a lack of appetite from the PFI Consortia to make change happen which may be seen as a risk to their investment. More innovation is required from PFI investments and the promotion of Energy performance Contracts would be ideal.
2. We find it extremely difficult to obtain funding for energy projects to assist with emissions reductions and request that Scottish Government make appropriate funding routes available that can be drawn on for major infrastructure works and also for a programme of minor works.

3. A radical new design for NHS building will be required to meet ambitions of carbon neutrality, the high intensity of energy demand from present services to operating theatres, highly ventilated buildings etc needs to evolve to buildings with more passive energy design and lower building and carbon footprint.
4. Expectation of staff and stakeholders that they can have high comfort temperatures within their workplace. For office type accommodation and public areas there should be mandated heating maximum space temperatures and mandated cooling minimum space temperatures to prevent wasteful operation of heating/cooling plant. Our staff and stakeholders need to be encouraged to take ownership of these ambitious targets and be more responsible in their choice of heating, ventilation, lighting, transport. The fundamental message of Sustainable Development should align closely with the aims of NHS in Scotland and a link should be emphasised more in providing caring services for a healthier population both now and for future generations.
5. Whilst we welcome the introduction of Electric Vehicles there are concerns as to how our electrical infrastructure will cope with the EV charging consumption. Where public accessible charging points are to be installed it is likely that funding will be required to strengthen our electrical networks, provision of the charging points and recovery of charging revenue from the public. How do we prevent individuals utilising a charging bay as a parking space for the whole day hence preventing access to other users? Also, we would like recognition from SG, of the impact that these vehicles charging emissions will have on our Organisations CO2 emissions and impact on targets.

To ensure all of Scotland's emissions are available to SG we feel that that there should be full disclosure of total annual emissions from every organisation and businesses, within Scotland, before influence by any purchase of Carbon Credits etc. Information on Carbon credits purchased, mitigation, etc should also be provided to SG but as a clearly identified separate entry.

Finally it would be useful if SG were to run an extensive publicity campaign (across all media in Scotland) advising of the emissions targets, how the target will impact on individuals and in what way every-one can assist to make it happen.