

# Saving Energy

**STRENGTH  
COMES  
WHEN THE  
PEOPLE  
WHO WORK  
FOR YOU,  
WORK  
WITH YOU.**



Your staff are a valuable asset who can make a big difference in achieving savings. That's why we developed a simple toolkit that offers a step-by-step guide to motivating your team, helping them to take responsibility in important areas such as energy efficiency, health & safety and sustainability. Working together, you can reduce your business energy costs of up to 20%, and improve staff morale. Get in touch with us and join the many other top New Zealand organisations who are doing the same.



Wellington Regional Hospital's building management system has been overhauled, to deliver energy savings.

File picture / Mark Mitchell

## Cost quest in good health

A health board's efficiency drive is about more than just technical solutions, reports **Helen Twose**

**F**inding a remedy for high energy use is creating healthy connections among staff at Wellington's Capital Coast District Health Board.

The board, which provides hospital and specialist health services to the greater Wellington area, began looking at ways to cut its \$5 million-a-year energy bill back in 2012, through a partnership with EECA — the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

With the help of analysis from power saving experts Energy Solution Providers, it set a goal of cutting 40 per cent off its energy use by 2021.

Already, it has banked \$1m in savings on gas and electricity bills.

While most of the opportunities identified were technical in nature — LED lighting and upgrading the building management system at the main Wellington Regional Hospital — an organisation-wide sustainability group provided the way to communicate between the technical projects and the board's 4000 full-time staff.

And it's a collaboration that has improved the long-term wellbeing of energy saving initiatives.

Board facilities and engineering operations manager Leon Clews says while his team was managing the smooth execution of "behind the walls" upgrades, he could steer enquiries and questions about energy management back to a group that had a broader view of sustainability within the DHB.

Originally the work of a group of staff interested in the environment, development of the energy efficiency plan has boosted interest in all areas of sustainability and it now has dedicated support at executive level.

"What that achieved was that the sustainability steering group became a formal group within the organisation as opposed to a bunch of people meeting informally to discuss what the opportunities were and not

being able to get traction," says Clews.

With sustainability officer Valentino Luna Hernandez now on board, the organisation has a focal point to bring sustainability ideas, have them considered against business objectives and make sure they get into the right workstreams, says Clews.

"It brought it all together really, really well," he says.

A cornerstone of the power saving plan was an energy efficiency statement of intent, signed at board level.

One objective of the statement of intent was to



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**Valentino Luna Hernandez, Capital Coast District Health Board (above)**

educate staff on how they could save energy when not at work, says Clews.

"We recognise that 10 per cent of our total savings opportunity will be about behaviour — it's not all technical solutions — so in the statement of intent it's very clear we'll need to educate staff as to what they can do at home.

"If they're in the mindset of doing it at home, they're in the mindset of switching off lights at work," he says.

"The sustainability working group is where we're focusing those efforts because it keeps everyone coming back to one location and it's a location that's robust regardless of any changes in organisational structure."

Clews says the traction created by

the sustainability group is growing daily.

"I've seen more ideas come up from staff in the last two years than I have in the five or six years prior."

Luna Hernandez says it's also strengthening staff morale. "Staff feel they are coming to work in a progressive, forward-looking organisation because we're not sitting comfortably on our hands.

"We're actually trying to innovate and provide the best possible value for money in facilities management."

Money saved on energy use is money that can be directed towards healthcare.

In its initial analysis, Energy Solution Providers identified \$1.3m worth of energy savings with a payback of less than five years.

So far, installing LED lighting has saved approximately \$37,000 per year and a recalibration of ventilation controls in the underground carpark at Wellington Regional Hospital is saving another \$10,000 a year.

The biggest project to date has been overhauling the building management system at Wellington Regional Hospital.

It was the source of many complaints — areas were too hot or too cold — with inefficient management of heating and cooling leading to wasted energy.

The replacement of 10,000 control points across a variety of clinical spaces, while keeping the hospital running as usual, could have been fraught, but Clews says work in the planning stages meant there were no problems during implementation.

There has been a significant fall in complaints about room temperatures.

Over the longer term, about 15 of the board's 76 buildings are being seriously looked at for energy saving opportunities.

The early success and low-interest Crown loans available through EECA have provided the board with the confidence to turn its attention to the next phase of projects.

"The 40 per cent target looks real, absolutely real, and it's still the target," says Clews.

"The timeframe and these early projects are keeping the momentum up as we've been successful, and we want to keep building on those."