

# Environmental Management

Our Responsibility



# Environmental Management

## First for you

As Switzerland's leading hospital group, HUG comprises eight hospitals and 40 outpatient facilities. In its mission of care, teaching and research, HUG is guided by four core values: quality, service, innovation and responsibility. Our hospitals are an international model of leading-edge clinical excellence.

## Preserving the environment in which we live

Launched by a group of staff a few years ago, this pro-environment initiative has become an institutional objective. It is now enshrined in the service contract signed between HUG and the State of Geneva. HUG undertakes to ensure that all its actions are compatible with the City's sustainable development project, Agenda 21.

This initiative is an integral part of HUG's strategic plan for 2010–2015, since one of the quality-related projects under the plan is dedicated to environmental management. One of the first initiatives taken was to draw up an ecological balance sheet: HUG was the first hospital in Europe to conduct such a study.

Since then, HUG has made the following daily commitments to reduce its environmental impact:

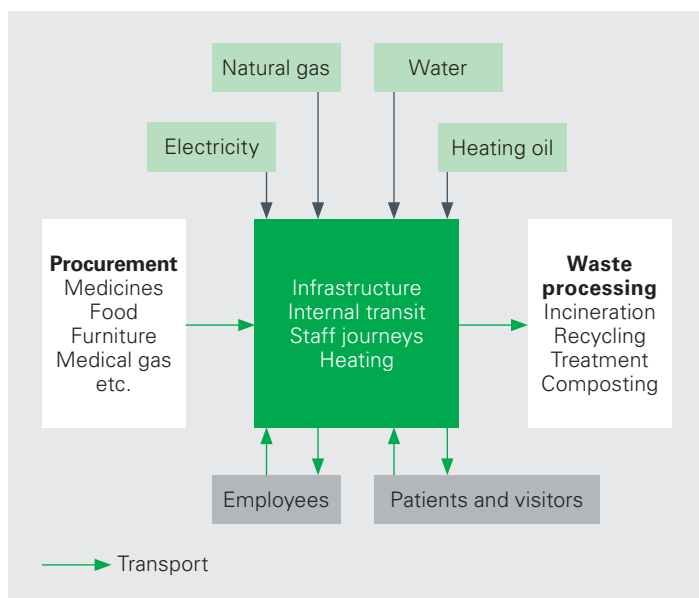
- to cut its energy consumption and promote the use of renewables
- to pollute less and recycle more
- to encourage responsible procurement
- and to promote the use of eco-friendly means of transport.

With the full support of our staff, these intentions have crystallized into the ambitious and specific goals which you will find described on the following pages. They fall within the scope of one of our hospital's core values: **Responsibility**.

## HUG's environmental footprint

HUG is a pioneer of environmental management. In 2009 it became Europe's first teaching hospital to draw up an ecological balance sheet, the aims of which were as follows:

- quantitative analysis of the potential impact of HUG's activities on the environment, including indirect emissions
- pinpointing the main factors contributing to this impact
- action to control the main sources of greenhouse gases.



## ... like a town of 10,000 inhabitants

In 2008 HUG generated greenhouse gas emissions of the order of 100,000 tonnes (carbon equivalent). Its impact on climate change is similar to the consumption figures of a town of 10,000 inhabitants.

## Info +

### Key annual consumption figures

- Water: 200 Olympic swimming pools
- Paper: the height of Mont Blanc
- Kilometres travelled by staff: the distance from Earth to the Moon
- Fruit and vegetables: the consumption of 2800 households
- Recyclable plastic (PET) bottles: 225,000 litres of crude oil
- Waste: the weight of 900 elephants.

# Our initiatives, our ambitions

## Sustainable consumption

- **Use of renewable energy sources**

HUG consumes 50 million kWh per year of electricity, of which 100% is certified as from renewable sources.

- **Solar panels**

To install 900 square metres of solar panels which generate 120,000 kWh per year: equal to the power consumption of 25 households.

- **Electricity**

- To replace light fittings.
- To install presence-detection lighting controls.
- To provide 5000 power strips, so that all appliances can be disconnected simultaneously.



- **Energy efficiency**

Project to create a green data centre to hold data relating to security, energy efficiency and respect for the environment.

- **Water**

To modernize our water mains to avoid leaks and reduce and control waste.

## Our ambitions by 2016

- To increase our energy efficiency by 8%.
- To reduce our water consumption by 10%.

## Conserving natural resources

### • Waste

- To reduce and sort waste.
- To create 30 waste categories.
- To provide paper collection and recycling skips.
- To use less packaging.
- To promote rechargeable batteries or appliances with energy management systems.
- To improve prescription management and traceability of medicines, reducing waste.

### • Green spaces

- To replace “exotic” trees with “native species” to preserve our heritage.
- To select low-maintenance tree and shrub species.

### Our ambitions by 2016

- To reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 10%.
- To achieve 50% recycling rates.
- To reduce our paper consumption by 10%.
- To assess the risks of discarded medicines in waste-water (environmental pharmacovigilance).



## Responsible procurement

- **Establishment of a responsible procurement policy**

Secure a commitment by our suppliers to follow sustainable development principles.

- **Promotion of “eat local”**

- Prioritize produce which is in season: 80% of the vegetables we buy are eaten in season.
- Procure from the local market: our tomatoes travel 8 km from field to plate.
- Offer information on traceability of produce in restaurants (e.g. origins of meat).
- Encourage a healthy diet (the Fourchette Verte label) via regular promotions (presentation of one vegetable per month) and during Good Food Week (“La Semaine du Goût”).



## Our ambitions by 2016

- To procure energy-efficient equipment with low environmental impact.
- To encourage procurement of regional foodstuffs.

## New ways of getting about

### • Car sharing

- A special website reserved for staff to organize car sharing.
- Privileged access to HUG car parks for teams sharing cars.

### • Public transport

- Half-price season tickets for staff.
- Internal park & ride at Belle-Idée.

### • Pedal power

- Incentives to buy conventional, electric and folding bicycles (free trial vouchers, discounts on purchases, 0%-interest loans).
- Creation of a bike pool.
- Self-service repair workshop.
- Cycling proficiency classes.



### • Transport at work

- A shuttle for transit between hospital sites.
- Free use of pedal and electric cycles.
- Mobility CarSharing cards.

### • Participation in environmentally friendly transport initiatives

## Our ambitions by 2016

- To increase our environmentally friendly commuting by 20%.

## Everyday action

- **Comfortable warmth**

Draw up recommendations regarding room temperature and heating.

- **Doing our bit for the environment**

Educate in conserving the environment through our daily actions, e.g. switching off electronic devices, sorting waste, encouraging cycling and walking.

- **Environmental ambassadors**

Form a team to promote the environmental initiative in the relevant departments.

## Our ambitions by 2016

- To consolidate public-spirited environmental practices by regular information.
- To achieve genuine commitment by staff to do their bit for the environment.

## For further information

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