

18 June 2018

### **A certified approach to clean and green at Waitemata DHB**

Environmentally-conscious staff are helping Waitemata DHB reduce its carbon footprint.

Recycling, sensible waste disposal and energy consumption are priorities for the DHB, which will officially become a CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme) certified organisation on Tuesday, 19 June.

The CEMARS programme operates in multiple countries – offering large organisations a formal framework to monitor, measure and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Waitemata staff have long been encouraged to do their bit and are frequently issued with handy tips to help the DHB in its continual efforts to be environmentally friendly and sustainable. Bin options in the cafeteria ensure staff recycle wherever possible, minimising the amount of waste going to landfill.

Energy conservation is another example and receives major consideration in peak seasonal periods when staff are encouraged to use heating and cooling devices wisely.

Similarly, staff are invited to explore alternate travel arrangement to and from work in a bid to reduce traffic congestion. A trial currently underway offers them the opportunity to hire leased vehicles within the DHB's pool fleet for after-hours use at a reduced rate – doing away with the need for them to bring their own cars to work.

Both hospitals are already Enviro-Mark Gold certified through Enviro Mark Solutions – giving them the same status as other organisations around the world who have also achieved certification for international best practice around environmental responsibility.

The DHB has set itself five environmental goals as part of the latest certification process to focus on:

- more sustainable procurement for disposable items
- greater energy management
- greater carbon management
- improved waste and water management
- designing the built environment with long term environmental health in mind.

“We know the choices we all make can have a huge effect on our environment, that is why it was key to both have concrete environmental goals, and to get our staff actively involved,” Waitemata DHB sustainability manager William Van Ausdal says.

The DHB will also set itself annual targets to help achieve its broader goals.

Priorities over the next year will be reduced medical gas emissions, more sustainable use of its vehicle fleet, waste minimisation services, and energy and water efficiency improvements. “The health sector has an important opportunity to play a leadership position in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change,” Mr van Ausdal says.

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Caption: Cameron Greg, staff café worker, is among Waitemata DHB's staff helping the organisation in its efforts to be environmentally friendly.

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