

OUR PLEDGE

To become more water efficient

Why does this matter?

As we develop the land around us, either for farming or building on, we affect the natural water cycle process and with an increasing population, we need to ensure we efficiently manage the way we use and recycle water so as to preserve water availability for future generations.

The UK Government's 25-year Environment Plan sets out environmental policies and aims, including the efficient use of water throughout society, such as reduction of water leaks by water companies and improving water efficiency by end users.

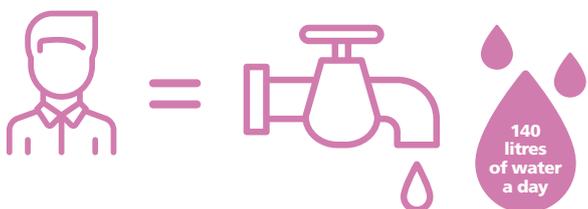
According to the NHS Long Term Plan:

Between 2010 and 2017 the health and care sector  reduced water consumption by **21%**

This is the equivalent to around:

243,000  Olympic swimming pools

However, there is still a long way to go in ensuring we operate water efficient buildings for the NHS, especially considering that on average, we each use 140 litres of water a day in England.



Where are we now?

Water efficiency has generally not been high on the agenda for organisations but it is increasingly becoming a priority due to risks from climate change and dwindling water supplies in some areas of the country. **NHS Property Services is no exception to this trend, with water efficiency being in its infancy in the organisation.** However, this is starting to change with the new Energy and Environment team.



Targeting water use

The first step in the journey has been to create an action plan for targeting water use effectively. Since 161 different bodies used to own and manage our properties before NHS Property Services was created in 2013, **we are currently undertaking the big task to understand who our suppliers are and how much we pay.** From this point, we can look to make changes to increase efficiencies across our estate.



Reusing water

Simultaneously, we are developing methods to **reuse water**, rather than it going into the sewerage system. This may be diverting rain water run off or using greywater for suitable activities.



Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs)

SUDs have been developed as a method to improve the natural soak away of surface rain water in urban areas where much of the natural soil has been replaced with hard surfaces.



To prevent excessive surface run-off of rainwater into busy drainage and sewerage systems, the SUDs will enable the rainwater to naturally soak into the soil and reduce the risk of flooding when drainage systems become overcome with the volume of water.

NHSPS Property Services has been working in partnership with **Business in the Community (BitC)** in the Manchester area to identify a

suitable site to develop a SUDs project, which will not only reduce the amount of run off water going to our drainage systems, but will also provide the community with a decorative planted area for the enjoyment of those in the area.

The first site selected was **Shaw Heath Health Centre, Stockport** and work has begun to dig up a concreted area, and install the SUDs with colourful displays of flowers and shrubs.



Once complete the scheme will be monitored for benefits and potentially deployed in other locations.

What is our goal?

Our goal is to ensure we are being metered and billed correctly, making sure we have accurate data so that in the coming years we can ensure we manage our water usage appropriately.



Ensure we have accurate data

How are we going to get there?

Once we have a better idea of who supplies our water we can look at understanding how, where and when we use it.

To do this we will:



Look to **consolidate the suppliers** across the estate to choose one or two that can provide the service, price and efficiency we expect.



Work with our supplier(s) to **develop water intensity metrics** and use these to target improvements.



Use metering (half hourly and/or automatic meter reading) to better understand water use across our estate.



Ensure we **utilise water efficient equipment**, such as dual flush WCs, low flow taps, automatic urinal control systems.



Ensure we **reduce the amount of waste water** that we pay for that goes to sewerage systems.



Investigate technologies that can reduce water use, such as water leak detection equipment.

We will also be **working alongside the Construction team** to guide their decision making for water efficiency, to match or exceed current standards.

At the same time we will be **increasing awareness through training** and providing information on what all of us can do to reduce water use in the buildings we work.



Guide decision making



Increasing awareness through training

Top Tips: How you can become more water efficient

1. Being aware of water use through your day, such as:
 - Making a cup of tea – do you need to keep the tap running?
 - Washing your hands – only turn the tap on when you wet and rinse your hands
 - Flushing the toilet – in general use the short flush (where available), and only use the long flush when necessary
2. Reporting leaks, dripping taps or low water efficiency equipment that could be upgraded, such as toilets with old, large cisterns (these can use between 10-13l of water in each flush, with modern cisterns using between 3-6l with each flush) or urinals with no automatic flush control.
3. Checking landscape watering is not excessive and only occurs when it is needed.