

Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden

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Skåne University Hospital (SUS), a HCWH member since 2005, is an example of best practice for sustainability. Located in Region Skåne, southern Sweden, it merges Lund and Malmö hospitals with around 12,500 staff, 1750 beds and 25 children born every day. Together they work energetically on environmental issues and in 2009 were awarded environmental certification in compliance with ISO standard 14001. They buy 100% renewable energy.

Smart building

The new circular building housing the *casualty and isolation departments* minimises the spread of infection. Patients enter the isolation ward via an airlocked corridor encircling the building. External lifts are for infectious patients and hospital waste – internal lifts for staff and supplies. Each floor can be subdivided into an isolation unit during an epidemic.



The “pieces of cake” wards and the central open space means both receive direct, natural light. The means inner rooms also receive natural light and the corridors receive indirect natural light through the glazed walls.

Case study: No more nitrous oxide!

Laughing gas (nitrous oxide), used to reduce pain during deliveries, is a greenhouse gas (GHG) around 320 times worse than CO₂ for global warming. A new technique by Nordic Gas Cleaning collects and destroys the gas. Region Skåne is the first council in Sweden to install destruction plants at all delivery wards and reduce the region’s GHG emissions by 6%.

Toxic Materials

Mercury has been completely eliminated from the hospital and sniffer dogs routinely check for any leftover traces. Region Skåne pioneers phasing out PVCs and phthalates from medical devices: all gloves are essentially free of phthalates, as are infusion, transfusion and enteral nutrition tubes.



Relevant links:

www.skane.se/templates/Page.aspx?id=282103

www.healthpromotinghospitals.org

www.miljo.skane.se/eng/start/english.htm

www.skane.se/Public/SUS_extern/Dokument/Om%20SUS/SUSbroschyr_eng100623.pdf

HCWH Europe: www.noharm.org/europe

Blog: <http://hcwheurope.wordpress.com/>

Waste

The Gynaecology clinic carried out a programme asking probing questions into clinic practices: ‘We throw this away after one use, is it the most efficient way to use this product?’ One striking example was where women were asked to undress before an examination, and then to wear a plastic skirt to walk between the changing room and examination room. The skirt was then thrown away after each use. There was a simple solution – carry out the examination in the same room where the women change, saving the need to dispose of hundreds of plastic skirts every week.

Transport

In 2008, the Orthopaedic Clinic carried out three-month project *Mimosa*. Staff were subsidised



to invest in healthier commuting habits. People bought walking boots, raincoats, bikes and train passes. Participants had a health check up and kept a daily diary. Some complained about getting wet on the ride to work and by the end starting cycling at weekends with their children. The project succeeded with positive health results and reduced environmental impact.

Another programme looked at the movement of goods around the site. As a result, deliveries and waste collection is now centralised. All goods are offloaded at one place and redistributed via a set underground tunnels running underneath the hospital. This means less traffic at the hospital, lower emissions and cleaner air.

Health Promoting Hospitals

SUS is a member of the WHO Health Promoting Hospitals network working on sustainable travel including a major study charting how staff travel to work.