



Energy efficiency: hospital transport

Making hospital transport eco-friendly

Narrator

Donau Klinikum is a small local hospital that serves the town of Tulln, just north of Vienna. It's green energy and environmental strategies have made it one of the first hospitals in Austria to be awarded ISO 14001 Certification.

Beatrix Moreno, Donau Klinikum (English subtitles)

As part of a government initiative we got involved in a project to reduce hospital transportation and waste. To start with the government gave us financial assistance and allocated a support company, ETA, to help us develop the policy.

Manfred Muehlberger, ETA Environmental Manager

We developed a survey to find out what the situation is here. And one issue of course was the delivery of goods and the shipping of goods to and from the hospital as a key area where we could take some measures.

Narrator

The survey revealed the importance of developing a supply side strategy to reduce the environmental impact of good vehicles.

Manfred Muehlberger

Then of course you need somebody to get in touch with the companies who deliver goods to the hospital, find out if they are also prepared to really support the strategy of the hospital. And of course as they want to make business, and they want to serve their customers as good as they can, most of them have been willing really to say 'Okay, we will support you. We will try to also coordinate our routes, planning and try to come to the hospital as less as possible'.

Beatrix Moreno

The delivery of medical supplies actually works really well and contracts have been concluded with our suppliers. On the basis of the orders received by the companies we have a single delivery on an agreed rota basis usually every 14 days and in bulk, so that the HGV does not turn up half full, but fully loaded, and it tries to cover all hospital departments in one trip.

Narrator

Linen also comes in by the lorry load. It's done by an eco friendly laundry, 40 kilometres away.

Once the clean linen has been unloaded, the empty truck is refilled with several days' worth of dirty bedding. Better coordination between the laundry and the hospital means that the van does fewer round trips each week.

Donau Klinikum prides itself on providing healthy food for its patients. The hospital supply side strategy has successfully reduced the environment impact of food deliveries. Fresh vegetables are locally grown as far as possible. They're delivered by a single supplier. Good refrigerated storage facilities mean that only three deliveries a week are required. One of the big successes of the hospitals supply side strategy is the electrically powered car they've bought to carry out local collections and deliveries. Each morning the driver's first job is to collect letters and parcels from the main Post Office. The hospital needs it's administrative mail at least an hour earlier than the post officer's own first delivery time. Although an extra journey is needed, using the electric car minimises adverse effects on the local environment.

But the hospital it also on one of the post office's local rounds. Collections of outgoing mail add very little distance to the postal worker's regular route.

In any hospital, it's essential to keep the pharmacy properly stocked. Scheduled deliveries are coordinated through a single local supplier.

But sometimes the medical staff may urgently need something that is out of stock, and has to be ordered from one of the pharmacies in town.

Once again it's a job for the electric car.

The car is also used to transport items to and from doctor's surgeries, located in different parts of the town.

One of the jobs the electric car can't do is cutting the grassed areas that surround the hospital. The solution to this energy problem is a flock of environmentally friendly sheep.

Waste recycling is an important feature of the hospital's wider environmental strategy. There are separate skips for different recyclable materials.

The skips used to be replaced on a fixed day of the week, whether they were full or not. Now, individual skips are collected only when they are completely full.

Donau Klinikum's supply side strategies rely on the success of the ongoing partnerships forged between suppliers and the hospital authorities.

Manfred Muehlberger

Information creating awareness is a very key issue in all the measures you take and what we did was together with the team here in the hospital, find appropriate measures to inform people and make them aware and through these measures motivate them to really contribute to these issues.