



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2014 – 2015



East Grampians Health Service (EGHS) has demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to a more sustainable environment. EGHS has a program of recycling appropriate waste, reducing energy consumption, reusing equipment and supplies and considering sustainability when purchasing these items.

Recognition of the link between the health and wellness of people and the health and wellness of the environment, is in keeping with the EGHS mission statement: *“EGHS will improve our community’s health and quality of life through strong partnerships and by responding to changing needs.”*

The five values of EGHS can be aligned to environment sustainability



Integrity- Reducing our environmental footprint



Excellence - Commitment to reducing, reusing and recycling



Community- Improving the health of the community through less carbon emissions and land fill waste



Working together – Within EGHS to reduce our carbon footprint by having CEO support, and developing policies to reflect environment management



Learning Culture- education for staff and customers on ways to achieve a sustainable environment at EGHS

The CEO and Management of EGHS recognise the importance of and are committed to sustainable environmental management by reducing landfill waste, reducing energy usage and promotion of energy efficient behaviours.



Integrity



Excellence



Community  
Focus



Working  
Together



Learning  
Culture

## About East Grampians Health Service

The core business of East Grampians Health Service (EGHS) is a rural health service with campuses located at Ararat and Willaura in Western Victoria.

EGHS offers a wide range of services including:

### **Inpatient/Acute Services**

The Inpatient Unit accommodates medical, surgical, paediatric, midwifery and palliative care patients in a 24 bed unit. As well there are 6 surgical day procedure beds and a six chair dialysis unit operates three days per week. EGHS continues to accept a wide range of surgical patients with the visiting surgeons operating five days a week. The Central Sterilising department services all areas of the health service as well as the local Medical Centre and East Wimmera Health Services.

As well Ararat campus offers 24 hour urgent care service and Oncology one day per week,

These are services that the public access for short term health care needs, for example, an operation or treatment of an acute illness that requires a short hospital stay.

### **Aged Care Residential Services**

EGHS provides quality care for older people who require aged care in spacious modern accommodation. Ararat campus offers 69 aged care beds and Willaura campus offers 12 aged care beds and 8 acute care beds. Other Aged Care Services offered are Day Centres at both campuses.

### **Community Services**

EGHS offers Primary Care Services, including Dental and Podiatry clinics, at the Community Centre.



## INITIATIVES AND IMPROVEMENTS

### Initiatives

Sustainability has been added to the staff hand book

Survey of staff awareness of the EGHS Environment Management Program, and addressing issues raised through the Health Service newsletter and at staff briefing sessions.

Introduction of biodegradable garbage bags across the health service

### Future Plans

Investigate possibility of composting kitchen/garden waste at the Willaura Campus

Develop education tools for staff information

Include environment initiatives in new buildings/renovations

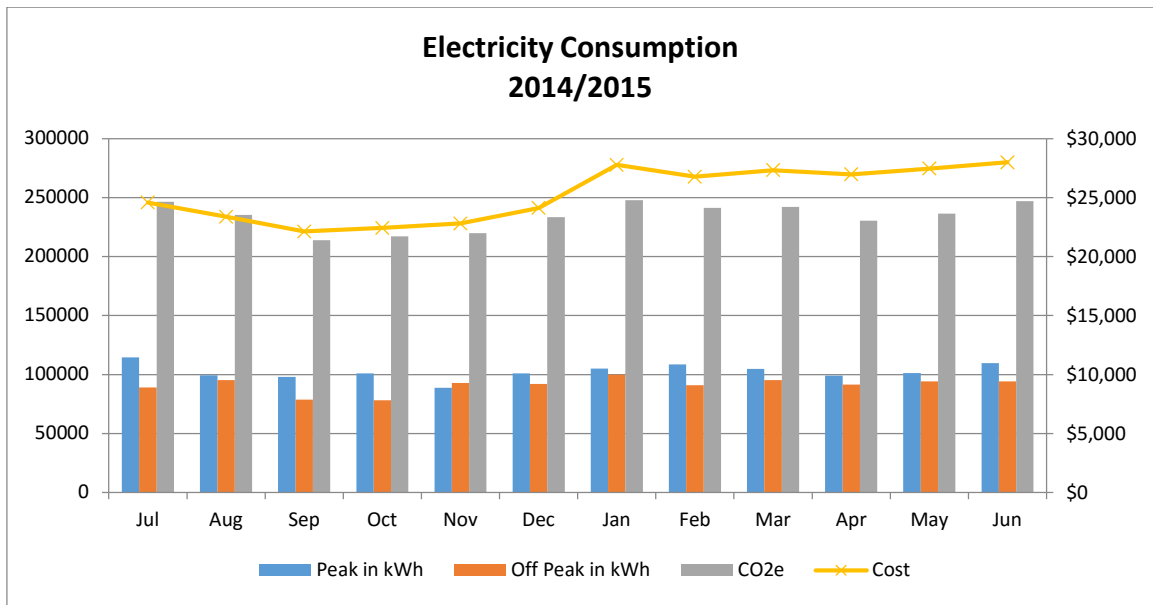
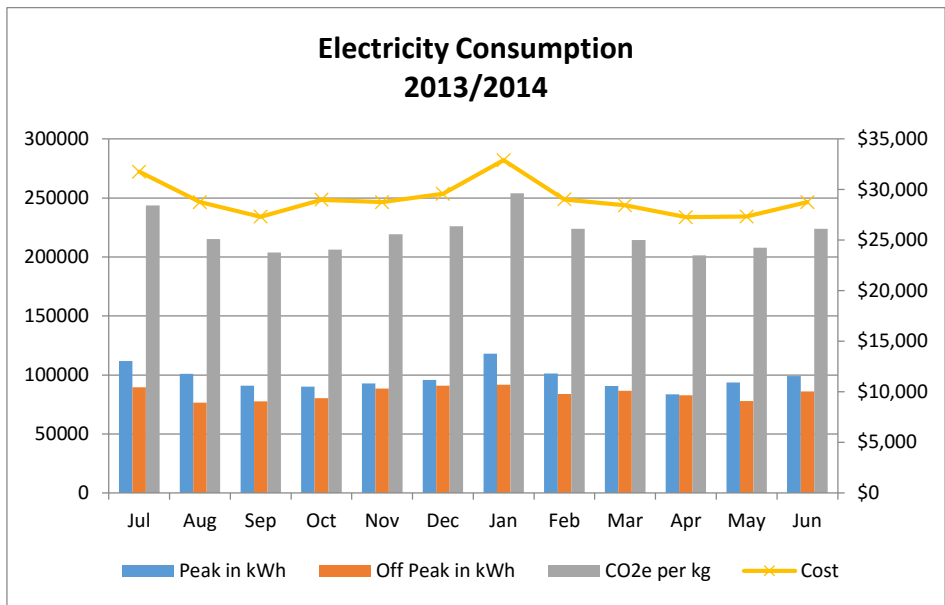
Project to replace all Styrofoam catering products

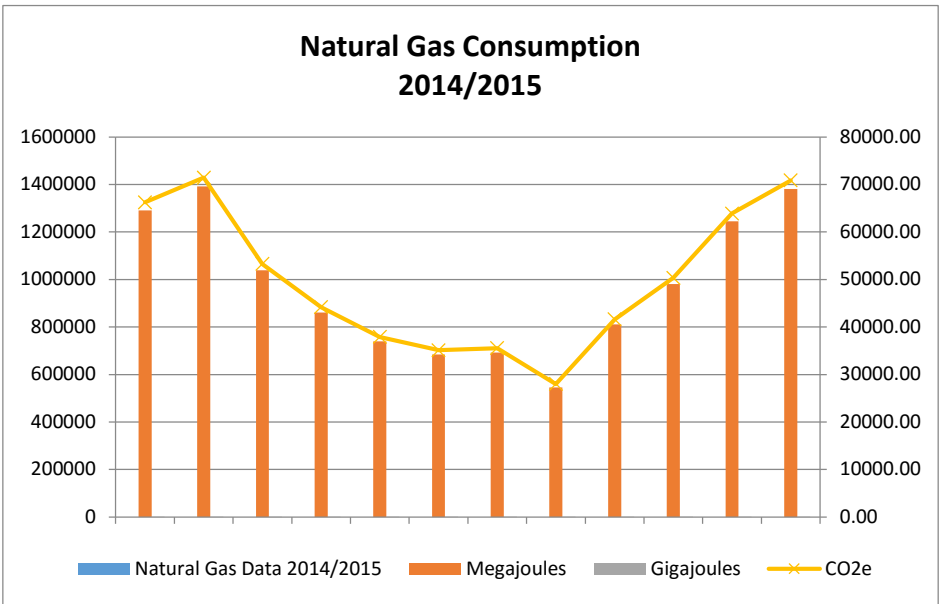
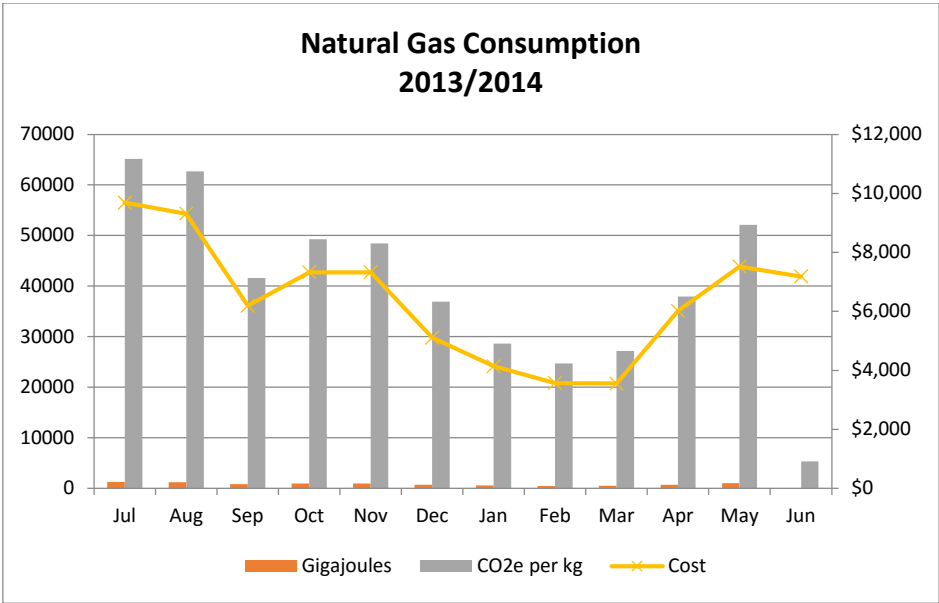
EGHS is working towards purchasing all items through Health Purchasing Victoria, which has sustainability on all their tender processes.

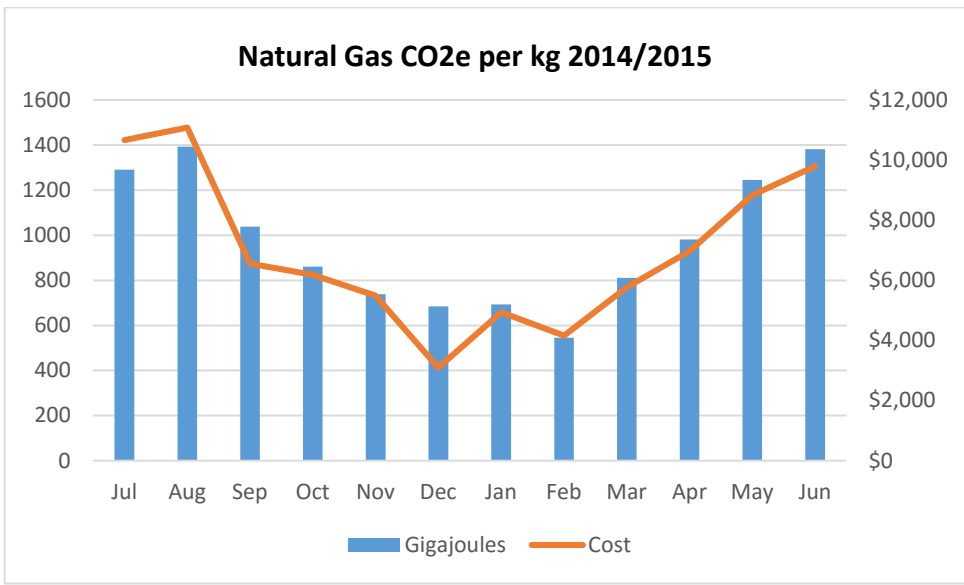
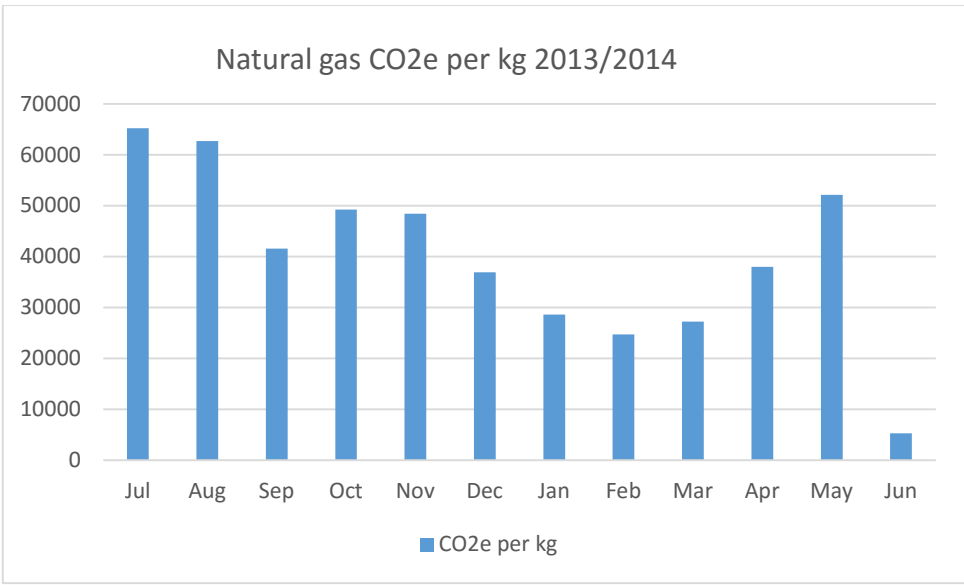
From February 2015, EGHS changed its waste management provider. This has had an impact in that the Clinical Waste is now invoiced by kilogram, making the assessment of our clinical waste more accurate.

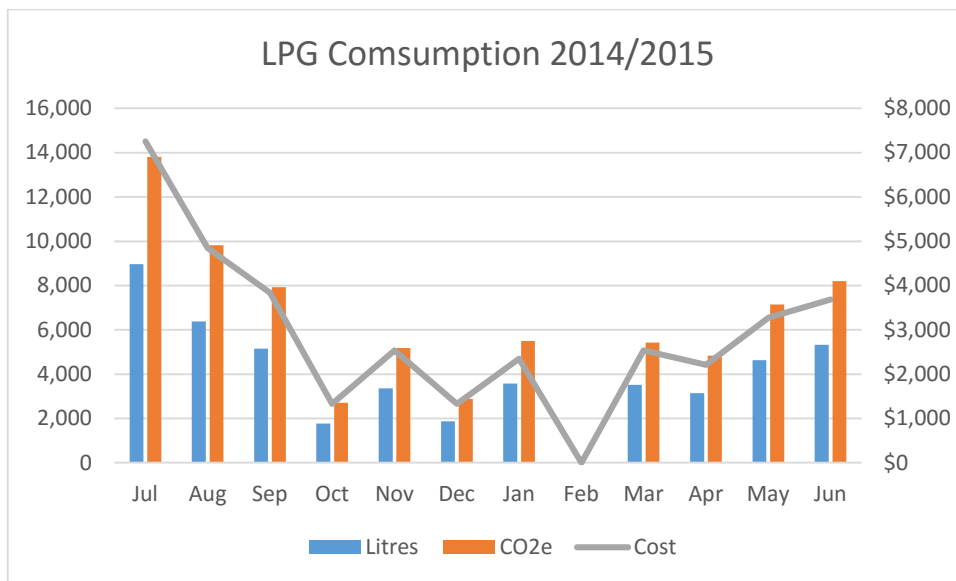
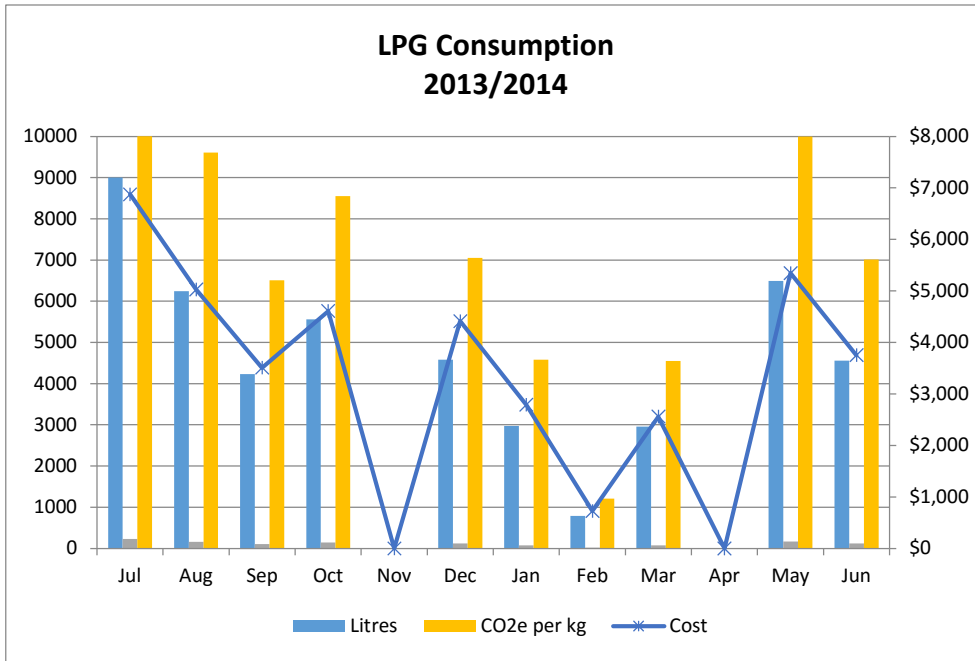
As well there has been education given to the Peri-operative Unit staff on clinical waste generated in the operating theatres. More waste is now able to be recycled or sent to landfill rather than being disposed of into clinical waste. There will be an audit conducted to ascertain if this has reduced the amount of clinical waste generated.

# ENERGY CONSUMPTION









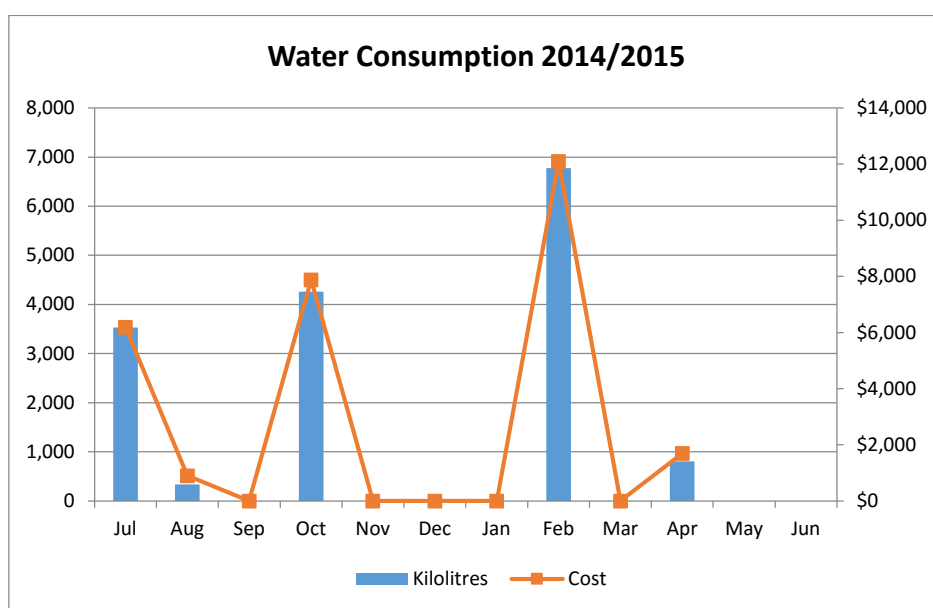
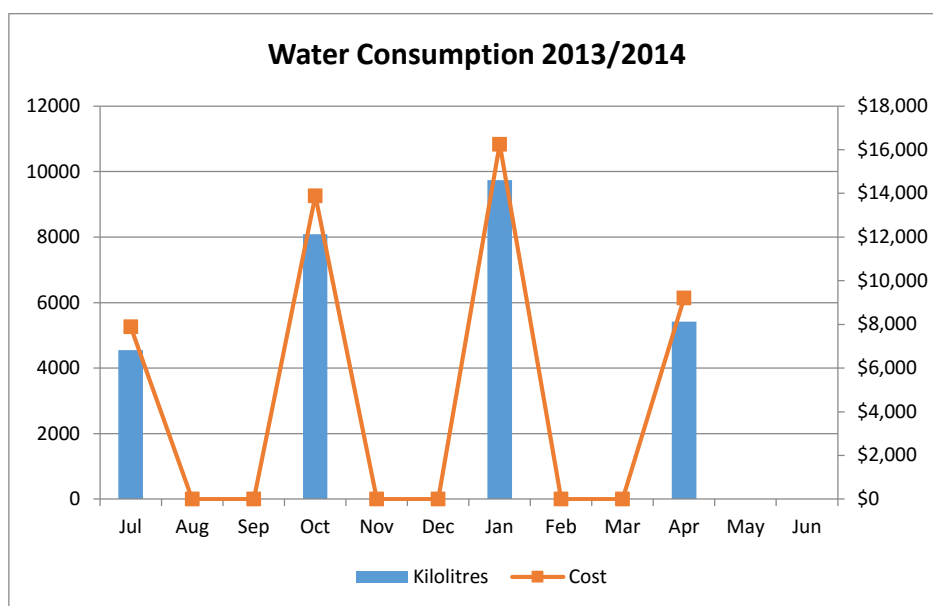
Total Energy Consumption by Energy type –Gigajoules (GJ)	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Electricity	7,373	7,162	7,652
Natural Gas and LPG	13,126	11,436	11,172.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,499</b>	<b>18,598</b>	<b>18,824.7</b>

Normalised Energy Consumption	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Energy per unit of floor space – (GJ)	2.2	2.0	2.0



## Greenhouse gas emissions

Total greenhouse gas emissions (kgs CO2e)	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Scope 1 (LPG and Gas consumption)	622	536	532
Scope 2 (Peak and off peak electricity)	2,436	3,332	3,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>3,584</b>



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Total water consumption kilolitres (kL)	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Potable water	17,002	27,805	18,604

Normalised water consumption	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Water per unit of floor space (Agency Floor Area 9126)	1.86 kilolitres	3.04 kilolitres	2.03 kilolitres

In the year 2013-2014 there were substantial water leaks discovered on three occasions, two at the Ararat Campus and one at the Willaura Campus, under buildings accounting for the increase in water consumption. These leaks have since been repaired and is reflected in the lower consumption.

The data entry for last year's report for water usage per unit of floor space was incorrect. It has been rectified in this report.

EGHS utilises rain water for car fleet washing and gardens. We do not measure this.

# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## Introduction

EGHS has four main waste streams – General Land fill, Regulated Clinical Waste, Regulated Confidential Waste and Recycling consisting of co- mingled glass, paper, cans and plastic as well as a separate cardboard collection.

Articles on waste management are published in the Health Service Newsletter and presented at Staff briefing sessions.

## Initiatives

Grampians Region Infection Control Group booklet on clinical waste for staff education has been distributed to all departments as well as Support Services staff. This booklet is part of a series aimed at infection control processes.

<http://www.grhc.org.au/infection-control/lyicb-booklets>

## Improvement

EGHS has had clinical waste assessed every two year since 2010. One of the issues of concern is the disposal of non- clinical waste into the clinical waste stream. This increases the cost to the health service as clinical waste I paid for by the kilo.

The table below shows the reduction from 6.32% of non-clinical waste (NCW) disposed of into the clinical waste (CW) system in 2010 to 4.6% in 2014.

	2010	2012	2014
NCW	6.32	5.45	4.60
CW	93.68	94.55	95.40



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Confidential waste is included in recycled waste as 98.7% of the end product is recycled.

Total Waste Generation by type (kgs)	2013-2014	2014-2015
Clinical waste	11,297	11,653
General waste	199,665	185,840
Recycled/ Confidential Waste	68,210	76,080
Percentage of recycle waste	32.3%	40.9%
Waste generated per floor area	30.6kgs	29.9kgs
Waste generated per level of service activity	3.3kgs	6.5kgs

Service activity 2013-2014: Acute medical, surgical and midwifery, residential aged care facilities, community health including dental and podiatry services and Pyrenees House education centre.

Service activity 2014-2015: Acute medical, surgical and midwifery, residential aged care facilities and Urgent Care Centre