

hospital futures

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have you started to publish your performance on energy consumption and green house gases?

in many towns in England, the hospital will be at the top of the 'gas guzzler' league for public buildings: open 24/7 and with energy and waste performances a long way behind current scandinavian standards, let alone future european targets.

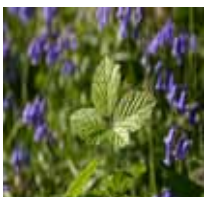
there are hard economic issues to be faced: HES records over 30 million outpatient visits to hospital per year - this will be only a portion of the total after other visits, deliveries, staff journeys are taken into account: at, say, 5 litres of fuel per visit + time at the minimum wage = a large sum - in all but name, citizen co-payments for healthcare

the geographical placing of health services is the first and most important ecological action and it determines the structure of the eco-solutions available: this isn't about putting some bike racks up and re-cycling printer cartridges: a large nhs hospital can have 18,000 vehicle movements per day on and off site as well as buildings with terrible energy consumption

we believe that future nhs investments will have to factor these social and environmental costs into their business cases - when this happens look out for serious problems with traditional nhs proposals

there is an exciting new agenda here which needs to combine hard analysis, future targets, the new possibilities for placing services and the emerging technics in building physics and waste disposal

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to meet future european carbon targets, the built environment will have to contribute about 50% of the improvement sought

do we really believe that the public sector investments can continue to avoid this issue?

this is not an estates issue it is a subject for careful strategic thought