

Green Healthcare

GOOD PRACTICES OF GREEN HEALTHCARE AROUND THE EU



Sustainable industry

CENTRAL DENMARK REGION AIMS FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN HOSPITALS

Central Denmark Region employs more than 30,000 people and have a huge consumption of resources, particularly in hospitals. Therefore, it decided to start a green transition, using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a road map to achieve a better use of resources smartly and reducing its carbon footprint.

The Central Denmark Region aims to reach the goals of the Danish government, of reducing emission of CO₂ by 70% by 2030. To reach this target several goals have been set, such as a more circular economy, with a 30% reduction in use of resources, 30% reduction in waste and 70% recycling of waste by 2030.

Currently the hospitals in Central Denmark Region have an annual carbon footprint equivalent to the consumption of 30,400 citizens. The hospitals produce 7,000 tons of waste annually but only 19% are recycled.

Good practice examples include the surgical wards at Viborg Regional Hospital, which aim to reduce general waste by 30% and risk waste by 25%. To monitor progression, the surgical wards weigh all waste bags with both general and risk waste. The Midt-Vask and Aarhus University Hospital in collaboration with two students from Aalborg University are developing a new initiative for the hospital laundry services, new sustainable bed covers. The cover contains no elastics and is faster to apply to the beds. Besides removing the elastics, the cover only consists of one material, LDPE plastic. Moreover, the bed cover is based on circular economy principles: products are made from recyclable materials reducing the demand for new plastic as well as the consumption and the carbon footprint. Aarhus University Hospital alone uses approximately 6 tons of disposable blue bed covers annually. With the new recyclable covers, waste disposal costs have been lowered, and the used covers generate an income because they can be recycled. It is estimated that the region in this way can lower the CO2 emission by 45%.

More information at the following [Link](#).

