Policy Applies to:
All Mercy Staff.
Allied and Credentialed Specialists, contractors and suppliers will be actively assisted in achieving compliance with this policy.

Related Legislation:

- Health and Safety at Work Act, 2015
- Resource Management Act 1991 Reprint 2019
- Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016
- Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017
- Building Act 2004
- Local Government Act 2002
- Health Act 1956 Reprint 2012
- Radiation Safety Act 2016
- Fire & Emergency Act 2017
- DCC 2GP District Plan (current on line)

Rationale:
Mercy Hospital is committed to taking an active role in caring for the environment by demonstrating continuous improvement in its environmental performance.

Objectives
1) To protect the environment and prevent environmental impacts (pollution) relating to its activities (including that created by its suppliers and clients resulting from Mercy’s activities), with a focus on and commitment to continual improvement;
2) To comply with all applicable NZ Health, Safety and Environmental legislation.

Definitions

*Pollution* includes all harmful discharges to land, air or water.

Implementation

To achieve our desired outcomes (Rationale/Intent) Mercy will:

- Systematically assess/reassess activities and their effects on the environment
- updating Mercy’s Environmental Impacts Register and its Legislative Compliance Register;
- Identify required actions needed to minimise or mitigate each effect;
- Set targets based on identified planned actions;
- Monitor progress against established targets.

Key environmental management goals include:

- Minimising waste by evaluating operational activities, ensuring they are efficient and effective;
- Minimising emissions through efficient design and use of discharging plant (boilers and generators), along with consideration of staff travel frequency, mode and purpose;
- Actively promoting recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers base;
- Being mindful of factors such as product lifecycle, supplier environmental policy and transport-related emissions when engaging in product selection and purchasing functions;
- Complying with all environmental legislation that relates to Mercy Hospital;
- Considering carbon absorption and biodiversity factors in the planning and maintenance of Mercy’s 4 hectare campus grounds.

Staff engagement is key to successful environmental management at Mercy. Facilitation of this may include (but is not limited to):

- Creation of a multi-departmental staff project team that:
  o Meets not less than five times per year;
  o Identifies and promotes the implementation of ‘green’ projects: projects to be prioritised based on the impact significance rating within the Mercy Environmental Impacts Register;
  o Reviews a bi-annual report on compliance with relevant legislation;
  o Provides bi-annual reports to the Quality and Risk Committee, feeding into Mercy’s Board and Committee structure.
- Inclusion of appropriate wording regarding ‘working in a way that protects the environment and prevents pollution’ in to relevant employment documentation when HR processes permit.
- Regular communication/information to all staff, credentialed specialists and contractors on environmental matters and Mercy’s achievements and aspirations/targets, through newsletter, staff meetings etc.
Evaluation:
- Evidence of staff project team meeting 5 times a year (or more)
- Evidence of bi-annual compliance reports with recommendations
- Evidence of communication to staff, credentialed specialists and contractors on environmental matters
- Evidence of annual review of Mercy activities and their effects on the environment

Associated Documents

External
- Enviromark Checklists
- Legislation as defined
- EQuIP NZ guide: Standard 3.2.3 ‘Waste and environmental management supports safe practice and a safe and sustainable environment’

Internal
- Environmental Impacts Register
- Legislation Compliance Register
- Health and Safety Policy
- Hazardous Substances Policy
- Hazard Management Policy
- Relevant Infection control policies
- Radiation Policy
- Cytotoxic Safe Handling and Disposal Policy
- Section 3 Recruitment, Selection and Appointment, Human Resources Policy Manual
- Organisational Risk/Hazard register
- Hazardous Substances Inventory
- Product Evaluation Process
- Radiation Policy
- Waste Management Policy
- Environmental Cleaning Policy