

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:
 - Meets not less than five times per year;
 - Identifies and promotes the implementation of 'green' projects: projects to be prioritised based on the impact significance rating within the Mercy Environmental Impacts Register;
 - Reviews a bi-annual report on compliance with relevant legislation;
 - 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