Project Update

Welcome to the June 2015 edition of the HE&WM newsletter, the newsletter of the EU-HCWM project. June marks the midway point in the project and it has been a busy month on two fronts. Firstly we have completed the Internal Evaluation of the new qualification framework and this will be the key milestone for the Interim Report to the Agency.

The Internal Evaluation has been completed following an extensive consultation process involving the partner member states professional networks and also where practicable at their informative workshops. The response has been excellent and we have put together a summer addition of the HE&WM which will be dedicated to the outputs of the internal evaluation process.

In this issue however we have turned the spotlight on some of the other outputs from the project which helped to better engage the key stakeholders, the healthcare waste managers. We have short reports from the informative workshops held in UK; Germany and Poland. We have a project update from the latest project co-ordination meeting in Barcelona and then we have an update on the website traffic at the project website.

We have also included in this months newsletter previews of the ISWA and the EUPH conferences taking place in Antwerp and Rome respectively in the Autumn.

Matachana provided a facility tour at their Barcelona factory during the project co-ordination meeting there in April.

In this issue:
- Project Co-ordination Meeting— Barcelona
- Project Web Site/LinkedIn/Knowledge Base
- Latest Industry News—Nappy Recycling
- EUHCWM Informative Workshops Update
- ISWA and EUPH Annual Conferences
- 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge
- Sustainable Healthcare Education
In December 2014 The Supreme Audit Office (NIK) in Poland published a detailed report about the medical waste disposal system in Poland.

The main conclusions are:
“The medical waste disposal system in Poland has many gaps. NIK points out that both the reliability of procedures and documentation in this field are extremely important. Any negligence leads to problems with monitoring hazardous waste. Long distance transport of waste poses significant risk: hospitals often choose the cheapest, not the nearest incineration plants, guided by the service price, without considering the safety of citizens and the environment”.


The Polish Educational Research Institute is organizing an international conference entitled “Qualifications for the labour market. Sectoral qualifications frameworks as new tools for managing competences” that will take place on 23 and 24 April 2015 in Warsaw, Poland. The Conference is aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences and ideas on the development and implementation of solutions to match qualifications with the needs of the labour market. The Conference will focus on the key issue of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks (the SQF) which are designed for the labour market and specific sectors of the economy. SQFs help link qualifications to specific work tasks, business processes and occupational profiles by improving and adapting educational programmes to the demands of the labour market.

The conference will cover such topics as:
- Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks: challenges in the process of their design and implementation,
- Other systems of qualifications management: case studies,
- Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks as a source of inspiration for non-formal education,
- Sectoral qualifications: the role of stakeholders and sectoral associations,
- Changes in work processes and the challenges for qualifications management,
- The role and functioning of Sector Skills Councils.

EUHCWM Professional Networks

It is the midway point in the project and the next phase of the project will have a significant focus on expanding the professional networks to member states beyond those of the partners.

In this regard the project will now rely heavily on the networking of its 3 multiplier organisations:

1. European Union Private Hospitals Association (EUPH)
2. International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)
3. NHS Confederation (NHS Confed) and the HOSPEEM network

At the moment we have established professional networks in each of our partner member states and these networks have contributed considerably to the development of the project outputs.

In this second period of the project the intention is to further develop those networks into member states where we do not have representation at the moment.

A significant platform for these efforts will be events held by our three multiplier partners in the autumn of 2015 and we are looking forward to an expansion of the networking system.

It is the hope of the project partners that this expansion of the networks will lead to a significant improvement in the understanding of the issues which may be barriers to the implementation of the overarching project objectives.

HCWM WEBSITE UPDATE JUNE 2015

The HCWM Project website has passed its first birthday and is continuing to see a strong increase in traffic. As shown in the chart here, we can see the steady increase over time from 176 unique visitors in January up to almost 400 in June. The newsletter section of the website has also proven popular since being launched with over 215 newsletter downloads since January.

The project team are continuing to add new content all the time to the website, with particular focus on expanding the HCWM knowledge base.

If you have any questions about the website, or suggestions for improvement, please contact info@hcwm.eu and we will get back to you as quickly as we can.

As always, if you have not already visited the website, please do so at: http://www.hcwm.eu.

EUHCWM Website Traffic

![Graph showing website traffic from January 2015 to June 2015](image-url)
In April 2015, nine leading health care institutions from across the globe pledged to take meaningful action on climate change, kicking off a worldwide campaign to mobilize hospitals and health systems to address one of humanity’s most pressing problems. The 2020 Challenge invites health care systems and hospitals to reduce their carbon footprint and protect public health from climate change in the run-up to a worldwide meeting of heads of state at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change this December in Paris, and beyond. The 2020 Challenge also marks the first international effort ever to track emissions and take measurable actions to reduce the sector’s carbon footprint. Participants include health systems from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the United States. The Challenge is based on three pillars:

2. Resilience – Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease.
3. Leadership – Educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change.

By signing the 2020 Pledge, your hospital; health care facility; health, academic or professional organizations, health system; will receive an automatic membership in GGHH. You can pledge your support at:

http://greenhospitals.net/en/about-challenge/

There is also a Comprehensive Environmental Health Agenda for Hospitals and Health Systems Around the World which is available at:


UK Informative Workshop in partnership with the NHS National Performance Advisory Group (NPAG) in Birmingham.

The UK Informative workshop was held in Birmingham on 7th May as a component of the quarterly meeting of the Waste Management Best Value Group of UK National Health Service, National Performance Advisory Group. The meeting was facilitated by the excellent Sue Berry and chaired by Dave Tucker.

The NPAG Network is a managed forum for colleagues to share information and best practice – saving time and money in not re-inventing the wheel. Developed by NPAG, recognizing the need for a forum for healthcare managers to ask questions, request assistance and information, share documents, and get professional and practical advice from their peers throughout the UK. Members of the NPAG’s national network of Benchmarking Clubs and Best Value Groups form the nucleus of the Network – providing over 600 contacts throughout the UK. The Network is available to members of NPAG Benchmarking and Best Value Groups, and individual ‘Associate’ membership subscribers.

The NPAG meeting was attended by around 30 NHS Trusts from across England and Wales. The waste management best value group This is one of our most successful and long-established national groups. Waste Management no longer carries the single burden of disposal. Managers are now resource directors, energy consultants and sustainability champions! The European Waste Framework Directive aims to create “recycling societies”, for which healthcare Waste Managers must exert local control in adhering to the revised Waste Hierarchy. How do we respond to these challenges?

NPAGs Waste Management Group offers members the opportunity to formulate their organisation’s strategy in the knowledge it conforms to a common viewpoint, built on the foundation of shared aims and in collaboration with National Agencies. It was an excellent partnership for the EUHCWM informative workshop and there was some excellent discussion, debate and feedback from the healthcare waste management professionals on the proposed qualification framework.
The ISWA 2015 congress comes at a time when many people are looking forward to the next step in the climate debate discussions. Climate, greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency have been headlining the (environmental) policy debate for many years now. The subsequent high-level global conferences have created a strong awareness amongst citizens and have instigated a sense of urgency to (re)act. At the same time, this has initiated the development of a range of clean technologies (solar panels, electric vehicles, wind turbines,...).

While this process is on-going we see a new upcoming theme on the horizon. The growing population will increasingly live in megacities. Additionally, on basis of the growing wealth in many parts of the world, a massive growth of consumption can be predicted. This growth will exert heavy pressure on the availability of space and on the price of raw materials. Several countries and regions have developed a notion of criticality or scarcity of materials. The clean technologies that we need to help solve the climate problem are largely based on these high-value elements (e.g. Indium, Palladium,..) that are produced in limited amounts and in a limited number of places. If the world wants to be able to further develop these products, we will need to change the way in which we manage our raw materials and better mobilise the material stocks in our society. There is ample scope for increasing the recycling of metals, minerals, plastics,... We need to move from a linear production model of mine-produce-use-dispose to a circular system, in which we make the most of our resources and waste. The waste sector can play a key role in this transition, as a key player in the collection, treatment, conversion and management of the materials that we all use and produce. From this perspective, the wave of climate action is a mere predecessor of a new wave of sustainable raw materials management. It is at this crossroads that ISWA2015 positions itself.

The congress reaches out to waste professionals, industrialists, policy makers at all levels from around the globe, researchers and entrepreneurs to consider and discuss their role in this upcoming transition. Where do we see niches of promising technologies, local initiatives, new business approaches, alternative policy measures that stimulate progress? How can global trade, shipment and treatment of waste complement the existing flows of raw materials and products? How do we deal with waste and materials in densely populated cities? What is the role of local authorities and world-wide organisations, NGOs, industry and research in the development of new tools and measures? What is the role of the consumer in this growing economy? And how can we come up with a world-wide balanced solution for the materials challenge?

We want to hear about your opinion, your approach, your plan in this context. We invite you to come and discuss with representatives from UNEP, the World Bank, OECD, the Clinton Foundation,... with Ministers and Mayors, with top level industrial people, professors and researchers. And we hope this event will motivate you to think further, to innovate, to
ET Log Health GmbH host Informative Workshop in Berlin

During the bi-annual meeting of the German “Arbeitskreis Krankenhausökologie” (Working group hospital ecology) the company ETLog presented the EUHCWM project and the results achieved so far. The participants discussed the need of an standardized training for Germany and within the broader EU.

Mr. Kühling from ETLog explained the planned training modules and differences in training needs among the EC countries. While several countries expressed a high need for trainings on the reception of infectious and the control of site operations for the treatment of infectious healthcare waste, this type of module is considered of low relevance for Germany as nearly all hospitals outsourced the waste treatment to service providers.

This was coupled with the fact that as waste generation rates are with less than 100 grams infectious waste per patient treatment day lowest in the EC. The meeting took place in Berlin – Königs Wusterhausen and was hosted by the hospital „Klinikum Dahme-Spreewald."

EUHCWM Project Co-ordination Meeting — Barcelona

Maria Passalacqua and Club EMAS hosted the recent, and excellent, project co-ordination meeting in the beautiful city of Barcelona. Maria had arranged a full programme of events including a visit to the factory of Matachana the local manufacturer of healthcare sterilisation equipment. Matachana are a global brand and a highly respected manufacturer and the factory visit was an excellent opportunity to see how there products are manufactured and to learn more about the history of this family company.

The events was well attended by the partners and was seen as the last chance to get round the table before finalising the outputs for the interim report. High on the agenda were the outputs to be delivered and obviously that brought about a good deal of discussion on the National Occupational Standards and the Vocational Qualification Units.

Themis Kasampalis from SIGMA gave an excellent presentation of the administrative and financial aspects of the project and this was well received and had the effect of focusing partners minds on delivery deadlines and the requirements of the Agency in this regard.

Scott Crossett presented an overview of project progress to date and was pleased to announce that the project was not only in line with the timelines agreed in the methodology but in some cases was progressing better than expected. The only note of disappointment was the news that the Albanian partner QKEV was withdrawing from the project due to unforeseen budgetary constraints and this has been an issues for all the partners as a consequence of the lack of pre financing. It was agreed to approach REC Albania as a replacement and Viktor Hristov from REC FYROM provided the contact details and the introductions to be followed up after the meeting.
The European Union of private hospitals (UEHP) will organize an international conference in Milan, at the San Raffaele Hospital, a clinical-research-University centre, on September 17th and 18th 2015, at the same time that EXPO 2015. UEHP counts 4000 Hospitals in 19 Countries and is accredited to the European Commission and member of the Health Policy Forum of DG Santé.

The main topic for UEHP conference is the “Modernization of healthcare system, which kind of investments for sustainable and efficient systems, accessible to European citizens.” This issue, in line with the general trends of the 3rd EU health program 2014-2020 and Europe 2020, is considered of the main importance both by the Member States and the European highest offices.

In fact, the growing awareness about the necessity of healthcare systems’ renewal allows approaching many items concerning citizens’ rights, patient safety, innovation, investments, financing of the services, quality improvement and professional training. By consequent, the event will bring together all major stakeholders, including representatives of the European institutions, patients’ organization, health professionals, managers, providers.

Actually, it is necessary to fulfill the fundamental aim of improving accessibility, quality, efficacy and sustainability, through the healthcare systems reforms, in order to be able to cope with the lack of human and financial means, due to the economic crisis, thanks to a better use of all the existing resources. Private hospitals sector in Europe can contribute to reach this aim offering its supply of professional and entrepreneurial competence, collaborating with the other organizations accredited at European level and members of the different Joint Actions of the EC.

At the beginning of the Congress at the Round table on Innovation and Technology, The Secretary General, Mr. Giordano will explain the Waste Management Project UEHP was part of, to all the audience and accredited journalists. UEHP will also distribute Brochures and posters at the Waste management stand at the exhibition area.

UEHP was proud to participate in the waste management project and opened to project partners visits its hospitals in order to collect the necessary data and check the different standards implemented on the collecting, transport and treating of hospital waste.

UEHP informed also all it’s national delegations, about the project during its recent European Council in Athens. Dr Garassus and Mr. Giordano held a specific seminary in order to explain the importance of this project for all the UEHP Hospitals present at the Council/

In 2015 UEHP target is to inform about this project, not only its own hospitals but all the European health professionals world. Indeed at the Milano Congress, Ministers, WHO, EC, and several stakeholders as Nurses, Doctors, Patients, Industries, will attend and discover the results of the project.
San Raffaele Hospital an Overview

San Raffaele Hospital is a clinical-research-university hospital established in 1971 to provide international-level specialized care for the most complex and difficult health conditions.

The hospital is a multi-specialty center with 49 clinical specialties and has over 1300 beds; it is accredited by the Italian National Health System to provide care to both public and private, national and international patients. In 2012 San Raffaele Hospital performed ~26,000 surgical interventions, ~45,000 patient admission, ~65,000 emergency room encounters and delivered over 7million healthcare services including outpatient appointments and diagnostic exams. It is widely regarded as the most celebrated hospital in the country and among the most reputable centers in Europe.

Research at San Raffaele Hospital focuses on integrating basic, translational and clinical research to provide the most advanced care to our patients. We count on over 1500 scientists, working in state-of-the-art facilities covering a surface of 130,000 square meters, and have produced over 1100 scientific publications in 2013. Research at OSR aims at understanding the mechanisms underlying a variety of important human diseases and at identifying new targets and new therapeutic strategies to treat them. The Institute is recognized as a global authority in molecular medicine and gene therapy, and is at the forefront of research in many other fields.

The San Raffaele Hospital hosts the Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, a fully private university with a complete Medical School (including specialty courses and residencies), Nursing School, a Psychology graduate and postgraduate program, and Allied Health Professions School. Since 2010 Ospedale SaRaffaele also hosts the International Medical Doctor Program, the only graduate program accredited to license Medical Doctors in both Europe and North America.

Modernization of Healthcare Systems: which kind of investments for sustainable and efficient systems accessible to European citizens

European health systems are challenged to respond to an ageing population, a shortage of health professionals, rising expectations of citizens, an increasing interest to link wellbeing and lifestyle to health and mobility of patients and health professionals. In this context, can Europe still afford its healthcare model? How can the need for cost-effective spending be reconciled with maintaining a high standard of care?

REGISTRATION: Please complete and return the entire registration form to: ACHELOIS Srl – Fax +39 02 2643 3754 – e-mail: congress@achelois.eu
On the 10th of June 2015 Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute (IEP-NRI) - Polish partner of the project organised informational workshop in Warsaw. The workshop was attended by over 60 participants: representatives of hospitals, sanitary-epidemiological stations, sanitary inspectorates, academia and enterprises.

During workshop presentations on the aims and objectives of the EU-HCWM project were presented:

General information on the project “Developing an EU Standardised Approach to Vocational Educational Training Awards in Healthcare Waste Management” EU-HCWM - Paweł Wowkonowicz, IEP-NRI

National Occupational Standards (NOS) for healthcare waste managers - Bartosz Malowaniec, IEP-NRI

Qualification pathways for healthcare waste managers - Anna Bojanowicz-Bablok, IEP-NRI

Moreover during the workshop presentation concerning healthcare waste management were presented:

Most important changes in the healthcare waste legislation - Anna Rolewicz-Kaliniska, Warsaw Technical University

Problems with healthcare waste management in healthcare institutions - Krzysztof Kanclerski, National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene (NIPH – NIH)

Good practices in waste management and environmental protection in healthcare providers - Paweł Głuszyński, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)

The Hospital Environment & Waste Manager

Issue 6 — September 2015

The next regular issue of the HEWM newsletter will feature the following:

EUHCWM - National Workshops in Review

Sharps Management — What is considered EU best practice?

Around the Block — Best Practice from the UK

Pharmaceutical Waste — Management in the Community

EUHCWM Partner Profiles - Club EMAS and

Industry News

Project Co-ordination Meeting in Skopje

Project Update— Professional Network Development

EUPH/Sinergie Conference

AJuly 2015

There will be a summer issue of the newsletter dedicated to the outcome of the outcome of the Internal Evaluation Report s conducted by partners in regard to the qualification framework.

Enjoy the summer and have a great holiday if you plan one. We will see you all back in September bright eyed and bushy tailed when there will only be ..... Shopping days left till Xmas.
Recycling diapers project:

THE LIFE CYCLE OF ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS, FROM CRADLE TO RECYCLING

RECALL - REcycling of Complex AHP waste through a first time application of patented treatment process and demonstration of sustainable business model (CIP Eco-innovation project RECALL - ECO/11/304440), led by FATER (the Italian producer of absorbent hygiene products labelled Pampers, Lines, Linidor, Dignity), focused on the recycling of post-consumer Absorbent Hygiene Products.

Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) is the category name for baby diapers, sanitary protection pads, tampons, adult incontinence products; personal care wipes, and represents nowadays one of the most challenging post-consumer wastes. Today the post-consumer AHP waste represents about 2% of Municipal Solid Waste. Currently, AHP waste is not recycled and belongs to “non-recyclable” municipal waste collection. It is typically disposed of via either landfill or incineration, thus causing loss of valuable material resources and high economic and societal costs.

As the EU moves towards its recycling targets, AHP waste has quickly risen to represent already up to 15-25% of the residual waste in some facilities. As a consequence, and due to its potential for contamination and infection, consumers and stakeholders alike perceive AHP waste management as a growing environmental sustainability issue that needs to be addressed in an integrated way. Public authorities are aware of this issue but due to the lack of large scale recycling facilities for such disposables and low quality recycled outputs, they remain unable to take actions to support the recycling of this waste stream.

The RECALL project offers an economic and environmental friendly solution to the AHP consumers, municipalities, operators in the field of waste management and recycling, AHP producers and last but not least to citizens, by realizing a first application of a recently proven new recycling process for post-consumer waste of AHP.

The first RECALL waste treatment plant (8,000 ton/yr) will be installed within the drop-off and recycling centre of the SME waste recycling company (Centro Riciclo Vedelago, CRV), located in Vedelago (Treviso), in the North-East of Italy. The main innovation aspects of the RECALL process can be summarized in the following: a) A new specifically designed steam autoclave process for AHP waste treatment; b) New direct AHP waste collection schemes with institutional channels (hospitals, nursing homes and kindergartens), citizens and retail organizations.

More information on: https://sites.google.com/a/fater.it/recall-en/
At the recent NPAG event in Birmingham I was talking to Luke Champion, Sustainability Manager, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, who mentioned to me about the excellent Anytakers scheme they operate at his NHS Trust.

AnyTakers is the newly created office furniture and assorted item re-use page which can be used by all 2gether NHS Foundation Trust staff. The initiative has been created in order to reduce waste disposal costs and the cost of procuring new items.

It can be used for items in good working order such as office furniture and electrical items.

Items are posted by 2G staff to a web based forum page. This site can be accessed by all 2G staff and photos can be added along with measurements of the items and other descriptions.

As we are a multi-site Trust, it can be problematic for staff to collect and move larger items such as desks. To cater for that, we utilise a local moving company which carries this out at a cost which is usually cheaper than procuring new items of furniture.

I have also ensured that all new furniture requisitions are first directed to me to see if we have anything second hand via AnyTakers which is suitable for re-use. This is another mechanism to reduce the amount of new items procured.

Furthermore, we also utilise a company which can repair damaged office furniture (e.g. swivel chairs) – often at a price which is also less than buying new.

I would encourage other NHS Trusts to use their own internal systems to raise awareness of such re-use schemes and to engage proactively with their purchasing departments.
Project

**BOHEALTH** project aimed to reduce the environmental impact associated to the health sector by facilitating the decision making process of the management through:

- Showing the environmental and economic impact of the different environmental aspects associated to the organization, considering their entire life cycle
- Identifying the “key performance indicators” (KEPIs) and “functional units” to monitor and control the environmental and economic aspects
- Identifying the Best Available Techniques (BATs) for the health sector
- Supporting the definition of “Sustainable Action Plans” to be applied to the health centre
- Allowing a clear and quantitative comparison between the initial and improved situation

**Actions**

- Definition of the most appropriated “Key Performance Indicators”
- Review of Best Available Technologies and Best Practices
- Tailored decision-making process for Healthcare centres
- Integrated web-based application to support the decision-making process
- Approach and web application implementation in two healthcare centres
- Definition and implementation of “Sustainable Action Plans”
- Monitoring of the project impact after Sustainable Action Plans Implementation
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project
- Communication and dissemination actions
The global community faces major environmental challenges that impact on the health of current and future generations, especially in those areas that are most economically and geographically vulnerable. We can safeguard health by using sustainable approaches that reduce the environmental impact of our actions. Medical education is central to a sustainable future for healthcare and in September 2011 the General Medical Council asked the Sustainable Healthcare Education (SHE) Network to make recommendations on the priority learning outcomes for sustainability, to inform the on-going development of undergraduate and postgraduate medical curricula. The consensus priority learning outcomes presented below were developed by the SHE Network and refined through a national consultation in 2012-13. In the consultation, draft learning outcomes were disseminated and structured feedback requested from all UK medical schools, Royal Colleges, post-graduate deaneries, and major medical organisations. Sixty-four organisations responded to the questionnaire online or by telephone. In a second phase, revised outcomes were further modified at a seminar attended by 33 educationalists from a diversity of backgrounds. A working group collated feedback into a substantially revised draft that was disseminated to all participants for final review. The resulting consensus learning outcomes were published in the Lancet in November 2014. Although sustainability requires some new curricular material, it is primarily a perspective through which to approach existing topics, such as health inequalities and medical leadership. The learning outcomes have been designed to promote critical thinking, and development of the skills necessary to respond to change and uncertainty.

These priority learning outcomes were developed by the SHE Network in response to a request from the General Medical Council (GMC) in 2011 and were refined through a national consultation in 2012-13. In the consultation, draft learning outcomes were disseminated and structured feedback requested from all UK medical schools, Royal Colleges, post-graduate deaneries, and major medical organisations. Sixty-four organisations responded to the questionnaire online or by telephone. In a second phase, revised outcomes were further modified at a seminar attended by 33 educationalists from a diversity of backgrounds. A working group collated feedback into a substantially revised draft that was disseminated to all participants for final review. The resulting consensus learning outcomes were published in the Lancet in November 2014. Whilst broadly following the structure of the GMC’s Tomorrow’s Doctors, they provide a template for both undergraduate and postgraduate training. Additional, expanded outcomes are provided to illustrate some of the more detailed knowledge and skills that could be covered within each of the three priority outcomes. Although sustainability requires some new curricular material, it is primarily a perspective through which to approach existing topics, such as health inequalities and medical leadership. The learning outcomes have been designed to promote critical thinking, and development of the skills necessary to respond to change and uncertainty. Applied, clinically relevant examples will be included in guidance for implementation and assessment, which is under development.

**Priority learning outcomes**

1. Describe how the environment and human health interact at different levels.

2. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to improve the environmental sustainability of health systems.

3. Discuss how the duty of a doctor to protect and promote health is shaped by the dependence of human health on the local and global environment.

**The Sustainable Healthcare Education Network**

The Sustainable Healthcare Education (SHE) Network is a group of clinicians, academics and students interested in preparing "tomorrow’s doctors" to work in a sustainable health system.

It is hosted jointly by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and the University of East Anglia, and has received funding from the Higher Education Academy.

For more information, please visit [http://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/sustainable-healthcare-education](http://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/sustainable-healthcare-education)
European Commission will present an ambitious circular economy strategy in late 2015

The Commission is aiming to present a new, more ambitious circular economy strategy late in 2015, to transform Europe into a more competitive resource-efficient economy, addressing a range of economic sectors, including waste. The proposal will be fully aligned with the priorities of the new Commission. The Commission is engaged in a thorough reflection on how the objective of circular economy can be reached in an efficient way that is fully compatible with the jobs and growth agenda. The new strategy will include a new legislative proposal on waste targets, taking into account the input already given to us during public consultations, and by Council and in Parliament, in particular the comments made by many that the previous proposals needed to be more country-specific.

See more at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

Bacteria May Be Remaking Drugs in Sewage — Microbes that clean water may also be piecing some pharmaceuticals back together

Wastewater treatment plants not only struggle removing pharmaceuticals, it seems some drugs actually increase after treatment. When researchers tested wastewater before and after treatment at a Milwaukee-area treatment plant, they found that two drugs—the anti-epileptic carbamazepine and antibiotic ofloxacin—came out at higher concentrations than they went in. The study suggests the microbes that clean our water may also piece some pharmaceuticals back together.


UK Carbon Trust Award — Addenbrooke’s is top for waste management

When it comes to waste management, Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) has come out top. The Carbon Trust awarded CUH a score of 89 per cent for its waste management, higher than any other NHS Foundation Trust. That score is measured against organisations from around the world who have signed up for the Carbon Trust certificate – from governments, councils, universities, to supermarkets and other businesses. Each day the 140-acre site produces about 11 tonnes of waste - more than 4,000 tonnes a year

Read more: http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Addenbrooke-8217-s-waste-management/story-26478951-detail/story.html#ixzz3faSbf55