



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY SETS ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMPLE**

Inevitably a large organisation like the Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) impacts on the environment. The GHA has now therefore formally adopted an environmental policy, which had been prepared by its Environmental Task Group (ETG). The ETG is made up of members from a cross section of GHA departments. The regular meetings are chaired by Dr Alex Menez with Ms Xenia Duarte as Secretary.

The aim of the ETG is to work towards reducing the organisation's environmental impacts. The Group believe this can be achieved through education programmes and also by facilitating sustainable practices through the introduction of defined systems which enable easy participation.

The group is building on a good foundation. Over the years progress has been made within the GHA with schemes being implemented throughout the organisation. The IT department has been offering an ink cartridge recycling service for some time and Estates and Clinical Engineering have been particularly involved introducing numerous ingenious energy saving measures.

The group sees a lot of potential for progress within the GHA. It has been successful in implementing duplex (double-sided) printing throughout the organisation and at present we are carrying out an energy conservation poster campaign to raise awareness. In addition to this, the group drafted the Environmental Policy, which was approved by the GHA Executive and the GHA Board and has now been implemented. This has been coupled with a series of presentations within the GHA and to Government Departments and agencies in order to raise the profile. Xenia Duarte commented, "As a result of this raised profile, membership is expanding and we feel the work of the group is now beginning to build momentum."

The Government is very environmentally aware and keen to raise its green credentials and as a result, a great deal of support has been received by the group. Since the change of Government the group has been working very closely with the Department of Environment and has two representatives as members which has improved efficiency and given it a push forwards in the right direction.

The group wants to continue riding this wave of progress and is very keen to work and engage with other groups within Government and beyond which have similar aims, in order to continue to improve the environmental stewardship of the GHA and beyond to Gibraltar as a whole.