

DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL TO CUT ENERGY BILLS

DORSET County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is to save £52,000 a year on electricity bills and reduce carbon emissions by an average of 10 per cent.

The Dorchester hospital will be one of the first in the UK to install voltage power optimisation (VPO) units. This clever technology will allow the hospital's energy supply to be micro-managed at source achieving significant energy and carbon savings as well as improving power quality and increasing security of supply.

Installing VPO will:

- Reduce energy use and costs by up to 20 per cent by optimising the electricity supply voltage.
- Reduce carbon emissions by up to 20 per cent (average of 10 per cent).
- Protect electrical and electronic equipment from voltage transients and short-term power surges.
- Reduce maintenance costs on motors, lighting and other electrical equipment.
- Improve power quality, further improving the operating efficiency of electrical equipment.
- Reduce the operating temperature of motors and lighting.

Keith Butler, Head of Estates at Dorset County Hospital, said: 'The units will help Dorset County Hospital meet the Government's target of reducing carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050. We anticipate that the technology will reduce kWh consumption and carbon emissions by an average of 10 per cent over the next 30 to 50 years. Put simply, this shows Dorset County Hospital leading the way in reducing electricity consumption, carbon emissions and cost, making a positive step towards the NHS 2050 target.'

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The total cost of the project is £242,193 and the three VPO units should be up and running by early summer.

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