Aga Khan Health Services

Kenya: Aga Khan Hospital Kisumu minimising kitchen waste

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Endeavoring to reduce its environmental impact and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, the Aga Khan Hospital Kisumu (AKH-Kisumu), with a capacity of 123 beds, started new initiatives in 2019. Waste was one of the many areas targeted.

Efforts began with reducing kitchen waste through phasing out soda drinks in favour of homemade fruit juices, and adjustments to the menu and portions.

After successes in these areas, efforts shifted to food leftovers and green waste from peelings and vegetables. A composting scheme for green waste began and the resulting compost has been used in the gardens and surrounding areas to increase tree cover. Leftover food was used for domestic animal feed. These measures reduced approximately 3.2 tons of waste annually as well as some waste incineration which collectively was estimated to equate to around 2.9 tCO2e. The hospital no longer needs to buy manure for gardening, pays less for contracting out waste (which would have included incineration) and reduces carbon emissions resulting from incinerated waste.

Carbon emissions were calculated using the AKDN carbon management tool.





Composting in AKH-Kisumu's backyard and tree planting in AKH-Kisumu's parking lot using generated manure, June 2023.

Furthermore, following a review of agencies handling waste, AKH-Kisumu opted to contract a company that demonstrated commendable best practices which exceeded the compliance certificates from the National Environment Management Authority. The company has a high-standard incinerator which results in lower air pollution and recycles incinerator generated sludge and ash to make bricks for construction.