

AN INSIGHT REPORT FROM BRITA VIVREAU

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# INVISIBLE WASTE

HELPING HEALTHCARE  
OPERATORS CUT ENERGY  
OVERCONSUMPTION

 BRITA

# IN THE GRIP OF AN ENERGY CRISIS

With an energy crisis currently holding the country in its clutches, it's no surprise that **92% of decision makers are concerned about rising energy costs** – and healthcare providers are under increasing financial pressure to address the situation where they can.

**Alongside these energy concerns, healthcare organisations are continuing to recover from the pandemic. Healthcare providers are enduring major staffing issues, rising costs and a strained workforce, and some are dealing with burnout and stress.**

Within this context, healthcare providers can't ignore the impact of waste. It's not only the images of overflowing landfills that first spring to mind, but also the invisible waste that we never see, including the volume of energy consumed needlessly.

At BRITA VIVREAU we believe it's essential to work together to tackle invisible waste, by supporting the healthcare sector in addressing mounting energy costs and boosting sustainability efforts. This toolkit will arm healthcare businesses with tools and tips from leading sustainability experts on the simple, energy-efficient steps you can take to contribute to real change.

# SEEKING SUSTAINABILITY

OPERATING A SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO MANY DECISION MAKERS AND OUR RESEARCH SHOWS THAT MOST ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

**72%** have goals and targets in place to **lower energy usage** and **decrease overall environmental impact**

**86%** believe their business could be **doing more to lower its impact**

**66%** of businesses will be actively trying to **reduce energy usage over the next five years**

**40%** want to train teams in **sustainable practices** in the workplace



**“Businesses increasingly recognise that they need to demonstrate a coherent response to the climate crisis. Customers often demand action where change is visible like reducing single-use plastic and installing electric car charging points, even if these don’t deliver the biggest impact. Yet it’s essential to prioritise action based on where the biggest opportunities lie, even if this may be hidden, such as improving energy efficiency.”**

**Simon Heppner**  
 Founder of Net Zero Now

**“We all have our individual part to play in protecting the planet in our daily lives, and if decision makers and the healthcare staff who support them are making sustainable efforts at home, why wouldn’t we live by the same values in the workplace? Corporate social responsibility is just as important as individual responsibility.”**

**Neel Radia**  
 Healthcare Catering Consultant



# WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Against a backdrop of rising energy prices and consumer sustainability demands, healthcare providers are increasingly looking for ways to do all they can even in difficult circumstances and with other challenging priorities.

For wider sustainability projects, partnering with a reliable partner can help to share the load. But to get going you can start with small but significant contributions such as considering what equipment you can turn off or choosing equipment with energy-saving settings such as night modes.

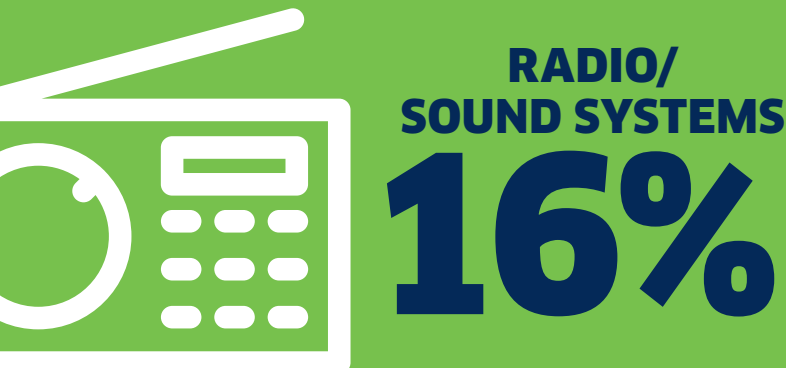
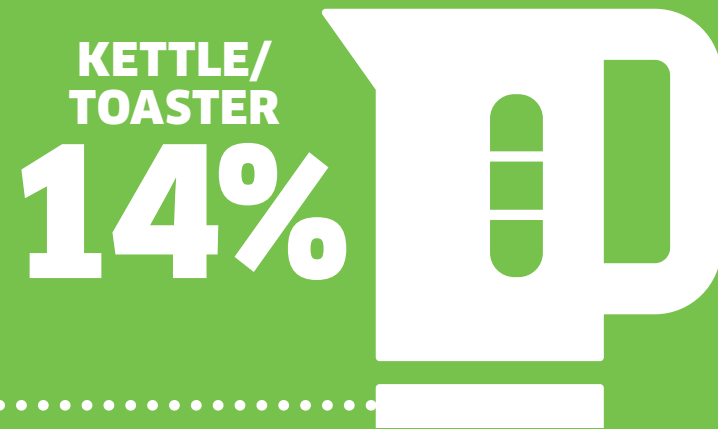
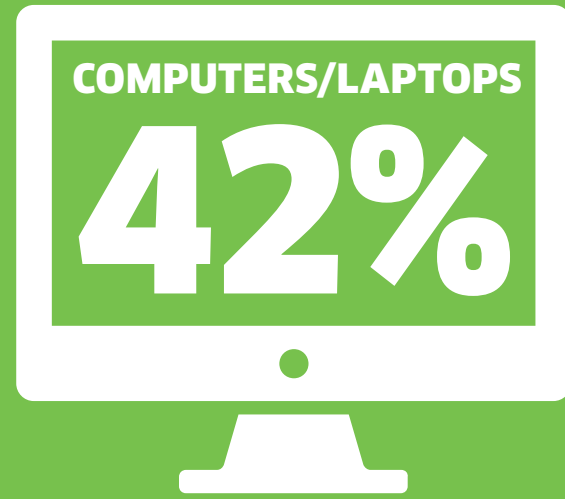
WHILE THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR AS A WHOLE IS TUNED INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY, CHANGES AREN'T WITHOUT THEIR CHALLENGES PARTICULARLY FOR AN INDUSTRY WHERE CARE OF ITS RESIDENTS AND PATIENTS MUST BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS. OUR RESEARCH HAS SHOWN DECISION MAKERS IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR ARE EXPERIENCING A NUMBER OF BARRIERS IN IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES INCLUDING:



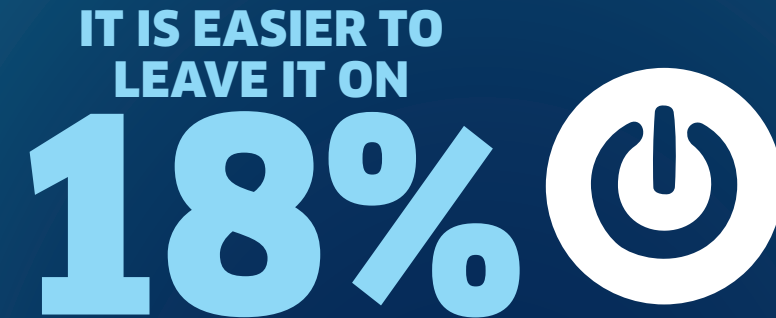
# WE NEED TO START SWITCHING OFF

You can begin at the flick of a switch. In fact, we've found that **nearly half (45%) of decision makers leave their equipment in the workplace on overnight, but 65% do not know how much energy their equipment uses during this time.**

**SOME COMMON PIECES OF EQUIPMENT THAT GET LEFT ON OVERNIGHT IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS, AND COULD BE SWITCHED OFF, INCLUDE:**



**OF COURSE, MOST HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS ARE 24/7 OPERATIONS SO MUST KEEP SOME EQUIPMENT ON OVERNIGHT, BUT FOR MANY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS THE REASONS AREN'T ALWAYS ESSENTIAL, INCLUDING:**



Neel Radia, Healthcare Catering Consultant comments: **“Operators should conduct an audit to see which practices are in place to ensure the safety of their residents and which are a result of ‘that’s how it’s always been done’. For example, it’s likely there is TV in nearly every room, but do they all need to be on standby overnight?”**



# TOP TIPS FOR WHEN YOU CAN'T SWITCH OFF

We know that switching off isn't always possible for many pieces of equipment in healthcare environments and so we've partnered with leading sustainability experts to explore additional options...

## EXPLORE INNOVATIONS

"For those pieces of equipment you can't turn off, keep an eye on innovative alternatives. Ones that have energy-efficient qualities or settings such as night mode, or multitasking machines that can do three jobs in one, meaning you can reduce the volume of equipment in your organisation."

**Neel Radia**  
Healthcare Catering  
Consultant

## TRAINING

"If your staff aren't properly trained on how to use equipment efficiently, then no matter the energy-saving qualities, you won't be able to reap the full benefits. Consider how you can effectively train staff of all levels to ensure an impactful, collaborative effort."

**Neel Radia**  
Healthcare Catering  
Consultant

## PARTNERSHIPS

"Think about who you can partner with to help reduce financial, manpower or expertise-related strains. This guidance doesn't need to cost the earth, but it can make a real difference to the success of energy-cutting efforts in an industry squeezed for time and resource."

**Neel Radia**  
Healthcare Catering  
Consultant

## VALIDATE YOUR USAGE

"What you pay on your energy bill may not be your actual consumption. So, making sure you track your own energy usage through a smart meter can help you to query any overcharging. It can also help you to better measure total usage and formulate energy-saving objectives without having to rely on your provider."

Simon Heppner  
Net Zero Now

## SYSTEMATISE

"You can break this down further by measuring energy usage through submeters to build a bigger picture of where and when energy is being used and help you to focus on areas where big savings are up for grabs, as well as monitoring how efforts are performing over time."

Simon Heppner  
Net Zero Now

Our research shows that when buying equipment **84%** of decision makers look for high energy efficiency ratings and **94%** say sustainability is an important aspect, but what exactly should you be looking for?

# MAKE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT CHOICES WITH **BRITA VIVREAU**

**Here Chris Dagenais, General Manager at BRITA VIVREAU UK, shares his top tips and insight into how BRITA can help:**

- ✓ **For appliances that can't be switched off or go into standby, consider reducing how many of these machines you need**
- ✓ **Look for product settings that can give you a helping hand, such as BRITA VIVREAU's night mode within its Extra C-Tap water dispenser**
- ✓ **Train your team on how to properly look after equipment and stick to regular preventative maintenance schedules, or find a partner that offers this as a service such as BRITA's Managed Services**
- ✓ **Consider equipment that traditionally over-consumes electricity, such as water coolers and drinks fridges, and look into what environmentally friendly alternatives are now on the market**
- ✓ **Utilise equipment that can help reduce single-use plastics, such as using a BRITA VIVREAU water dispenser instead of bottled water**
- ✓ **Make these changes in spaces that are regularly visited by key stakeholders, such as installing a water dispenser in communal areas. This visibility can help to secure buy-in for bigger sustainability projects down the line**

Following this energy-saving advice can set you off on a great path. But to create an even greater impact consider collaborating with suppliers who prioritise your sustainability goals. Your business deserves to be fully supported, and we all owe it to the planet to work together on this shared mission.



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At BRITA VIVREAU we are committed to supporting our customers' sustainability efforts and helping them to thrive even in challenging climates.

Get in touch to ensure your equipment isn't an energy drain and discover more ways we can support your business on its journey towards improved sustainability.

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**Visit our website for more information**  
**[brita.co.uk/invisible-waste-healthcare](http://brita.co.uk/invisible-waste-healthcare)**

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