

Climate change

The Sustainability Committee considers the impact of climate change on current and future operations, monitors environmental performance, sets environmental targets and reviews compliance with applicable environmental legislation and the CDP.

We have committed to the Science-based Target Initiative (SBTi) in line with the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The SBTi aims to reduce emissions to a level that will limit the global mean temperature increase to no more than 2°C.

We have developed an emissions target in support of this commitment, which we will review in 2023 with the aim of adjusting it to below 2°C and, if possible, set a 1.5°C limit.

2019 performance

Energy

- Electricity expense was R343 million (2018: R306 million). Achieved year-on-year electricity cost savings of R14 million, exceeding our target of R6 million for monitored facilities. Without the efficiency projects implemented since 2013, our electricity cost would have amounted to R430 million.
- The PV installations generated 12 GWh of renewable energy, contributing more than R17 million to the electricity saving.
- Diesel usage increased by 129% as a result of the electricity outages experienced.
- Secured our supply of diesel as a confirmed priority client. We are also working with the supplier to implement a streamlined ordering process that can be monitored and controlled centrally.

Water

- Water expense increased by 28% and consumption by 3%, the biggest contributor being the full year of reporting for Akeso Clinics, which was only reported for six months in the prior year.

Waste

- The cost of healthcare risk waste increased 4% and all other waste streams by 28%.
- Two waste-related proof of concept initiatives are in execution stage – one being the treatment of healthcare risk waste on-site and the second a zero waste to landfill concept for waste outside the healthcare risk waste streams. The results of these pilot projects are expected early in the 2020 calendar year.

Sustainability programme

- Achieved year-on-year savings of R33 million through efficiency projects, tariff and billing corrections and other initiatives.