



Environmental sustainability round-up

November 2020



This round-up provides a brief update on the latest developments in environmental sustainability both within the NHS and the wider finance profession.

HFMA's recent outputs

- [Delivering a net zero carbon NHS](#)
- [NHS sustainability in a changing world](#)
- [NHS environmental sustainability – tackling the health climate emergency](#)
- [Green lessons to take forward after Covid-19](#)

In the news...

Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund

Salix Finance Ltd provides government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills. They are responsible for delivering the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund which is a £1 billion fund that is available to the public sector via grants to finance up to 100% of the costs of capital energy saving projects that meet the specified criteria. The scheme encourages green investment, supporting the government and NHS's net zero goals. For more information, application dates and a list of eligible bodies visit the [Salix Finance website](#) or [email](#) them with any queries.

Delivering a 'net zero' National Health Service

The Sustainability Development Unit (SDU) released the [*Delivering a net zero NHS*](#) report on 1 October 2020. It covers two types of carbon footprint: firstly, a carbon footprint that is directly influenced by the NHS and secondly, the broader carbon footprint which includes the supply chain. The report is a high-level strategic overview, and it explores the areas in which action needs to be taken to reduce carbon intake across the NHS. These areas include:

- heating and lighting
- medicines
- hospitals
- research and innovation
- transport and travel.

Guidance for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

The World Health Organisation (WHO) published a [report](#) on 12 October 2020 which provides guidance on how to best optimise resources and minimise waste in the healthcare sector. It also discusses the challenges and increased health risks as a result of climate change. The report provides suggested interventions, including waste management, sustainable energy and procurement.

Websites to visit

- [Air pollution calculator](#)
- [Centre for sustainable healthcare](#)
- [Sustainable Development Unit](#)
- [Accounting for Sustainability](#)
- [The Earthshot Prize](#)

The Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) Summit

A4S is providing two weeks of virtual events which will feature finance leaders and environmentalists discussing the biggest issues on the sustainability agenda. For more information visit the [A4S website](#).

Been attending more Teams meetings than ever before?

Due to Covid-19 there has been a clear reduction in travel to meetings. One positive impact from this is the reduction in your carbon footprint. Find out how much CO₂ you have saved by visiting the [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#).

Climate thematic

The Financial Reporting Council recently released a report examining the effects of climate change in the finance world. The report includes sub-reports on five key areas:

- *Governance – how are boards taking account of climate-related challenges?*
- *Audit – how are auditors taking account of climate-related challenges?*
- *Reporting – how are companies developing their reporting on climate-related challenges?*
- *Professional oversight – how are professional bodies and audit regulators taking account of climate change in their regulatory responsibilities?*
- *Investors – what do investors want to see?*

The report concludes that each of the areas above have an important role to play and can drive change. The report also reflects that organisations need the full support of the board and it is imperative to implement a sustainability plan and report against the task force on [climate-related financial disclosures](#). While this report is not directly aimed at NHS organisations, it is worth the read if you are responsible for any of the above areas or are looking for board level support for your green plan.

Want to help your NHS organisation but not sure where to start? Get in touch about the green mentor scheme!

Raising awareness about environmental sustainability in the NHS can sometimes feel like an uphill struggle. Do you sometimes feel you could do with a helping hand or a point in the right direction? Many people in this position rely on a like-minded board member or senior clinician, but who can you turn to if there is no-one like this in your organisation?

If this feels like you, then please get in touch with us here at HFMA. Our Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group includes numerous current and former senior finance professionals who have the appropriate experience, networks and enthusiasm to help guide you. To find out more please contact charley.spicer@hfma.org.uk.

The Earthshot Prize

Nominations are now open for the recently launched *Earthshot Prize*. There are £1m awards for the best innovative projects that could help save the planet. These include:

- protecting and restoring nature
- cleaning the air
- reviving oceans
- building a waste free world
- fixing our climate.

This award is open to everyone, including schools, governments, charities and businesses (to name a few). For more information visit their [website](#) and good luck!

Things to read

- [Delivering a net zero National Health Service](#)
- [Climatic thematic](#)
- [IFRS – sustainability reporting](#)
- [How the NHS can use anchor strategies to build a healthy and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery](#)
- [NHS sustainability impact report 2020](#)
- [Task force on climate-related financial disclosures, 2020 status report](#)
- [All consuming: building a healthier food system for people and planet](#)
- [Sustainability 1: can nurses reduce the environmental impact of healthcare?](#)
- [Nicky Philpott: Ending the NHS's contribution to the climate emergency](#)
- [NHS seeks to neutralise its carbon footprint by 2040](#)

Upcoming events

- [CleanMed Europe conference](#): 23 November - 3 December
- [The HFMA annual conference](#): 30 November -11 December
The conference includes a session on *What does the future hold for the environment post Covid-19?* Ed Gillespie, environmental entrepreneur and author focusing on sustainability and innovation. This session will take place on Thursday 10 December at 16:30.
- [The A4S Summit](#): 30 November - 11 December

This briefing was written by Charley Spicer, policy and research executive, HFMA, with support from HFMA's Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group which works to highlight good practice in embedding environmental and social sustainability in the NHS.

About the HFMA

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) is the professional body for finance staff in healthcare. For nearly 70 years, it has provided independent and objective advice to its members and the wider healthcare community. It is a charitable organisation that promotes best practice and innovation in financial management and governance across the UK health economy through its local and national networks.

The association also analyses and responds to national policy and aims to exert influence in shaping the wider healthcare agenda. It has particular interest in promoting the highest professional standards in financial management and governance and is keen to work with other organisations to promote approaches that really are 'fit for purpose' and effective.

The HFMA offers a range of qualifications in healthcare business and finance at undergraduate and postgraduate level and can provide a route to an MBA in healthcare finance. The qualifications are delivered through HFMA's Academy which was launched in 2017 and has already established strong learner and alumni networks.

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HFMA

1 Temple Way, Bristol BS2 0BU

T 0117 929 4789

E info@hfma.org.uk

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