



Environmental sustainability round-up

November 2023

This round-up is a brief update on the latest developments in environmental sustainability in the NHS and wider finance profession. It includes signposts to further information that may be of interest.

Previous editions of the HFMA's *Environmental sustainability round-up* are available on the [HFMA website policy and guidance page](#). If you have any references or updates you think should be included in the next round-up, please contact lisa.robertson@hfma.org.uk.

In the news

COP 28

The Conference of Parties (COP) is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). [COP 28 UAE](#) will take place from 30 November to 12 December in Dubai. Items to be covered include energy and finance as well as health, trade and relief, recovery and peace. Sunday 3rd December is health day. Finance is one of the four named cross cutting themes that underpins effective delivery. COP 28 will see the first global stocktake (GST) to provide a comprehensive assessment of progress since the Paris Agreement was adopted.

Open letter to the UK government

Eleven of the world's leading accountancy and finance bodies are urging transformative action to achieve the global sustainable development goals (SDGs). In their [letter](#), September 2023, they urge the government to take global leadership, recognising 'we're halfway to the 2030 deadline to hit the UN SDGs. The world is only on track to meet 12% of its targets. In fact, we are going backwards.'

Net zero care: what will it take?

In September 2023, The Health Foundation published its report, [Net zero care: what will it take?](#) The report provides an overview of the features of low-carbon care delivery and highlights examples of where it is already happening. It outlines areas where policymakers and system leaders should focus to achieve the shift to more sustainable care, highlighting four main areas for action.

The Earthshot Prize 2023

The Earthshot Prize was launched by Prince William in 2020 to search for and scale the most innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Following a week long celebration in November of innovation and impact, [the winners of the 2023 Earshot Prize](#) were announced in Singapore.

HFMA Awards

For the second year of the HFMA environmental sustainability award, we received a number of exceptional submissions. [Shortlisted entries](#) were from Leeds Teaching Hospitals, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. The winners will be announced at HFMA's annual conference gala dinner on 7 December 2023 and details will be included in the published awards supplement. Details of the 2022 winners and shortlisted submissions can be found on page 20 of the [HFMA Awards 2022 supplement](#).

Register now/watch on demand

- [HFMA London Branch lunch and learn: sustainability](#), 19 January 2024
Colleagues working at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust will be sharing details of their project to reduce the use of non-sterile plastic, along with significant savings, as well as their wider commitments to the climate and health emergency.
- [HFMA annual conference 2023](#), 4-8 December 2023
The focus of this year's conference will be working as one and includes the session, *Experiences from the shop floor – green clinical services at Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust*. Find out more about the steps the HFMA is taking on environmental sustainability at the conference [here!](#)
- [The A4S Summit 2023](#), 27 November 2023
Taking place ahead of COP28, the A4S Summit brings together leaders in finance for discussion, insight and action. Sessions are available on demand.
- [The ins and outs of public sector sustainability reporting: A conversation with CIPFA's Nina Johansson](#), 13 October 2023
This podcast episode features a conversation with CIPFA's sustainability advisor Nina Johansson, who informs us on the significance of sustainability reporting in today's governance landscape.
- [HFMA environmental sustainability in the health service event](#), 12 October 2023
Sessions from the conference are available on demand covering the public sector decarbonisation scheme, the East of England Productivity and Efficiency Group and PrescQIPP, NHS Supply Chain and the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.
- [Implementing the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure \(TCFD\)](#), 29 September 2023
Max Greenwood, HM Treasury, provided an introduction to the TCFD recommendations in this HFMA webinar available on demand.
- South East Greener NHS Innovation and Collaboration event, 6 September 2023: [Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)
Videos from the South East Region Greener NHS event: innovation and collaboration are available recognising achievement across the region.

National reports and guidance

NHS England's net zero travel and transport strategy

NHS England published its [Net zero travel and transport strategy](#) on 31 October 2023. It sets out the plan for a fully decarbonised NHS fleet by 2035, with its ambulances following in 2040. The strategy describes the interventions and modelling underpinning these commitments, walking through each of the major components of the NHS fleet and outlining the benefits to patients and staff. A forthcoming net zero travel and transport implementation toolkit and technical support document will also be provided to trusts and systems to aid local and regional delivery.

Carbon reduction plan and net zero commitment requirement for the procurement of NHS good, services and works

This [guidance](#) provides further details on carbon reduction plan implementation requirements as set out in the [NHS net zero supplier roadmap](#).

Green surgery – reducing the environmental impact of surgical care

In November 2023, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change published its [green surgery report](#) with initiatives and recommendations to reduce the adverse environmental impact of surgical care.

Emissions factors for use in the NHS

In November 2023, NHS England shared activity-based emissions factors for greenhouse gas modelling in the NHS via the [NHSFutures platform](#). The purpose of the dataset is to provide an up-to-date list of greenhouse gas emissions factors used for calculating emissions in the NHS.

Task force on climate-related finance disclosure (TCFD) aligned disclosure application guidance

The HM Treasury published [guidance](#) in July 2023 on applying TCFD recommendations in central government and the wider public sector. Although there is no requirement for the NHS to implement these as yet, they can be adopted voluntarily. See also [HFMA's TCFD webinar](#) available on demand.

Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK

This [report](#) is a joint piece of work between the public audit offices of the four UK nations – Audit Scotland, Audit Wales, National Audit Office and Northern Ireland Audit Office. It sets out the UK and devolved governments' legislation, policy, strategy, governance and monitoring arrangements, relevant to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Delivering greener, more sustainable and net zero mental health care

The Royal College of Psychiatrists and NHS England launched their report [Delivering greener, more sustainable and net zero mental health care: guidance and recommendations](#), 15 November 2023. This report has been produced to support mental health providers to meet their net zero targets and includes recommendations to deliver greener, more sustainable mental health care.

Main climate change and public health indicators: scoping review

In September 2023, the UK Health Security Agency published its [review of indicators and data sources](#) relevant for monitoring of climate change and health in England. This includes a review of current indicators relating to climate risks or climate action; criteria for indicators to inform public health actions to address climate change; and new indicators that could be implemented.

Sustainable healthcare recycling and waste management framework agreement

NHS Shared Business Services has launched a [Sustainable healthcare recycling and waste management framework agreement](#) to help the NHS meet its net zero targets. Running from October 2023 to October 2025, the agreement aims to provide a quick, simple, and compliant procurement route to market for sustainable waste management solutions for the NHS and the wider public sector.

Sustainable transport and infrastructure

NHS Shared Business Services has also launched a [Sustainable transport and infrastructure agreement](#) to support the NHS and wider public sector in lowering their carbon output. Running from November 2023 to November 2027, it covers a range of areas such as transport consultancy, cycling, car parking and electric vehicle charging.

Let's not waste - Bevan Commission

[Let's not waste](#) is a programme to support waste reduction and decarbonisation in the Welsh healthcare sector. It includes a case study resource hub covering workforce, administration, services, treatment, energy and systems.

Workplace charging scheme: guidance for applicants

In October 2023, the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles published updated guidance on its [workplace charging scheme](#). Applicable across the four nations, this scheme is a voucher-based scheme that provides eligible applicants with support towards the upfront costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints.

HFMA environmental sustainability guidance map

The [HFMA NHS environmental sustainability guidance map](#) has been updated this month. The map brings together the key guidance, tools and examples to support the NHS in meeting its commitments to environmental sustainability.

The One NHS Finance Towards Excellence Accreditation standards

The One NHS Finance Towards Excellence Accreditation standards now include reference to organisations' green plans. There's one criterion at each level of accreditation, as follows:

Level 1: The finance team is aware of the organisational green plan.

Level 2: The finance team is aware of the organisational green plan and is actively promoting it.

Level 3: The finance team can demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the organisational green plan.

More information around the accreditation process can be found on the [One NHS Finance website](#).

Training

Net zero building standard training

E-learning is available to support NHS estates and facilities teams and their supply chain to prepare for the UK government building requirements set out in the [Net zero building standard](#) covering:

- regulatory and best practice guidance landscape
- key overarching principles and methodologies of the standard to comply to net zero carbon including the development of project bespoke carbon and energy limits
- compliance methodology for upfront embodied carbon and operational energy and carbon
- the key responsibilities of the net zero carbon coordinator.

Carbon literacy project

The carbon literacy project launched a single day leadership module this year. The training content has been quality assured and approved by the Greener NHS programme and is appropriate for those at any leadership level/specialty. Once you have completed the [elearning](#), you can book your place on an upcoming workshop. Workshops are free to all NHS colleagues, and 2024 dates are 5 January, 7 February, 6 March.

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH)

CSH works with NHS trusts to integrate sustainability into quality improvement. CSH has freely available resources such as [net zero leadership training for boards](#); [step-by-step project resources](#); [educator pack](#); and a [30-minute introductory e-learning session](#).

Sustainability leadership for greener health and care programme

The NHS Leadership Academy's [sustainability leadership for greener health and care programme](#) is free for NHS staff and is designed to develop leadership abilities, giving leaders the tools and knowledge to build a greener, more sustainable health system.

ICAEW sustainability certificate

The [ICAEW sustainability certificate](#) aims to equip accountants and other finance professionals with the practical knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability reporting into their organisations. The certificate supports finance professionals to confidently partner with sustainability experts to identify climate-related risks and incorporate performance and financial metrics into their risk management, financial planning and analysis, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting.

ACCA certificate in sustainability for finance

The ACCA has a [certificate in sustainability for finance](#), recognising that finance professionals have an important part to play in helping organisations adapt to the sustainable practices required to prevent resource depletion, facilitating long term success, and building a more sustainable future.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) courses

AICPA and CIMA have launched a new certificate, [fundamentals of ESG certificate](#), to help accounting and finance professionals embrace ESG. From January 2023, CIMA is running a half day programme, [ESG - an awareness](#), to provide an introductory understanding of key ESG issues.

Greener NHS news, blogs and case studies

This summer, Chris Gormley took on the role of acting chief sustainability officer at NHS England. In his blog, [Three years on – clinical staff continue to inspire us as we build a greener NHS](#), he reflects on his first few months and has recently highlighted the [net zero clinical care exhibition of case studies](#) and the [BMJ planet centred care podcast](#).

The October blog, [Greener Allied Health Professionals: Delivering high quality, low carbon care in the right place at the right time, with the right skills](#), celebrates the invaluable contributions of AHPs in shaping a greener and more sustainable NHS.

NHS England also published a number of [case studies](#) on environmental sustainability work happening across the NHS.

NHS staff with an interest in sustainability are invited to join the [Greener NHS Knowledge Hub](#) on FutureNHS. This workspace connects you to information, tools and resources, and provides a space to share your knowledge, ideas and best practice.

About the HFMA

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) is the professional body for finance staff in healthcare. For over 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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While every care had been taken in the preparation of this briefing, the HFMA cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions and is not responsible for any loss occasioned to any person or organisation acting or refraining from action as a result of any material in it.

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