Sustainability

Promoting and improving sustainability across NHS Finance

Delivering a greener NHS



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Climate crisis, health crisis

Climate Change

- 9 of the 10 hottest years on record have been in the last ten years
- Scientific consensus that carbon emissions are driving warming
- Wildfires, flooding, heatwaves and drought are all more common

Health Impact

- 40,000 annual UK deaths due to air pollution
- 4,500 excess deaths due to heat in 2022
- Increased risk of pandemics, mosquito borne disease, malnutrition
- Estates and operational incidents including flooding and heat stress



- Visibility of the impact
- Learning from the airline industry
- Speed and scale of response







The NHS response

In October 2020, the NHS set itself two ambitious and feasible targets to reduce its carbon emissions:

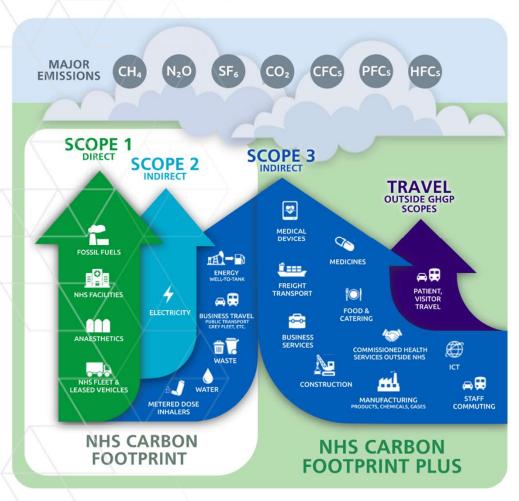
- Net zero by 2040 for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint); and
- Net zero by 2045 for the emissions we can influence but don't directly control (the NHS Carbon Footprint Plus)

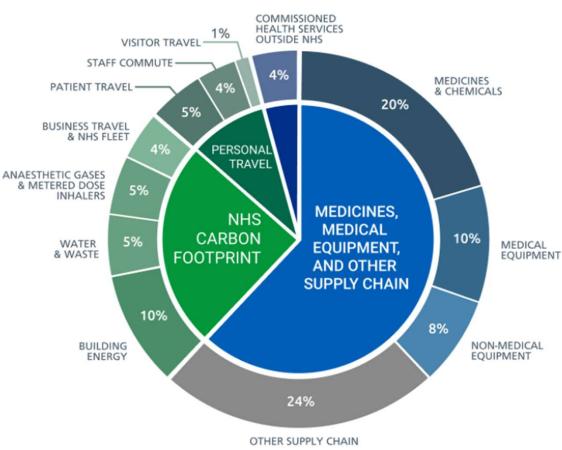
- In the first year alone we reduced emissions equivalent to powering 1.1 million homes with electricity for a year
- 90% of NHS staff have affirmed their support for a Greener NHS
- Electric ambulances launched
- Net Zero NHS enshrined in law



National greener NHS context









The case for finance leadership

Our Challenges

- 1. Visibility and understanding of the task, accessing funding
- 2. Financial sustainability
- 3. Modelling and capital projects
- 4. Reporting

Finance rockstars and superstars

- 1. Networks, One Finance, reputation
- 2. Savings opportunities
- 3. Technical expertise
- 4. IFRS Foundation leading on environmental sustainability standards





Our work in the South East

The Green Book

Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation





Objective 1:

Improving business cases and access to funding

Objective 2:

Identify and share good practice, with a focus on the link between financial and environmental sustainability

Objective 3:

Increase engagement and understanding of the environmental sustainability in healthcare



Funding for sustainability

Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme

Regional accelerator projects

SBRI Healthcare Clinical Innovation Fund

Digital funding

National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR)

Supporting access

- Ready-to-tailor cases on the shelf
- Awareness of funding streams
- Green Plans
- Shared learning on applications and outcomes





Where we go next

What can you do as a system?

What can you do in your organisation?

What can you do personally?

