



NHS environmental sustainability guidance map

A tool that maps key NHS environmental sustainability
guidance



Introduction

The HFMA has produced an NHS environmental sustainability guidance map. The map brings together the key guidance, tools and examples to support the NHS in meeting its commitments to environment sustainability. The map will be regularly updated.

The NHS is the largest employer in the UK and the health and care system in England is responsible for around 4% of the country's carbon footprint.

HFMA's Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group (ESSIG) works to highlight good practice in embedding environmental and social sustainability in the NHS and the wide range of benefits this offers including operating within safe financial and environmental limits, to developing robust, resilient and future proof models of prevention and care.

With a wealth of material available, the ESSIG has created a map of key environmental sustainability guidance in order to support finance members in developing an effective approach to environmental sustainability.


Aimed at all those working in the NHS, in particular NHS boards, finance teams and clinical colleagues, the purpose of the map is to highlight the published resources that support the development of environmental sustainability in the NHS.

Whatever your level of expertise in this area, the map is a helpful tool with links to key documents all in one place.

The map is split into three sections:

- strategic framework
- enabling environmental sustainability
- specific examples of environmental sustainability.

It signposts the key documents and guidance available, and when they were last updated. The map is not intended to be exhaustive but provides links to key references.

The guidance will be of interest across the United Kingdom. The map will be updated periodically as new guidance is produced, marked as . If you would like to flag additional material to be included in the next update of this map, please contact desiree.robaille@hfma.org.uk.

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Strategic framework


The UK government has committed to reach net zero by 2050. In October 2020, NHS England set out its aim to be the world's first net zero national health service as part of its Greener NHS programme. It set two targets:

- to reduce to net zero the NHS carbon footprint (emissions over which there is direct control) by 2040; and
- to reduce to net zero the NHS carbon footprint plus (emissions over which there is influence) by 2045.

Within the national framework, each NHS trust and integrated care system should have a *Green plan* setting out how they will deliver carbon reduction. The first section of the map focuses on the national aims and strategic framework for improving environmental sustainability. It includes references to help organisations and officers understand the overall direction, scale and pace of change needed in the NHS. This section also signposts readers to documents that provide context on climate change issues, as well as regular environmental sustainability bulletins.

National strategy

Links to guidance		Latest updated
	NHS England: <i>Greener NHS website</i> Homepage for the Greener NHS programme.	Ongoing
	NHS England: <i>Greener NHS knowledge hub</i> Workspace on FutureNHS collaboration platform including tools and resources.	Ongoing
	Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: <i>Green Plan and Sustainability Strategy Support</i> Sustainability strategy support including delivering a green plan in England Wales and Scotland.	Ongoing
	The Scottish Government: <i>NHS Scotland sustainability</i> Various links to sustainability resources.	Ongoing
	Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government: <i>Public sector net zero reporting guide</i> A guide for the public sector to estimate their net carbon footprint. It provides details of how health boards are to dispose of organisational waste.	22 May 2024
	NHS England: <i>Carbon reduction plan requirements for procurement</i> The NHS has proportionately extended the carbon reduction plan requirements to cover all new procurements.	April 2024
	Welsh Government: <i>Well being of future generations act: the essentials</i> Guidance on the law to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.	April 2024
	NHS England: <i>NHS clinical waste strategy</i> The strategy aims to reduce future waste volumes.	February 2024



	United Nations Climate Change: COP28 declaration on a global climate finance framework Declarations by 13 UAE leaders on a global climate finance framework.	November 2023
	Royal College of Psychiatrists and NHS England: Delivering greener more sustainable and net zero mental health-care-guidance and recommendations Focusing on mental health with a call to action and case studies.	November 2023
	National Audit Office: Approaches to achieving net zero across the UK Sets out the UK and devolved governments' legislation, policy, strategy, governance and monitoring arrangements, relevant to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions.	September 2023
	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Cabinet Office: Greening government commitments Actions UK government departments and their agencies will take to reduce their impacts on the environment.	April 2023
	NHS England: NHS net zero building standard Provides technical guidance to support the development of sustainable, resilient, and energy efficient buildings that meet the needs of patients now and in the future.	February 2023
	National Health Executive: How the NHS can achieve its net zero strategy Views from Matthew Bell, economist and former CEO of the Committee for Climate Change.	December 2022
	National Health Executive: Greening the NHS through the ICS Views from Alexis Percival, net zero lead, Humber and North Yorkshire ICS.	August 2022
	Scottish Government: NHS Scotland climate emergency and sustainability strategy: 2022 – 2026 Sets out plans for NHS Scotland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the environment, adapt to climate change and to better contribute to the United Nations' sustainable development goals.	August 2022
	The national archives: Health and Care Act 2022 Part 1 section 9 sets out duties in relation to climate change.	July 2022
	NHS England: Delivering a Net Zero NHS Provides a detailed account of the NHS' modelling and analytics underpinning the latest NHS carbon footprint, trajectories to net zero and the interventions required to achieve that ambition.	July 2022
	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Net zero strategy: Build Back Greener This strategy report sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy	April 2022
	NHS Wales: planning framework 2022/25 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act underpins the programme for government and continues to shape how NHS Wales works and how they deliver the values and commitments of the Welsh Government.	November 2021
	NHS England: Delivering a net zero NHS – one year progress Progress report one year on from Delivering a Net Zero NHS.	September 2021

	Legislation.gov.uk: <i>Climate change Act 2008</i> Framework for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take steps towards adapting to the impact of climate change.	July 2021
	NHS England: <i>How to produce a green plan – a three year strategy towards net zero</i> Guidance for trusts and ICSs to have a green plan by January 2022 and March 2022 respectively.	June 2021
	NHS Wales: <i>Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan 2021-2030</i> The plan responds to the climate emergency declared in 2019 by the Welsh government and approaches how to achieve net zero ambitions by 2030.	March 2021
	Climate Change Committee: <i>The path to net zero reducing emissions in Wales</i> Provides ministers with advice on Wales' climate targets and assess progress.	December 2020
	Climate Change Committee: <i>Sixth carbon budget</i> Provides ministers with advice of the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit during the period 2033-2037.	December 2020
	National Audit Office: <i>Achieving government's long-term environmental goals</i> Examines how government has set itself up to deliver its long-term environmental goals	November 2020
	HFMA: <i>Delivering a net zero carbon NHS</i> Blog by Kim Croasdale on plans for the NHS to respond to climate change.	October 2020
	HFMA: <i>NHS environmental sustainability – tackling the health climate emergency</i> Webinar on 'For a greener NHS' campaign and includes experiences from Yorkshire Ambulance.	July 2020
	Public Health England: <i>Sustainability and public health: a guide to good practice</i> Guidance on sustainable development and environmental management for the benefit of public health.	December 2016
	United Nations: <i>Transforming our world – the 2030 agenda for sustainable development</i> Includes the 17 sustainable development goals.	September 2015

Regular bulletins

Links to guidance		Last updated
	NHS England: <i>Greener NHS bulletin</i> Monthly bulletin bringing together the latest news on the greener NHS programme	Ongoing
	HFMA: <i>Environmental sustainability round-up</i> Highlights recent news, events and material relevant to those with a passion to combat climate change (latest edition).	November 2023

Environmental sustainability overviews



Links to guidance	Last updated
 BMJ: <i>Sustainability is critical for future proofing the NHS</i> Discusses the importance of placing sustainability at the core of the NHS to deliver better services, support healthier populations and save costs.	April 2024
 Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government: <i>Welsh Public Sector 2023 carbon emissions net zero reporting</i> Summary of 2023 Welsh Public Sector carbon emissions at the national, sub-sector and individual public body level with year-on-year trends of carbon emissions from previous years.	March 2024
The Health Foundation: <i>Net zero care: what will it take?</i> Overview of the features of low-carbon care delivery and highlight examples of where it is already happening.	September 2023
UK Health Alliance on Climate Change: <i>Biodiversity, climate change and health</i> Includes biodiversity recommendations.	September 2023
Met Office: <i>The state of the UK climate 2022</i> Annual assessment of the UK climate trends.	July 2023
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: <i>Climate change explained</i> Sets out reasons for climate change, its impacts and UK government action to tackle the issue.	June 2023
The Lancet: <i>Countdown on health and climate change</i> Takes stock of health and climate change.	October 2022
United Nations: <i>Emissions gap report 2022</i> Reports that the international community is falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place.	October 2022
Intergovernmental panel on climate change: <i>Sixth assessment report – impacts, adaption and vulnerability</i> Provides an understanding of the current stage of the climate and possible futures from working group 2.	March 2022
NHS Providers: <i>Climate change is a public health emergency</i> Looks at the past year's policy developments and provides a commentary on the sectors contribution.	February 2022
Intergovernmental panel on climate change: <i>Climate Change 2021 – the physical science basis</i> Provides an understanding of the current stage of the climate and possible futures from working group 1.	August 2021
HFMA: <i>Financial green light</i> Blog on the finance role in driving environmental sustainability.	April 2021
Good Governance Institute: <i>Climate change – the NHS responses required</i> Blog setting out key NHS climate change developments.	April 2021
UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021: <i>Climate and development ministerial chair's summary</i> Includes discussion on access to finance.	April 2021
The Climate Coalition: <i>This report comes with a health warning</i> Explores health issues.	February 2021

	NHS Confederation: <i>Putting sustainability at the heart of an NHS reset</i> Views on how healthcare can improve its approach to climate issues.	December 2020
	The Climate Coalition: <i>The 10 point plan for a green, healthy and fair recovery</i> Sets out a programme of action to get the UK on track to net zero emissions.	November 2020
	European Environment Agency: <i>Covid-19 and Europe's environment – impacts of a global pandemic</i> Considers what can be learnt from the effects of Covid-19 on our environment.	November 2020
	NHS Confederation: <i>A green NHS reset</i> Blog on the importance of climate action.	October 2020
	HFMA: <i>NHS sustainability in a changing world</i> Blog on where the finance professionals fit in.	July 2020
	National Audit Office: <i>A short guide to environmental protection and sustainable development</i> Aims to provide a quick and accessible overview.	September 2017
	Carbon Visuals: <i>Images</i> Provides visual illustrations to contextualize the scale of carbon emissions.	July 2019

Enabling environmental sustainability



This section focuses on guidance aimed at supporting those responsible for ensuring that effective environmental sustainability arrangements are in place. This includes guidance on enablers such as: financial framework; technology; environmental reporting; culture change; engagement; and training.

Governance and engagement

Links to guidance		Last updated
	IESBA: <i>Sustainability reporting and assurance</i> The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA)'s strategic commitment to trustworthy sustainability reporting and assurance.	Ongoing
	HFMA: <i>Integrated care series 2024</i> A recording of a session Tuesday 13 February on prioritising environmental sustainability within integration.	February 2024
	IEMA: <i>Launch of IEMA guidance on sustainability for NHS Non-executive directors (NED)</i> Discusses the sustainability risks and challenges faced by the NHS and gives guidance for NEDs on how to incorporate sustainability into their role.	October 2022
	HFMA: <i>Towards net zero series: embedding sustainability at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust</i> Janet Smith, head of sustainability at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust shares tools and lessons from the trust.	September 2022
	Imperial College London: <i>9 things you can do for your health and planet</i> Example engagement of actions.	February 2022
	HFMA: <i>Sustainability and savings through the green plan: lessons from Cornwall</i> Webinar.	October 2021

	Suffolk and North East Essex ICS: <i>Thinking differently together about climate change</i> Example newsletter	September 2021
	NAO: <i>Climate change risk: A good practice guide for audit and risk assurance committees</i> Covers climate changes risks and key questions to be asked about the approach to managing them.	August 2021
	Accounting for Sustainability: <i>Net zero top tips for CFOs</i> Top ten list for CFOs to achieve net zero.	April 2021
	Financial Reporting Council: <i>Governance – how are boards taking account of climate-related challenges?</i> Climate-related considerations, based on company feedback.	November 2020
	The Health Foundation: <i>Building healthier communities: the role of the NHS as an anchor institution</i> Chapter 6 covers the NHS as a leader for environmental sustainability.	August 2019

Environmental reporting

Links to guidance		Last updated
	System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) <i>Website</i> Statistical framework, adopted by the UN, which considers the environment alongside the economy	Ongoing
	Greener NHS: <i>Dashboard</i> Data on a range of sustainability measures at national, regional, ICS and in some cases organisational level. Note: log-in needed, using NHS email account.	Ongoing
	HFMA: <i>Sustainability reporting in the NHS 2023/24 and beyond</i> Sets out the NHS environmental sustainability commitments and reporting requirements across the United Kingdom, what NHS organisations must report in 2023/24, along with good practice in sustainability reporting for NHS organisations in 2023/24 and beyond.	April 2024
	HFMA: <i>Pre-accounts planning 2024</i> Day two session two, reporting requirement session on the application of Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure recommendations.	February 2024
	Greener NHS: <i>Emissions factors for use in the NHS</i> Excel dataset to provide an up-to-date list of greenhouse gas emissions factors used in calculating emissions in the NHS. Note: log-in needed using NHS e-mail account.	November 2023
	UK Health Security Agency: <i>Main Climate Change and Public Health Indicators: scoping review</i> Review of the current sets of environmental and public health indicators that can be used to monitor progress in climate change adaptation and mitigation in the UK.	September 2023
	HFMA: <i>Implementing the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure</i> Webinar on TCFD.	September 2023
	HM Treasury: <i>TCFD-aligned disclosure application guidance</i> Recommendations for applying TCFD disclosures in central government and, where appropriate, the wider public sector including NHS voluntary adoption.	July 2023
	HM Treasury: <i>Sustainability reporting guidance 2023-24</i> Guidance on sustainability reporting for central government bodies preparing annual report and accounts, which may be used by other public sector bodies.	July 2023


	CIPFA: <i>Sustainability reporting in the public sector</i> Recommends an approach that aligns sustainability reporting with the wider practice of financial reporting. The four key areas in this approach are governance, the management approach, performance and targets, and strategy.	April 2023
	HM Treasury: <i>Public sector annual reports: sustainability reporting guidance 2022 to 2023</i> Although NHS bodies fall outside of this requirement, it provides useful reference material for reporting.	December 2022
	Department of Health and Social Care: <i>Group accounting manual 2021-22</i> Paragraph 3.37 sets out requirement to report annually on environmental sustainability matters.	August 2022
	CIPFA: <i>Evolving Climate Accountability: A global review of public sector environmental reporting</i> Insights into sustainability reporting practices in the public sector across the globe.	July 2021
	Taskforce on climate-related disclosures: <i>Proposed guidance on climate-related metrics, targets, and transition plans</i> Consultation on proposed guidance.	June 2021
	Greener NHS: <i>Data collection – guidance and definitions</i> Provides information on who should complete the return, how to report and timescales.	April 2021
	Capitals Coalition: <i>Natural capital protocol</i> Decision-making framework as part of integrated reporting.	January 2021
	Financial Reporting Council: <i>Reporting – how are companies developing their reporting on climate-related challenges?</i> Findings based on review of company accounts and feedback.	November 2020
	Value Reporting Foundation: <i>Sustainability accounting standards board – standards overview</i> 77 industry standards.	November 2018



Funding and financial mechanisms

Links to guidance		Last updated
	Future NHS Has a page on funding, under the greener NHS knowledge hub (log-in required via NHS email account).	Ongoing
	Salix: <i>Public sector funding schemes</i> Details of funding schemes to enable the public sector to reduce carbon emissions.	Ongoing
	HM Treasury: <i>The green book</i> Guidance on how to appraise and evaluation policies, projects and programmes including environmental considerations.	May 2024
	DEFRA: <i>Accounting for the effects of climate change – supplementary green book guidance</i> Building on the green book methodology to specifically account for the effects of climate change.	May 2024
	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: <i>Green heat network fund</i> An overview of the capital grant support available for the development of new and existing low and zero carbon heat networks.	April 2024


	Business for nature: <i>Financing our survival: building a nature positive economy through subsidy reform</i> Brief for government and business decision-makers.	February 2022
	ACCA: <i>Professional accountants at the heart of sustainable organisations</i> Explores the role of the accountancy profession.	September 2021
	HFMA: <i>Climate change and the role of NHS finance</i> Summer conference workshop available to members	June 2021
	National Audit Office: <i>Environmental tax measures</i> Examines how HM Treasury and HMRC manage tax measures with environmental objectives.	February 2021

Networks and general training


Links to guidance		Last updated
	NHS England: <i>Net Zero and Sustainable Procurement Team webinar programme</i> Links to on-demand and upcoming webinars by members of the Net Zero and Sustainable Procurement team. A FutureNHS login is needed for on demand content.	Ongoing
	HFMA <i>Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group</i> Works to highlight good practice in embedding environmental and social sustainability in the NHS.	Ongoing
	Future NHS Has launched pages on collaboration and networking and a training hub (log-in required via NHS email account).	Ongoing
	NHS England: <i>NHS net zero building standard training</i> E-learning to support NHS estates and facilities teams and their supply chain to prepare for the UK government building requirements set out in the Standard.	Ongoing
	Accounting for Sustainability: <i>Net zero guidance</i> Guides, case studies and top tips for finance.	Ongoing
	Carbon Literacy Project Toolkits, blogs and events to provide access to climate change learning.	Ongoing
	Accounting for sustainability: <i>A4S academy</i> Global network supported by the Prince of Wales's charitable fund including CFO- sponsored programme to embed sustainability into finance.	Ongoing
	Green Health Wales: A network of healthcare professionals across Wales who recognise that the climate and ecological emergency is a health emergency.	Ongoing
	Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: <i>Short courses in sustainability, health and healthcare</i> Provides a range of courses on environmentally sustainable healthcare.	Ongoing
	ICAEW: <i>Environment and sustainability</i> Resources on sustainability and climate change.	Ongoing
	Sustainable Scotland Network: Public sector network on sustainability and climate change.	Ongoing

	ACCA: Rethinking sustainable business Sustainability hub.	Ongoing
	West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership: Climate change events including lunch and learn	Ongoing
	Royal college of physicians and surgeons of Glasgow: green-theatre-initiative Compendium of peer-reviewed evidence, guidelines and policies that inform the interventions included in the Intercollegiate Green Theatre Checklist.	Ongoing
	Sustainability West Midlands: Adapt to survive Tool kit for building resilience to climate change into health care systems that includes an excel-based toolkit, guidance documents, video tutorials, case studies and a link to the slides from an event in September 2023.	December 2023
	Net Zero Clinical Care: Net Zero Clinical Care Conference 2023 session recordings Focused on reducing the carbon impact of clinical services across all levels of the UK health and care system and the role of healthcare professionals in delivering a net zero health service.	October 2023
	HFMAtalk: Episode 42 - Integrated care systems and improving environmental sustainability Podcast covering how ICSs can drive sustainability, the healthcare impacts and the finance function role.	March 2022


Certificates and courses available

	Links to guidance	Last updated
	Health Education England and Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: Environmentally sustainable healthcare programme Three half hour e-learning sessions available free to NHS staff via the electronic staff record.	Ongoing
	The LDN Sustainable Healthcare Academy: LDN apprenticeships Levy-funded apprenticeships for those working in the health sector.	Ongoing
	ICAEW: sustainability certificate Aims to equip accountants and other finance professionals with the practical knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability reporting into their organisations.	Ongoing
	ACCA: 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.	Ongoing
	CIMA: Fundamentals of ESG certificate , to help accounting and finance professionals embrace ESG. CIMA runs a half day programme, ESG - an awareness , to provide an introductory understanding of key ESG issues.	Ongoing

Quality improvement

Links to guidance	Last updated
 Asthma and Lung UK: <i>Inhaler choices</i> , Asthma + Lung UK and NHS England are working in partnership to support you to make changes so you can live better with your lung condition and help the environment at the same time.	Ongoing
Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: <i>Sustainability in quality improvement</i> Approach to measuring outcomes of a service against its environmental, social and economic costs and impacts to determine its sustainable value.	Ongoing
Greener Practice: <i>High quality and low carbon asthma care</i> A toolkit supporting quality improvement in primary care.	March 2022




Technology and innovation

Links to guidance	Last updated
 Catapult Energy Systems: <i>Access public sector decarbonisation guidance</i> Guidance commissioned by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.	Ongoing
Central digital and data office: <i>The technology code of practice</i> Criteria to help government design, build and buy technology including how to make your technology sustainable.	July 2023
NHS365: <i>Net zero innovations panel discussion</i> Recording of panel discussion.	May 2022
NHSX: <i>What good looks like framework</i> Includes as a success measure that all ICSs and providers ensure progress towards net zero carbon by meeting the sustainable ICT and digital services strategy.	October 2021
Sustainability Partnerships: <i>Sustainable technology in the NHS</i> Webinar.	May 2021

Specific examples of environmental sustainability

The NHS will have to rapidly decarbonise to reach its net zero targets within the timeframe. Based on the categories where direct interventions are needed to decarbonise the NHS, this section of the map includes specific guidance and examples. These areas of focus also form a key component of the Green Plan that NHS trusts and integrated care systems are required to produce.

Estates and facilities

	Links to guidance	Last updated
	NHS England: <i>Net zero building standard</i> Guidance to support the development of sustainable, resilient, and energy efficient buildings, applicable from October 2023 (see specific e-learning in training section).	March 2024
	NHS England: <i>Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe and sustainable management of healthcare waste</i> Best practice for waste management and ways to improve the environment and carbon impacts of managing waste.	January 2024
	Infrastructure and Projects Authority: <i>Decarbonisation of Operational PFI projects</i> Handbook of recommended good practice for PFI contracting authorities for preparation and delivery of decarbonisation interventions.	July 2023
	NHS England: <i>Greening the business case</i> A guide for estates leads on building net zero and sustainability into business cases.	May 2023
	NHS England: <i>Estates 'net zero' carbon delivery plan</i> Covers the aspects of the net zero strategy pertinent to estates and facilities activities and includes a four step investment approach to decarbonising NHS sites.	November 2022
	NHS England: <i>Green leases framework</i> Helps organisations to improve green credentials of their leased estate.	June 2022
	NHS365: <i>NHS estates panel discussion</i> Recording of panel discussion.	May 2022
	IHEEM: <i>A healthcare engineering roadmap for delivering net zero carbon</i> A best practice guide for healthcare estates.	March 2021
	UK Green Building Council: <i>Net zero carbon buildings: a framework definition</i> A framework of principles and metrics.	April 2019

Food and nutrition

Links to guidance	Last updated
Incredible Edible Network: Community example connecting people through food.	Ongoing
UK Health Alliance on Climate Change: <i>All-consuming – building a healthier food system for people and planet</i> Includes food related recommendations to tackle climate change.	2020


Medicines

Links to guidance	Last updated
Specialist pharmacy service: <i>Net zero and social value requirements in NHSE medicines tenders</i> Guidance on how the evergreen assessment will be used in NHS England medicines tenders.	November 2023
NICE: <i>Asthma inhalers and climate change patient decision aid</i> intended to help discussions between patients and their healthcare professionals on inhaler choice and their effect on climate change.	September 2022
NHS365: <i>Decarbonising medicines panel discussion</i> Recording of panel discussion.	May 2022
DHSC: <i>Good for you, good for us, good for everybody: a plan to reduce overprescribing to make patient care better and safer, support the NHS, and reduce carbon emissions</i> National overprescribing review report.	September 2021
Datalab: <i>Greener NHS prescribing dashboards</i> To support practices, the dashboard currently has measures on inhalers and the environment and seven day prescribing for long term conditions.	December 2019


Models of care

Links to guidance	Last updated
Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: <i>Green ward competition</i> Leadership and engagement programme to transform healthcare by; cutting carbon, improving patient care and staff experience, saving money.	Ongoing
UK Health Alliance on Climate Change: <i>Green surgery – reducing the environmental impact of surgical care</i> Includes initiatives and recommendations to reduce the adverse environmental impact of surgical care.	November 2023
HFMA: <i>Moving towards green theatres</i> Roundtable discussion.	April 2023
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: <i>Green theatre checklist</i> Checklist with recommendations to reduce the environmental impact of operating theatres.	November 2022
Nursing Times: <i>Sustainability 1: can nurses reduce the environmental impact of healthcare?</i> Sustainable practices to reduce the NHS contribution, including a self-assessment.	August 2020

Supply chain


Links to guidance		Last updated
	NHS Supply Chain: <i>Waste and the circular economy</i> Guidance on the management of waste including furniture, medical devices and food.	Ongoing
	NHS England: <i>Reducing emissions from inhalers</i> Signpost to resources that PCNs may find useful to reduce emissions associated with inhalers prescribing.	Ongoing
	Brighton and Sussex Medical School: <i>Reducing the environmental impact of medical devices adopted for use in the NHS</i> Explores challenges and opportunities for integrating environmental impact considerations into key decisions and processes for medical devices in their journey from regularly approval to adoption in the NHS.	April 2024
	NHS England: <i>Carbon reduction plan and net zero commitment requirements for the procurement of NHS goods, services and works</i> Provides further details on the implementation of the carbon reduction plan milestones in the roadmap.	April 2024
	NHS Shared Business Services: <i>Sustainable healthcare recycling & waste management framework agreement</i> Agreement to support complaint procurement route to market for sustainable waste management.	October 2023
	NHS England: <i>Applying net zero and social value in the procurement of NHS goods and services</i> Sets out how the procurement can play its part in achieving the policy objective to meet net zero carbon targets.	August 2023
	NHS365: <i>Waste and recycling panel discussion</i> Recording of panel session.	May 2022
	NHS Supply Chain: <i>Clinical waste disposal</i> Reducing single use plastic within the NHS case study.	December 2019
	ACCA: <i>Guide to producing sustainable goods and services</i> Considerations from design of a product or service, through production and delivery to end of life and disposal.	November 2019

Travel and transport

Links to guidance		Last updated
	NHS England: <i>Case studies - travel and transport</i> Highlights examples such as Increasing cycle business mileage, zero emissions emergency vehicles and Barts Health NHS Trust cycle scheme (with links) (log-in required via NHS email account).	Ongoing
	NHS Shared Business Services: <i>Sustainable transport and infrastructure</i> Agreement to support lowering the carbon output.	November 2023
	NHS England: <i>Net Zero travel and transport strategy</i> Describes the interventions and modelling underpinning the NHS fleet decarbonisation commitments	October 2023
	Office for Zero emission vehicles: <i>Workplace Charging Scheme: guidance for applicants</i> Scheme details	October 2023

	including eligibility criteria for applicant organisations and how to apply.	
	NHS365: <i>Travel and transport panel discussion</i> Recording of panel discussion.	May 2022
	NHS England and NHS Improvement: <i>Improving non-emergency patient transport services</i> Framework to support non-emergency transport services to be more responsive, fair and sustainable.	August 2021
	Greener NHS: <i>Fleet data collection</i> Provides information on who should complete the return, how to report and timescales.	July 2021
	Greener NHS: <i>Health outcomes of travel tool</i> Guide and assumptions.	March 2021
	National Audit Office: <i>Reducing carbon emissions from cars</i> Examines governments approach to support the uptake of ultra-low emission cars and draws lessons for the future.	February 2021

Workforce

Links to guidance		Last updated
	HFMA: <i>South Central Branch environmental sustainability lunch and learn session</i> Discusses the impact that staff engagement has made to Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trusts in their goal to reach Net Zero by 2030.	January 2024
	World Health Organisation: <i>WHO guidance for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities</i> Provides a set of suggested interventions including areas such as the health workforce.	October 2020

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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HFMA is also a limited company registered in England and Wales, no 5787972. Registered office: 110 Rochester Row, Victoria, London SW1P 1JP

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