



Environmental Sustainability round-up

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

- Sustainability reporting webinar
- Achieving net zero carbon: savings & innovation through sustainable procurement webinar
- Healthy ecosystems, healthy populations blog
- NHS environmental sustainability guidance map
- Driving environmental sustainability: ten top tips for finance teams
- Climate change: time for action blog
- Roundtable: greening up
- HFMA environmental sustainability round-up October 2021
- Sustainability and savings through the green plan: lessons from Cornwall webinar

In the news...

IPCC *Sixth assessment report*

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Sixth assessment report* consists of updates from three working groups and a synthesis report which will conclude the assessment at the end of 2022. The three working group contributions are:

- the physical science basis of climate change
- impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability
- mitigation of climate change.

In February, the IPCC released their working group II report which focuses on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. The report also focuses on global and regional impacts on ecosystems and human systems that are attributed to climate change. The report itself is 3,675 pages long, which can be quite overwhelming, however, the IPCC has published a [summary of the report](#) for policy makers, which is 36 pages. The report focuses on a range of topics, including vulnerability and exposure of ecosystems and people, risks in the near term and long term, adaptation measures and enabling conditions and climate resilient development. The report also focuses on the importance of 'targeted investments and



finance to protect against exposure to climate hazards, particularly for those at highest risk' and how the 'global financial flows for adaptation, including from public and private finance sources, are insufficient'. Climate change and the extreme weather conditions will 'significantly increase ill health premature deaths from the near to long-term'. Moreover, the scientists concluded that by 2050 there will be an additional 250,000 deaths each year due to climate-sensitive diseases and conditions. The increase of climate-sensitive diseases will naturally increase pressure on NHS services and finances. This is why it is so important for the finance function to invest in climate adaptation now. The NHS was highlighted in this report for its positive contributions in leading quantifying emissions and its commitment to the world's first net zero health service.

Websites to visit

Each HFMA environmental sustainability round-up highlights different websites to give you a wealth of new material to investigate.

- [Green Finance Institute](#)
- [North Star Transition](#)
- [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [Healthcare oceans](#)
- [Climate Action](#)
- [UK National Association for Environmental Education](#)
- [Energy Saving Trust](#)
- [Recycle now](#)

Planting trees in England

The NAO published a [report](#) on the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) England trees action plan 2021-2024. The action plan includes the aim to at least treble woodland planting rates by March 2025 in England. The report explores how DEFRA has implemented the programme, how likely it is to achieve its aims and sets out the risks around ensuring that the programme can achieve and maintain contributions to its woodland coverage from 2025 to 2050. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has said that a substantial rise in tree planting and biodiversity management is needed to achieve net zero targets and help mitigate the climate emergency. Woodland creation forms part of the government's [net zero strategy](#). The NAO praises DEFRA on its ability to work efficiently during difficult circumstances and their launch of seven grant schemes and funds for applications. However, the report ultimately concludes that the DEFRA will be below the trajectory needed to achieve its 2025 target, given the forecast for 2021/22. Furthermore, DEFRA is heavily dependent on private landowners choosing to plant trees. However, stakeholders told the NAO that they are discouraged from committing land to the programme as there are a lot of uncertainties surrounding how much government funding there will be and how much of a priority this is in their net zero strategy.

COP26 – key outcomes for health and finance

The general consensus is that COP26 had many successes, but a lot of shortcomings too. In general, COP26 established the Glasgow Financial Alliance which secured \$130 trillion of private capital to accelerate the transition to a net-zero economy. Contrasting this success is the failure to secure the \$100 billion in climate finance as promised at COP15. This failure is devastating for the countries that are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. The World Health Organisation, Greener NHS, and many others were present at COP26 with the joint aim of influencing outcomes for climate action in health. Over 50 countries committed to build climate resilient and low carbon health systems. Many countries also committed to making their health systems lower carbon and more sustainable. 85% of countries have a designated climate and health point of contact in their health ministries.

HFMA's COP26 activities

HFMA recently ran a range of activities throughout the COP26 period. You can read all the recent work from green pledges to blogs and publications. The HFMA created a separate [webpage](#) to collate all the COP26 activities into one area. The [HFMA environmental sustainability statement](#) was revised in October to update members and stakeholders on our current actions.

Health and Care adaptation report

This [report](#), published by the Greener NHS and the UK Health Security Agency is the third of its kind and builds on the previous 2015 report. The aim of this report is to help regional and local teams understand and respond to climate change, while still delivering net zero targets. The report touches

on current and future effects of climate change on the sector and outlines practical next steps to build resilience and adapt. The report breaks down service delivery into national, regional, and local requirements and helpful plans that these categories can produce in order to have long-term adaptation goals. Some key points from each section include:

- National – this section highlights the importance of ongoing collaboration between the NHS and arm's length bodies to ensure climate resilience.
- Regional – this section highlights the importance of collaboration and how ICSs and regions are key in driving adaptation commitments through identifying risks, supporting collaboration, and undertaking vulnerability assessments. All ICSs will build long-term adaptation planning into their Green Plans by 2025.
- Local – this section highlights that NHS provider organisations must comply with relevant provider contractual and reporting requirements. This includes, business continuity, estates reporting, risk management and more.

The report also discusses how 'climate change also has the potential to widen health inequalities'. This is due to people and communities having varying degrees of exposure to the adverse impacts of climate change and a variety of barriers to adaptation. Larger exposure to these impacts can affect different marginalised groups, this will result in climate change enlarging inequalities and even creating new ones. The report also emphasises the resourcing that has been used so far. For example, how the government has been collaborating with different departments, the use of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and net zero targets. However, the report lacks detail on future resourcing on risk de-escalation, workforce resources, and future financial plans and resources.

Want to know more? Try these resources:

- [All the positive environmental stories from 2022 so far](#) – if you have climate anxiety and want to hear about the progress that has already been made this year, this is the perfect read.
- [Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership: sustainability and net zero](#) – the ICS hosted 13 lunch and learn sessions which explored a variety of topics, including climate adaptation, health inequalities, procurement, and biodiversity.
- [Net Zero supplier roadmap](#)
- [Remote consultations: do they reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Your guide to calculating the answer](#) – this blog from the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare provides step-by-step guidance on how to calculate the saved greenhouse gas emissions from avoided patient travel due to online consultations.
- [COP26 and the NHS: Sajid David's open letter to all NHS trusts in England](#) – this letter underlines the vital role that the NHS must play in achieving our shared ambitions on climate change and the environment.
- [Progress reducing emissions in Scotland – 2021 report to parliament](#) – rapid progress by 2030.
- [Webinar: After COP26 - what will it take to get there NHS to net zero?](#)
- [Environmental public health surveillance system](#) – this tool can be used to support the management of environment hazards and threats to health.
- [Letter: Costs associated with achieving net zero by 2050 in Northern Ireland](#) – this letter from the CCC further clarifies the costs associated with achieving net zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050.
- [Third Health and Care adaptation report](#) – this report is the third in a series which examines current and future effects of climate change in the NHS.

NHS social value contracts

From 1 April 2022, each NHS tender will be required to have minimum 10% social value weighting. This weighting should assess how contractors will meet net zero targets and how they will contribute to social value in their delivery. This approach builds on the government's [Social value model](#) which mandates that carbon reduction, social and environmental considerations are integrated into all

procurement processes. The five themes included in action note [PPN 06/20 Taking account of social value in the award of central government contracts](#):

- Covid-19 recovery
- tackling economic inequality
- fighting climate change – the government action note PPN 06/20 states that procurement must ‘deliver additional environmental benefits in the performance of the contract including working towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions’
- equal opportunity
- wellbeing.

The UK government has launched a new taskforce to tackle green washing

In April 2021, the Treasury Select Committee published a report [Net zero and the future of green finance](#). The report concludes that greenwashing in financial services can be damaging to reaching net zero goals and adverse to consumers. In response to this, the government has created the Green Technical Advisory Group (GTAG). GTAG will provide advice to the government on implementing a UK Taxonomy – this is a common framework setting the standard for sustainable investments and what comprises a sustainable investment to help eliminate ‘greenwashing.’ The Group will provide independent advice on the development of the UK Taxonomy comprised of technical screening criteria (TSC). Their role is to decipher how the UK Taxonomy can best support reaching net zero targets and furthermore how it can accelerate the delivery of wider policies that minimise the effects of climate change. The Group will pull together scientific research and other expertise in the field to ensure the UK government is using finance in an optimum way to support the transition to net zero.

Upcoming events

[The UK climate change risk assessment and next steps for adaptation](#) – this webinar hosted by IEMA will take place on 22 March.

[Infection sustainability webinar](#) – this webinar focuses on infection control, re-usable surgical devices and antibiotics and will be held on 23 March.

[Sustainability reporting: target setting and performance](#) – webinar on sustainability reporting on 25 March.

[Earth day: invest in green innovation](#) – this earth day will celebrate a lot of guest speakers from a range of organisations developing new green innovations for the benefit of the NHS on 22 April.

[Energy and sustainability in the public sector 2022](#) – this day-long event will take place on 26 April and is hosted by the Institute of Government and Public Policy to discuss how far the public sector has come in advancing the sustainability agenda.

[SHARE conference 2022](#) – the theme of this conference is sustainable healthcare: theory to practice and will cover a variety of topics such as digital transformation, estates and facilities and supply chains. This conference will take place on 6 May.

[Delivering sustainable healthcare estates](#) – the exhibition and conference in Dublin focusing on sustainable healthcare estates will be held on 16-17 May.

[NHS Confed Expo](#) – NHS Confederation, NHS England and NHS Improvement are joining forces to host a significant conference for health and care leaders on 15 and 16 June.

[Removing plastics from within the NHS](#) – this webinar will be held on 7 July.

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

HFMA House, 4 Broad Plain, Bristol, BS2 0JP

T 0117 929 4789

E info@hfma.org.uk

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www.hfma.org.uk