



Environmental sustainability round-up

October 2021



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

- [NHS environmental sustainability guidance map](#)
- [Driving environmental sustainability – where to start?](#)
- [Sustainability and savings through the green plan: lessons from Cornwall](#)

In the news...

COP26 – let's all get involved!

COP26 will be taking place in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November and the HFMA will be producing a variety of outputs during this period, focusing on environmental sustainability. There are four key aims that COP26 is hoping to achieve:

- 1) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach
- 2) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- 3) Mobilise finance – this will require public and private financial institutions to work towards net zero and utilise funds to make this a top priority
- 4) Work together to deliver these aims.

Visit the COP26 [website](#) to discover how to get involved, see the progress the UK has already made and find more information on achieving the goals. Do keep an eye on HFMA's [website](#) and [social media](#) for our suite of COP 26 related outputs.

What is the HFMA doing around COP26?

The HFMA will be launching a campaign around this period to raise awareness and inspire action with outputs to include 'green pledges' from NHS colleagues, blogs, webinars and briefings.



Websites to visit

- [The Carbon Literacy Project](#)
- [Carbon Brief](#)
- [COP26](#)
- [Climate Assembly UK](#)
- [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [Friends of the Earth](#)
- [Keep Britain Tidy](#)
- [UK National Association for Environmental Education](#)

Delivering a Net Zero NHS – one year progress

At the NHS England and NHS improvement board meeting held this month, there was a [paper](#) that set out a detailed road map of how suppliers are expected to align with the NHS's net zero ambitions over the next decade. Firstly, by April 2022 all tenders must include a minimum of 10% scoring criteria which assesses how suppliers will contribute to the net zero targets, lowering carbon emissions and the social value in the delivery of a contract. The Board agreed the expectations they will place on suppliers between now and 2030, to reach these net zero targets. From April 2023, the NHS will adopt the government's 'taking account of carbon reduction plans', which will require all suppliers with new contracts and an anticipated annual contract value of over £5 million to publish a carbon reduction plan for their direct emissions. By April 2024, this will be expanded to all new contracts, regardless of the contract value.

Phase 3 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme \(PSDC\)](#) run by Salix Finance is open for applications until 3 November 2021. This phase 3 grant is focused on the decarbonisation of heat and energy efficient measures in public sector buildings. There is no cap on the amount of funding an applicant can apply for and there is no minimum sum. The NHS has secured over £280m of this funding to date but want and need more if they are to deliver on our carbon reduction targets.

The Government published its [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#) recently, and within that document stated that **£1.425bn** has been made available for this round of PSDS. If your organisation has previously been granted funding or applied for funding, this will not affect your phase 3 application. Once the total phase 3 budget is confirmed, 85% of the 2022/23 budget will be allocated to the single year projects where the heating system has reached the end of its working life, and the remaining 15% will be allocated to the first year of multi-year projects which must start in 2022/23 and end in either 2023/24 or 2024/25.

Upcoming events

- [Sustainability and savings through the Green Plan: lessons from Cornwall](#) – webinar hosted by the HFMA on 22 October 2021 and available on demand
- [The NHS and climate change: moving from policy to action for a sustainable future](#) – webinar hosted by The Kings Fund.
- [COP26](#) – 31 October 2021 - 12 November 2021
- [Achieving net zero carbon: savings and innovation through sustainability procurement](#) – webinar hosted by the HFMA on 11 November 2021 and available on demand
- [Environmental Protection UK annual conference](#) – this conference will be on 18 November 2021. There will be sessions on zero carbon buildings, the impact of Covid-19 on air quality and environmental protections.
- [HFMA annual conference](#) – the HFMA annual conference will be a hybrid event taking place between 6 and 10 December 2021. The programme can be found [here](#).
- [Measure what matters: Capital's accounting](#) – webinar run by A4S on 16 December 2021

National overprescribing review report

The Department of Health and Social care recently commissioned the chief pharmaceutical officer for England to conduct a review into the use of medication and overprescribing. This report is wide-ranging and covers the role of digital technologies, research, culture change and social prescribing, repeat prescribing and transfer of care. This report highlights that the NHS's commitment to net zero is admirable but could go further in reducing unnecessary prescribing and reducing waste. Similarly, the government must ensure that it adds weight to how medicines have a significant impact on tackling carbon emissions. It is estimated that medicines account for 25% of the NHS carbon footprint. Therefore, it is imperative to reduce overprescribing and the impact that reducing it can have on the commitment to net zero targets.

The Carbon Literacy Project

The HFMA Environmental Sustainability Special Interest Group recently had a presentation on NHS carbon literacy training and the experience at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The carbon literacy training is organised by the [Carbon Literacy Project](#) and is delivered through a training day that is designed to embed sustainable behaviour changes across teams. It improves individual awareness of climate change and empowers colleagues to take action. The training has been developed in a modular way, so that it can be tailored for many different departments and will help bring sustainability out of the traditional estates and facilities departments. There are three steps to becoming a carbon literate organisation:

- developing a bespoke training pack which personalises the challenges and opportunities within the healthcare sector
- delivering training which empowers participants to complete action plans and become carbon literate individuals
- once a significant proportion of colleagues are trained, the organisation is eligible as a carbon literate organisation.

There are different levels to the training and accreditations. For example, to become a bronze organisation you need to have your training materials accredited by the carbon literacy project and need to have a board member to attend the training to become a carbon literate individual.

Want to read more? Try these:

- [Local government and net zero](#) – The NAO
- [NHS environmental sustainability guidance map](#) – HFMA. This map brings together the key guidance, tools and examples to support the NHS in meeting its commitment to environmental sustainability.
- [National overprescribing review report](#) – The Department of Health and Social Care
- [How health professionals can use social media to spread environmental awareness](#) – Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
- [Environmental literacy for health professionals](#) – Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
- [WHO and UN partners' compendium of 500 actions aims to reduce diseases from environmental factors and save lives](#) – the World Health Organisation
- [New WHO global air quality guidelines aim to save millions of lives from air pollution](#) – the World Health Organisation
- [NHS England and Improvement Board meetings in common – agenda and papers – 30 September 2021](#) – NHS England and Improvement's board meeting includes a paper noting the progress and future plans to deliver a Net Zero NHS, one year on from the paper [Delivering a net zero NHS](#)
- [Remote consultations: do they reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Your guide to calculating the answer](#) – a blog from the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill will have another reading

The **Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill** is a Private Member's Bill first presented in the UK Parliament in September 2020 by Caroline Lucas MP, along with supporting MPs from seven political parties. The second reading of this bill will be on Friday 29 October. This bill includes the desire to implement a strategy with annual interim targets that meet the objectives of the bill. Some of the core objectives of the bill include:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions from sources caused by human activity as rapidly as possible
- measures to protect, restore and enhance ecosystems in the United Kingdom
- ending the exploration, extraction, export and import of fossil fuels by the United Kingdom as rapidly as possible.

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 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

1 Temple Way, Bristol BS2 0BU

T 0117 929 4789

E info@hfma.org.uk

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www.hfma.org.uk