



Environmental sustainability round-up

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 from the [HFMA website publications page](#). If you have any references or updates you think should be included in the next round-up, please contact gary.mincher@hfma.org.uk.

NHS launches new dashboard to help cut carbon emissions from inhalers

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) and clinicians from Guy's and St Thomas' and Imperial College Healthcare have collaboratively developed a tool to enable health professionals gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of respiratory prescribing from a sustainability point of view.

In the article, Sam Schofield, environment coordinator at NHSBSA explains that 'high levels of air pollution cause asthma in both children and adults. In the UK alone, more than 12 million people are affected by lung conditions – with over 60 million inhalers prescribed every year. Swapping to a more environmentally friendly inhaler helps to reduce the contribution to climate change and in turn, prevents worsening air pollution.'

Read the full article [here](#). See also information for patients in our national reports section below.

Register now....

12 October 2023

[HFMA Environmental sustainability in the health service](#)

online event exploring the environmental sustainability challenges facing the NHS and the role of finance teams

15 June 2023

Join the Greener NHS session at the NHS ConfedExpo: [How can greener healthcare unlock financial savings for the NHS?](#)

...And, on the subject of inhalers... Inhaler recycling scheme helping reduce NHS Wales emissions

The Inhaler Recycling Pilot Project has used Welsh Government funding to establish a contract with Grndon Waste Management, which sees the inhalers collected, the gases recaptured, cleansed and reused in refrigeration. Both the aluminium and plastic casing of the inhalers are also being recycled. Read the full article [here](#).



Global database of healthcare environmental impacts launched

A free, open access global database of healthcare environmental impacts has been launched by healthcare LCA, a collaboration between CASCADES (creating a sustainable Canadian health system in a climate crisis), Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Dalhousie University's Healthy Populations Institute. It is hoped that this will be a source of environmental impact assessments in healthcare to inform and guide policy change going forward.

The full article, reported by the National Health Executive, and the link to the database can be accessed [here](#).

Climate-damaging anaesthetic banned as NHS Scotland turbocharges net zero

The NHS in Scotland has banned the use of Desflurane, an anaesthetic that has a global warming potential 2,500 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. This action by the National Green Theatres Programme makes the Scottish NHS the first health service in the UK to ban the use of the anaesthetic. Read the full article [here](#).

In England, NHS organisations cut desflurane in drive for greener surgery. Access the full article [here](#).

In the news...

Europe 'failing its children' on air pollution, the European Environment Agency (EEA) says.

As reported in [the Guardian](#) on 24 April 2023, breathing dirty air causes the premature death of at least 1,200 children across Europe each year, and many thousands more are afflicted with physical and mental health problems that could have lifelong impacts, according to the latest assessment of air pollution by the EEA. The UK was not included in the EEA's assessment, as the UK government has opted out of EEA membership post-Brexit, even though several other non-EU countries – including Norway, Switzerland and Iceland – are members.

COP28

United Nations (UN) chief Antonio Guterres says a major new report on climate change is a 'survival guide for humanity', reported the [BBC](#) on 20 March. At a meeting in Switzerland to agree their findings, climate scientists warned a key global temperature goal will likely be missed. Their report lays out how rapid cuts to fossil fuels can avert the worst effects of climate change.

The UK government responded that the report makes it clear that countries must 'work towards far more ambitious climate commitments' ahead of the UN climate summit COP28 in November. 'The UK is a world leader in working towards net zero, but we need to go further and faster,' a spokesperson said.

Single use plastics

Single-use plastic plates and cutlery to be banned from October in England, reported [the Independent](#) in January 2023 (subscriber-only article). Retailers and takeaway vendors will be forced to seek recyclable alternatives.

The HFMA's recent outputs

Sustainability reporting in the NHS This briefing sets out the NHS environmental sustainability commitments and reporting requirements across the United Kingdom, what NHS organisations must report in 2022/23, along with good practice in sustainability reporting for NHS organisations in 2022/23 and beyond. It also looks ahead at future developments, the role of the finance function and how you can get involved in supporting the agenda.

NHS environmental sustainability guidance map brings together key guidance, tools and examples.

HFMA Moving towards green theatres Our roundtable discussion looked at ways to reduce their carbon footprint, the value of data and evidence to support changes in clinical practice and identified a role for incentives to reward environmental champions and to help fund further green initiatives. The roundtable also discussed how greater use of reusable items will help the delivery of the health service's net zero ambition.

National reports and guidance

Carbon reduction plan requirements for the procurement of NHS goods, services and works.

NHS England have published [guidance](#) to support NHS bodies in the carbon reduction plan procurement requirements. Since April 2023, NHS organisations require all suppliers of new contracts for goods, services, and/or works with an anticipated contract value above £5 million per year (excluding VAT) to publish a carbon reduction plan (CRP) for their emissions from the sources included in scope 1 and 2 of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, and a defined subset of scope 3 emissions.

United Nations

[Time running out to defuse climate time bomb](#): humanity has the money and technology it needs to slash its greenhouse gas emissions but must act now to avert a full-blown climate catastrophe, warns a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of leading climate scientists convened by the United Nations.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC has published their [sixth annual synthesis report](#) on climate change, observing human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with greenhouse gas emissions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals.

The Lancet environmental sustainability of health systems: time to act

The April 2023 article [Environmental sustainability of health systems](#) builds on the [2022 report of the Lancet countdown on health and climate change](#) and notes the climate change paradox faced by the health-care sector: health-care facilities and health-care givers are responsible for providing care to those who face harm and illness caused by climate change, but health systems also bear responsibility for the extensive environmental waste and contamination that contribute to these.

NHS Scotland sustainability strategy

NHS Scotland has set out its [sustainability strategy](#) for the next five years, as part of the longer term goal of being a net-zero health service by 2040. The strategy sets out actions and targets in five areas: buildings and land; travel; goods and services; care; and communities.

With estimates that 80% of Scotland's global climate emissions are linked to the production, consumption and waste of products and resources, the strategy sets out plans to create a circular economy – extracting less from the planet and re-using more of what has already been taken. Proposed actions in the goods and services theme include: classifying suppliers based on climate change and circular supply systems; taking into account whole life costs when assessing tenders; and phasing out plastics that cause the most damage to the environment.

Green theatre initiative

The Royal College of Surgeons of England, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, have declared their commitment to the [green theatre initiative](#) to protect patient health and wellbeing and tackle the environmental impact of surgical care. Resources include a [green theatre checklist poster](#) and [compendium of evidence](#).

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance on inhalers

[NICE patient decision aid](#) provides information for patients to enable informed decisions about their choice of inhaler in relation to its contribution to climate change and aid discussions with healthcare professionals

Estates net zero carbon delivery plan

The [Estates net zero carbon delivery plan](#) and [Technical annex](#) are both available on the [Greener NHS Knowledge Hub](#). The plan includes a four step approach to decarbonise the NHS estate and references a range of actions to tackle climate change in other areas such as driving forward a circular economy; the electrification of the NHS fleet; engaging the supply chain; preparing the estate for severe weather; and committing to active travel.

Greener NHS blogs and case studies

[Delivering high quality low carbon respiratory care](#)

[Putting anaesthetic emissions to bed](#)

[Greener NHS and School for Change Agents join forces to create change in health and care](#)

[Drive for energy efficient healthcare is delivering for patients and planet](#)

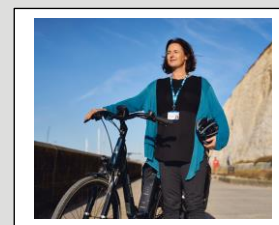
[University Hospitals Birmingham: A world first in carbon net zero surgery](#)

[Drone deliveries of vital chemotherapy to the Isle of Wight](#)

[NHS organisations cut desflurane in drive for greener surgery](#)

[Pedal power for cleaner healthcare delivery](#)

[Electric vehicles drive down carbon emissions in and around Greater Manchester](#)



Training

Sustainability Leadership for Greener Health and Care Programme

The NHS Leadership Academy will launch [Sustainability leadership for greener health and care](#) on the 29th May 2023. The 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.

Environmentally sustainable healthcare programme

This environmentally sustainable healthcare e-learning programme was developed with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and the Health Education England Northeast Faculty of Sustainable Healthcare. It aims to provide the healthcare workforce with the knowledge and skills to deliver healthcare for financial, social and environmental sustainability. The new training module, *Building a net zero NHS*, available [here](#) and free to undertake, has been endorsed by Greener NHS.

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. Contact Carbon Literacy to discuss delivery costs and options.

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.

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH)

CSH works with NHS trusts to integrate sustainability into quality improvement. CSH has freely available resources, developed with support from Health Education England and The Health Foundation - *step-by-step project resources* (at [SusQI.org](#)); *educator pack* (at [SusQI.org](#)); and a *30-minute introductory e-learning session* (on [e-LfH](#))

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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