



**Healthcare Professionals Guide to
Declaring a Climate Emergency in
the Health Sector**



A guide to declaring a Climate Emergency in the health sector

Do you or your Trust (or other UK health organisation) want to declare a Climate Emergency but you don't know where to start? This is a guide to starting out. This guide should give you a guided tour of declaring a climate emergency and the follow on actions:

Remember, every action counts

Contents

What is a Climate Emergency Declaration?	2
Understanding the carbon footprint of the Health and Social care sector	2
Health Information	2
Starting Out	2
Documents	2
Reading to get you started	2
Greener NHS	2
Action Plan	2
Sustainability Health Networks	2
Energy	2
Fleet	2
Digital	2
Procurement	2
Training and Education	2
Tree Planting and Biodiversity	2
Funding	2
Adaptation	2
Legislation and Guidance	2
Background reading	2
Communications	2
Who are Health Declares?	2
With Thanks	2



What is a Climate Emergency Declaration?

To declare a climate emergency you need to:

1. Understand the impact of climate change on your organisation and the health of the world
2. Set targets to eliminate carbon emissions (ideally earlier than 2050)
3. Eliminate fossil fuels from your energy mix

To declare a climate emergency, it takes every part of your organisation to understand the changes that need to happen from the estates and fleet teams to the anaesthetics leads to clinical doctors. It takes a lot of continued work afterwards to get it implemented.

This guide is about how to express your intention of declaring a climate emergency, setting zero emission targets and then what you need to do next on the journey to becoming sustainable and Net Zero healthcare organisation.

Why Declare a Climate Emergency?

Declaring a climate emergency is a strong message of recognition - both of the scale of the problem as well as the action that must accompany that. Just as we have seen with international responses to Covid-19, the importance of timely recognition of a threat, clear leadership and evidence-based collective action cannot be overstated. The same is true in the longer-term emergency of climate change.

Who can declare a Climate Emergency?

You can declare one. Your team can declare one. Your organisation can declare one.

If you want your organisation to declare one and actually make the impact to eliminate your organisation's carbon emissions, then read on!

Understanding the carbon footprint of the Health and Social care sector

The Health sector in the UK is made up of many constituents. The organisations that are part of the health system include hospitals, doctor's surgeries, pharmacies, dentists, ambulance services, social services, care homes, third sector and colleges.

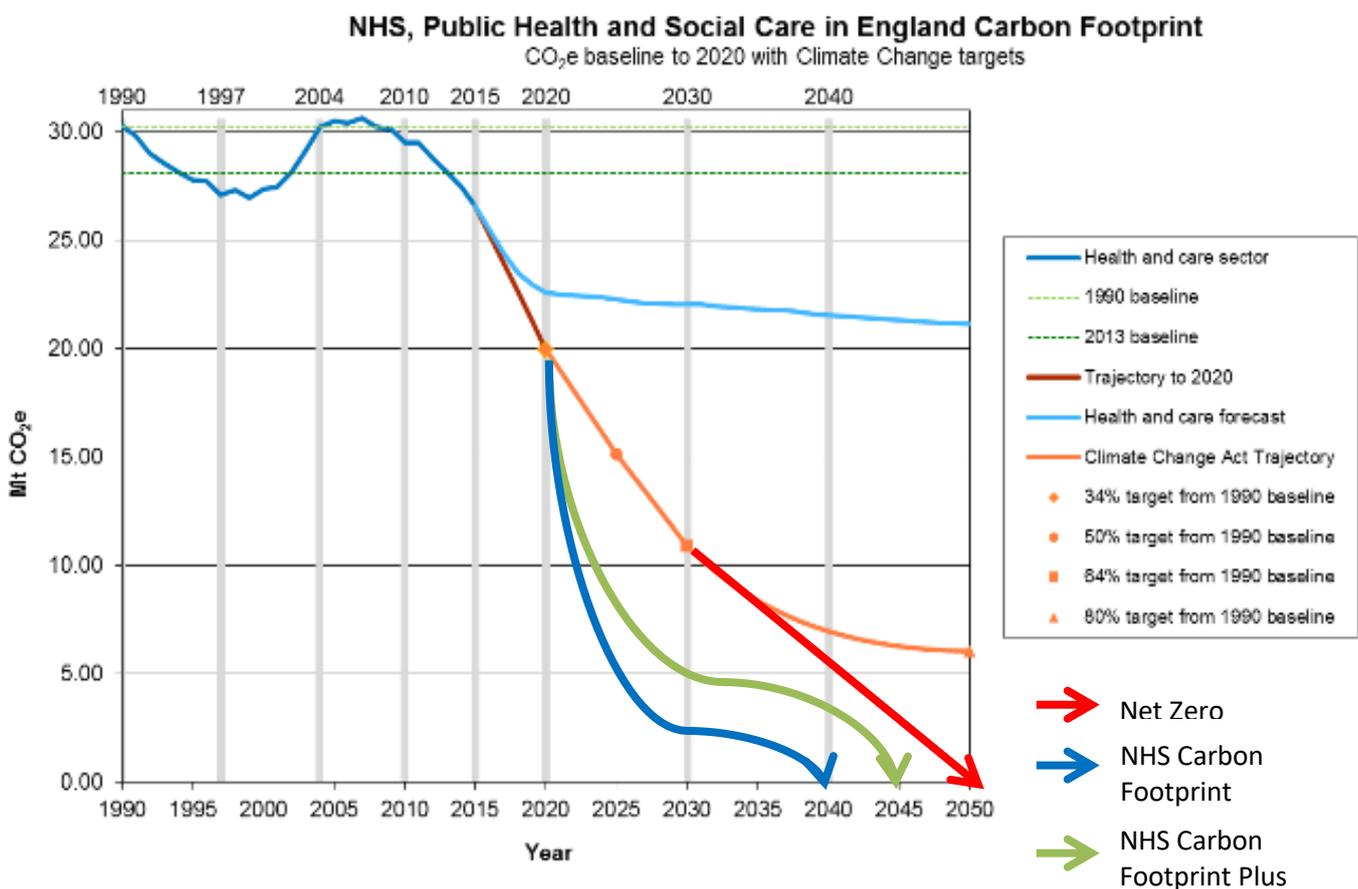
The carbon footprint of the health and social care sector is enormous. The NHS is the third largest organisation on the planet. If the global health sector were a country, it would be the fifth-largest emitter on the planet, contributing to the equivalent emissions to a small country. The NHS employs over 1.5 million people and there are over 2.5 million working within the Health and Social care sector as a whole. The health care sector in the UK has probably another million that work within the health system. Health Care Without Harm published shocking statistics indicating that the global healthcare



contributes to [4.4% of global carbon emissions](#). The NHS contributes to 5% of the UK's carbon emissions.

The impact of the health sector is far reaching with many products that are imported from abroad and many pharmaceuticals procured from the Far East. Every service provided, every product used, every email sent, every patient served within the health system has a carbon footprint. We need to work out how we can make a low emission health system and eventually make it carbon neutral or negative.

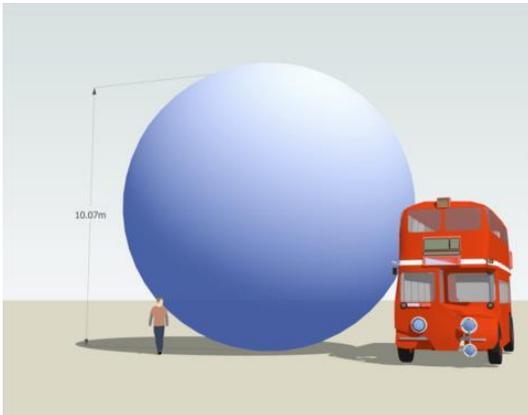
The public health and social care carbon footprint is around 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (2020). The UK has laid down a net zero target of 2050 (red line). In order for the world to prevent reaching the 1.5 degree tipping point we need to achieve a 85% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 (green line). The Greener NHS has declared that the NHS must achieve a net zero target by 2045 for all emissions.



Source: SDU



What is CO2e?

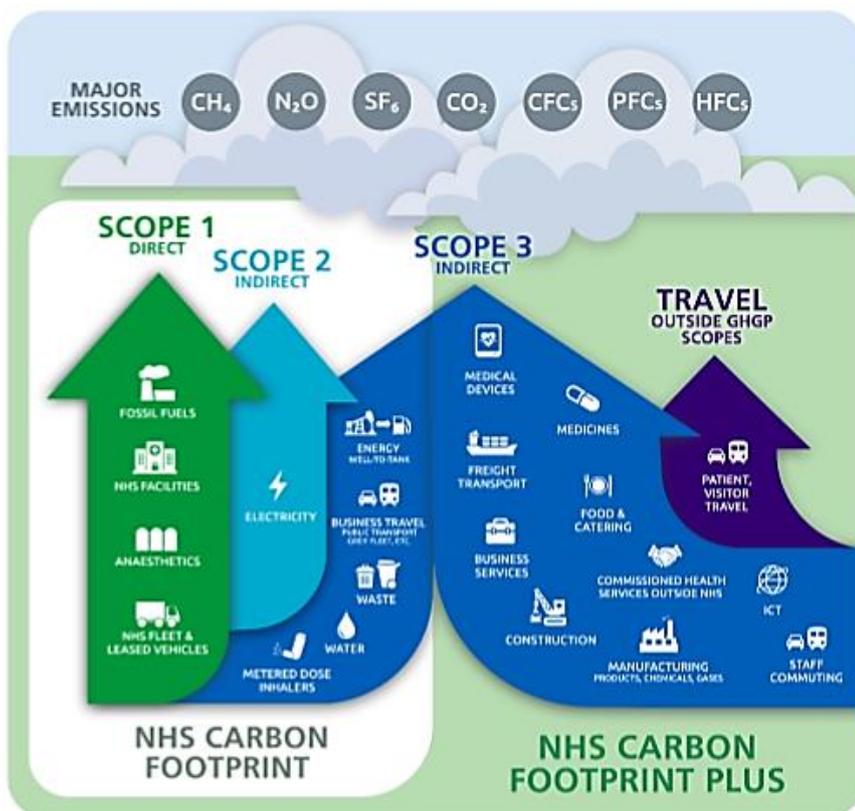


[Carbon Visuals](#) picture to show the size of a tonne of CO2. Most adults in the UK have a carbon footprint of 12 tonnes.

Carbon is a generic term used for a greenhouse gas that is measured in CO2e. CO2e is an abbreviation of 'carbon dioxide equivalent' and is the internationally recognised measure of greenhouse emissions.

There are many types of greenhouse gases. Six such gases are controlled by the Kyoto protocol. These include: carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) methane (CH₄) and a range of synthetic (industrial) gases including: perfluorocarbons (PFC), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Carbon emissions are defined under three categories or 'Scopes' – Scope 1, 2 and 3. These are defined by the Green House Gas Protocol and the Greener NHS.



Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. This includes fuel combustion on site, from owned vehicles and fugitive emissions. Examples include fleet vehicles, fuel combustion, gas emissions from boilers and air-conditioning refrigerant leaks.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions will be created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation. Examples include purchased electricity, heat and steam.

Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, but occur from sources that they do not own or control. This is usually the largest

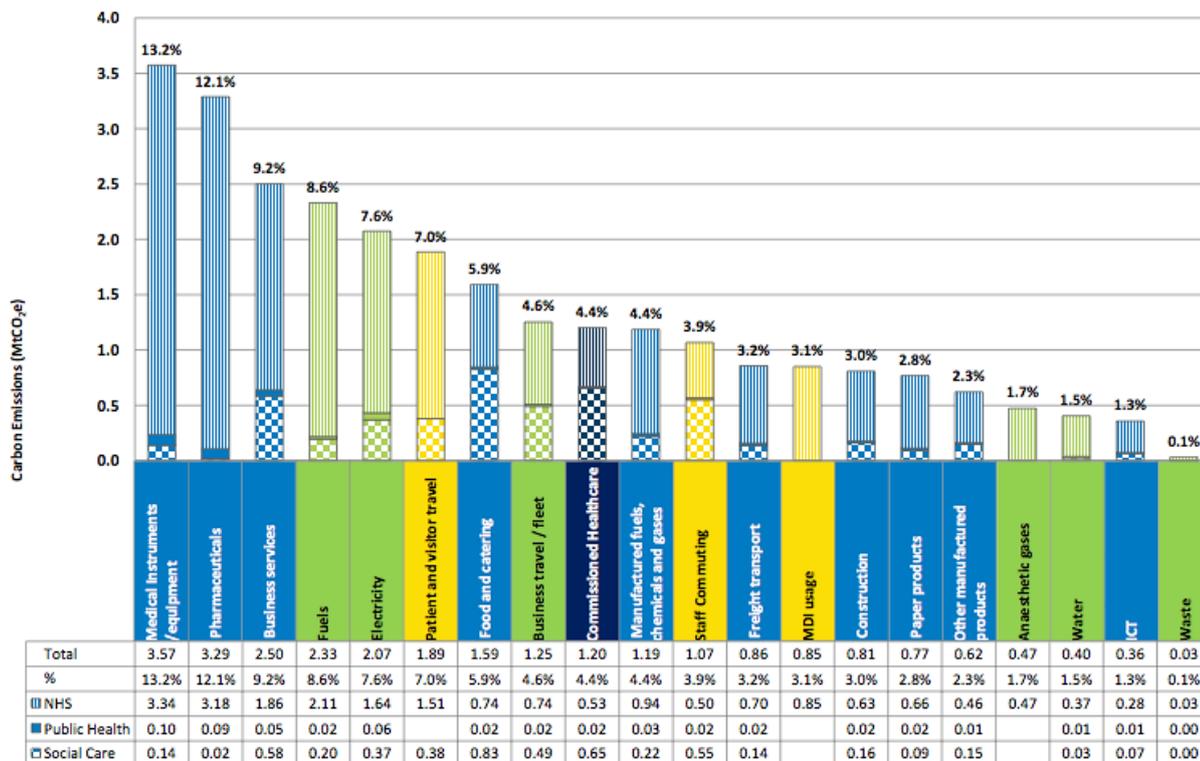
share of the carbon footprint, especially for office-based companies and the health system, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water.



Examples include aeroplane travel, train transport, commissioned services, procurement, shipping of goods. It also includes purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting, transportation and distribution (up- and downstream), investments, leased assets and franchises and waste disposal.

The breakdown of the emissions within the Health and Social care system is presented below. The emissions come from medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, fuels, electricity, food and catering, commuting, anaesthetic gases and ICT amongst others.

Figure 4. Health and Social care detailed breakdown 2017



Source: SDU



The Health and Social care sector's emissions are broken down into emissions from the things we consume and procure. The graph below shows the carbon emissions that come from each sector.



The NHS, public health and social care sector is made up of many different types of organisations with distinct characteristics. The SDU used the Health and Social Care Information Centre classifications to produce an outline of the carbon footprint for types of organisations. Each organisation is unique so this information is provided for guidance only. The carbon hotspots identified in this research can be used to evaluate materiality of interventions and actions on sustainability

Carbon intensities for types of activity have also been produced from this work, these can be used for looking at patient pathways, estimating the carbon footprint from activity in different settings based on spend. Further information on patient pathways and carbon actions on hotspots is also available in the [areas of focus pages](#).



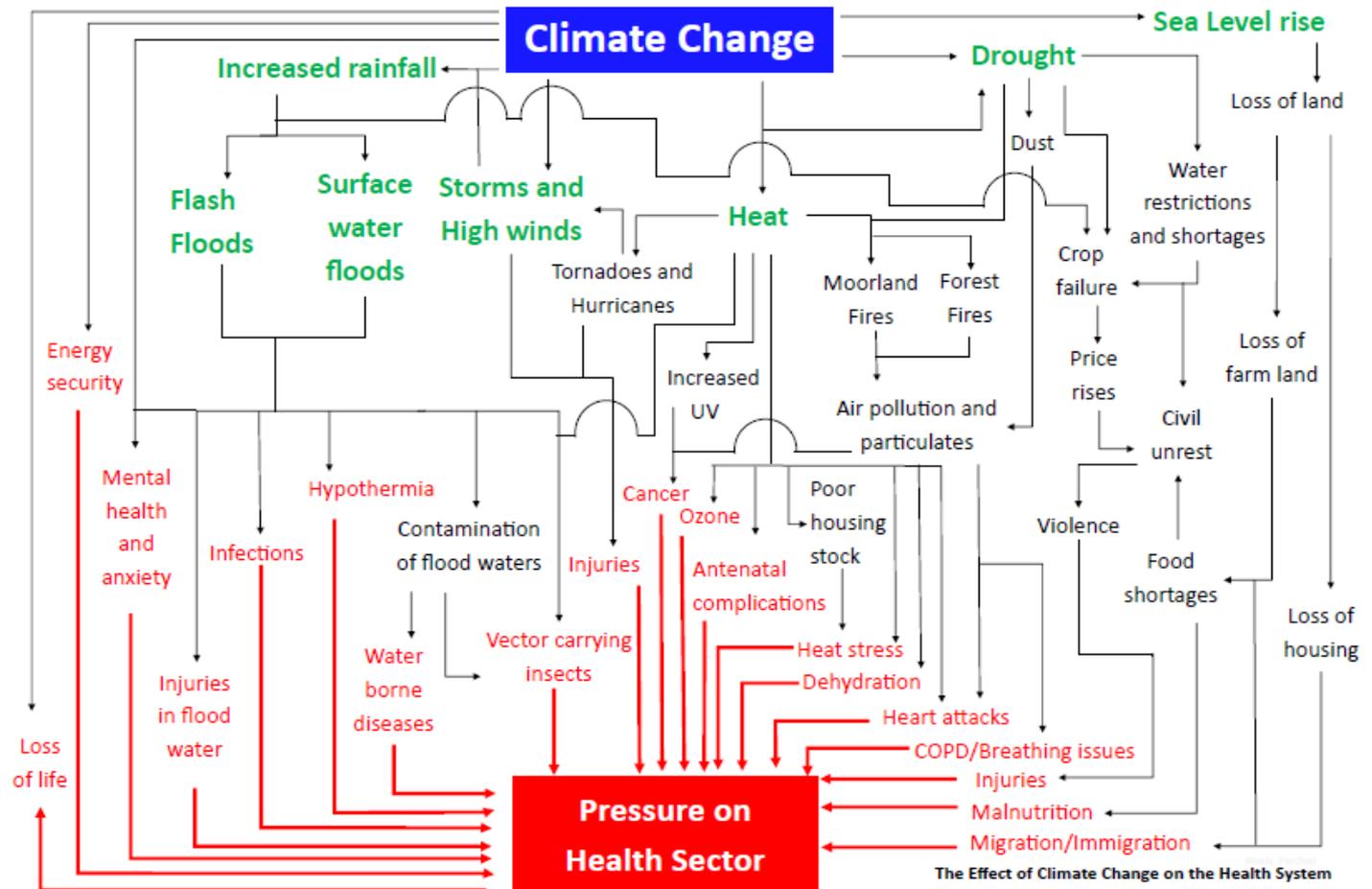
The table below provides a summary of the carbon intensities for NHS services:

	Carbon intensity (kgCO ₂ e/£000)	Carbon intensity per head of population (kg/person)	Carbon per unit activity ⁴
GP	150	70	Per patient contact lasting 11.7 minutes 6 kgCO ₂ e (including pharmaceuticals is 18 kgCO ₂ e)
Dentist	210	10	NHS dentist – performer-only per hour 17 kgCO ₂ e per hour patient contact 21 kgCO ₂ e Dentist – providing-performer per hour 19 kgCO ₂ e per hour patient contact 27 kgCO ₂ e
Community	160	10	See acute below
Mental Health	160	30	
Ambulance	260	10	Ambulance - See and treat and refer 30 kgCO ₂ e Ambulance - See and treat and convey 38 kgCO ₂ e
Specialist	210	10	See acute below
Acute	210	210	Elective inpatient stays 708 kgCO ₂ e Non-elective inpatient stays (long stays) 595 kgCO ₂ e Non-elective inpatient stays (short stays) 126 kgCO ₂ e Day cases average of all stays 146 kgCO ₂ e Average of all outpatient attendances 23 kgCO ₂ e
Adult Social Care	220	60	
Public Health	160	10	



Health Information

What will the impact be for the health system with a changed climate?



Do you need stats and information as to the impact of climate change on the health system? Here are some additional resources:

-  Royal College of Physician's [Breaking the Fever](#) document
-  [Lancet Countdown](#) report
-  [Healthcare without Harm](#)
-  [Royal College of physicians: every breath you take](#)



Starting Out

So how can start to work out your carbon footprint and get a functional climate emergency declaration with the required carbon reductions in place?

- 🔊 Track down who in your organisation is responsible for reporting your annual carbon footprint (Estates team, Sustainability Manager, Procurement team) and start to work with them. They have the access to the data that you need to support your declaration
- 🔊 Read your annual report – it is requirement that your annual report reports your organisation's sustainability performance
- 🔊 Find out if you have a Board approved SDMP (Sustainable Development Management Plan)
- 🔊 Find out what your carbon footprint is
- 🔊 Track down your annual [ERIC returns data](#). ERIC returns is the data that has to be submitted annually
- 🔊 Start to work out a plan
- 🔊 Work out what you want your net zero carbon organisation to look like in the next 10 to 30 years

Documents

To get a Climate Emergency declared in your organisation, you need to make sure you have some basic documents to get started and ensure that the climate emergency is enacted within your organisation. There is no point in declaring if you can't carry it through. The Sustainable Development Management Plan is required by all NHS providers and NHS organisations under the NHS Standard Contract. Many of the other documents help to form the basis for your Climate Emergency to ensure that you can enact carbon reduction as part of your action plan. Here are some of the documents that you should look for to start you off on your journey:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Development Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road to Zero transport strategy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carbon Footprint Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Digital Healthcare assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change Adaptation Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Resilience Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Health Risk Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change on Risk Register
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewable Energy Contract	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Emergency Declaration for Board



Reading to get you started

There are lots of great resources that can help you with the carbon reduction agenda within the healthcare sector.

- Sustainable Development Unit - The [Sustainable Development Unit](#) ensures that the health and care system fulfils its potential as a leading sustainable low carbon service. They have a carbon calculator and a [powerful points library](#) with impactful facts, [case studies](#) and figures about sustainable development in health and care. They sit under NHS England.
- [Greener NHS programme](#) working to reduce the NHS's carbon footprint to Net Zero by 2045
- [Centre for Sustainable Health](#) provides a wide range of materials to support health professionals to develop sustainable approaches. They have excellent education resources for medical educators.
- [The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change](#)
- [The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#) advocates for responses to climate change that protect public health.
- [Medact](#) campaigns for the human right to health worldwide. A key strand of their work is on climate change and fossil fuel divestment.
- [Concerned Health Professionals of the UK](#): CHPUK is a group of health professionals deeply concerned about the health effects of fracking, who campaign for a ban on fracking in the UK.
- NHS Long Term Plan - Climate change features within the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) in the appendix section 17 regarding how the plan supports wider social goals – “the NHS is leading by example in sustainable development and reducing use of natural resource in line with government commitments” (NHS England, 2019).
- UN [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)
- [Greening government commitments](#)
- NHS sustainability day [Sustainability impact report](#)
- [Health Foundation](#)
- [Health Care Without Harm](#)

If you want to read some books on the science of Climate Change as well as the impacts that we are likely to suffer, these are some good, if not depressing reads. More are always coming out on the market.

- How bad are bananas, Mike Berners-Lee – good for understanding the carbon footprint of products and things
- The sixth extinction, Elizabeth Kolbert
- The Uninhabitable Earth, David Wallace-wells
- A civic plan for a climate emergency, Paul Chatterton
- This is not a drill, Extinction Rebellion



Greener NHS

On 1st October 2020, the Greener NHS report was finally issued. The NHS is the third largest organisation on the planet and has a moral responsibility to ensure that it eliminates carbon where possible. This report lays out bold plans for the future of decarbonising the NHS.

This report highlights the importance of decarbonising the NHS.

The Target

There are two targets for the NHS Net Zero commitment, based on the scale of the challenge posed by climate change, current knowledge and the interventions as well as assumptions that underpin this analysis:

- for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032
- for the emissions we can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039.

The Greener NHS programme will encompass these steps:

1. Our care: By developing a framework to evaluate carbon reduction associated with new models of care being considered and implemented as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.
2. Our medicines and supply chain: By working with our suppliers to ensure that all of them meet or exceed our commitment on net zero emissions before the end of the decade.
3. Our transport and travel: By working towards road-testing for what would be the world's first zero-emission ambulance by 2022, with a shift to zero emission vehicles by 2032 feasible for the rest of the fleet.
4. Our innovation: By ensuring the digital transformation agenda aligns with our ambition to be a net zero health service, and implementing a net zero horizon scanning function to identify future pipeline innovations.
5. Our hospitals: By supporting the construction of 40 new 'net zero hospitals' as part of the government's Health Infrastructure Plan with a new Net Zero Carbon Hospital Standard.
6. Our heating and lighting: By completing a £50 million LED lighting replacement programme, which, expanded across the entire NHS, would improve patient comfort and save over £3 billion during the coming three decades.
7. Our adaptation efforts: By building resilience and adaptation into the heart of our net zero agenda, and vice versa, with the third Health and Social Care Sector Climate Change Adaptation Report in the coming months.
8. Our values and our governance: By supporting an update to the NHS Constitution to include the response to climate change, launching a new national programme 'For a greener NHS', and ensuring that every NHS organisation has a board-level net zero lead, making it clear that this is a key responsibility for all our staff.

Read the Greener NHS report - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2020/10/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf>

More details on the Greener NHS programme can be found on the Greener NHS webpages - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/>



Action Plan

An action plan will highlight where you can make carbon savings quickly. It will also identify who you need to get involved and how they can work to reduce the emissions of your organisation.

Much of the Climate Emergency declaration and documentation will form the action plan for what to do after you have declared. Some ideas as to how you can help to implement your carbon reduction programme:

- 🔊 Setup a Sustainable Development Working Group including members of the Board, estates, fleet, waste, procurement, ICT, clinicians, nurses and anyone who wants get involved
- 🔊 Create an Action plan to get your emissions to zero by your climate emergency target (take time on this as it requires financial investment, staff resources, commitment, communication and a vision from your organisation)
- 🔊 Get Carbon Literate – [carbon literacy](#) is an understanding of carbon emissions and how they are created. Create a programme that starts to educate your organisation and individuals on the carbon embedded in your systems
- 🔊 Get buy in from finance to ensure investment across the organisation to reduce emissions
- 🔊 Present to your Board to get them to sign up to the Climate Emergency and to support the Action plan
- 🔊 Set up a green champions network across the organisation
- 🔊 Set team level carbon targets – if possible use competition and engagement to drive big step changes
- 🔊 Stop procuring fossil based electricity – get a renewable energy contract in place asap
- 🔊 Start planting trees, get biodiversity on your healthcare sites
- 🔊 Start looking at public transport and active travel (walking, cycling) options that would reduce the impact of staff and patients to get to your healthcare site
- 🔊 Get your procurement teams to work with the supply chain to procure locally
- 🔊 Anaesthetic gases – get your anaesthetists to look at the types of gases they are using and shift to those with lower global warming potential
- 🔊 If prescribing asthma drugs, select dry powder without a propellant instead
- 🔊 [Warp-it](#) - Furniture recycling for free to other NHS and public sector organisations. Subscription service.
- 🔊 Work with local resilience forums to look at how to adapt to climate change
- 🔊 Offer plant based options on menus
- 🔊 Collaborate with other NHS, health and social care as well as private sectors organisations.
- 🔊 Lobby government to change legislation to support a zero emission target

Sustainability Health Networks

If you want to see what others are doing, join some other sustainability health networks in the UK and abroad. There are some fantastic case studies from across the globe that we need to start replicating.



- 🔊 [Health Care without Harm](#)
- 🔊 SDU local networks – contact the SDU to get involved with your local sustainability health network. They usually have an email group and hold annual meetings/conferences on various sustainability subjects.
- 🔊 [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals](#). GGHH Connect is an innovative multilingual social networking platform where members of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals initiative (hospitals, health systems, and health organizations from around the world) connect, learn, and collaborate with each other to support their efforts toward reducing the environmental footprint of the health sector.
- 🔊 [Greener Anaesthesia and Sustainability Project](#)
- 🔊 AAGBI, the [Anaesthetic Association](#)
- 🔊 [Greener Practice](#) for GP practise
- 🔊 RCGP [Green Impact](#) for Health
- 🔊 [Medact](#) Climate and Health
- 🔊 [Green Nephrology programme](#) - bringing together patients, clinicians, renal technicians and others to share ideas for [sustainable kidney care](#).
- 🔊 [Future NHS Collaboration Platform](#)
- 🔊 [IEMA](#) – Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
- 🔊 [Sustainable Healthcare](#) Coalition
- 🔊 [MECC Links](#) – the make every contact count sustainability section helps you to signpost patients to more sustainable ways of living
- 🔊 [Green operating rooms](#) (US page)
- 🔊 [Sustainable operating theatre networks at the CSH](#)

Energy

Energy is the largest direct emissions of the healthcare system. Reduce energy and you will have a direct reduction in carbon emissions.

The hierarchy of priorities for energy reduction and energy elimination include:

1) Demand reduction

- 🔊 Energy reduction
- 🔊 Light controls
- 🔊 Motion sensors and timers
- 🔊 Insulation of buildings and pipework
- 🔊 Behaviour change programmes – poster campaigns/turn it off campaigns

2) Energy efficiency

- 🔊 LED lighting
- 🔊 Upgrade boilers
- 🔊 Specification of energy efficient products
- 🔊 Water reduction devices

3) Renewables and low carbon technology

- 🔊 Commit to a renewable energy contract



- 🔊 Install renewables like solar and wind
- 🔊 Install battery storage systems to store your energy
- 🔊 District heating system
- 🔊 Air source heat pumps
- 🔊 Ground source heat pumps

Additional resources include:

- 🔊 [HTM EnCO2de](#) - Making energy work in healthcare (HTM 07-02)
- 🔊 [SDU Estates](#)
- 🔊 [Institute of Health Engineering and Estates Management \(IHEEM\)](#)
- 🔊 [HEFMA](#) resources

Fleet

Travel associated with the NHS and the social healthcare system, account for 5-7% of the UK's road traffic.

The NHS Long-Term Plan commits to reducing emissions from our fleet, specifically:

- 🔊 Cutting air pollutant emissions from business mileage and NHS fleet by 20% by 2023/24
- 🔊 Ensuring that at least 90% of the NHS fleet use low-emissions engines (including 25% Ultra Low Emissions) by 2028 – [SDU/NHS Long Term Plan](#)
- 🔊 Carry out an assessment on the SDU's [Health Outcomes of Travel Tool \(HOTT\)](#) which can help NHS organisations measure the impact their travel and transport has in environmental, financial and health terms
- 🔊 Carry out a [Green Fleet Review](#) funded by the Department for Transport and are provided at no charge for NHS organisations operating between 20—100 vehicles. They are designed to measure how sustainable a current fleet operation is and provide advice on vehicle choice, mileage reduction strategy, grey fleet management, staff engagement and fuel economy.
- 🔊 The Energy Saving Trusts sets advice on how to implement a [travel hierarchy](#) and how to [manage fleet mileage](#) (including a [guide for fleet managers](#)) as well as options for [managing business travel and grey fleet use](#). They also set out the benefits of [electric vehicles](#) and advice on OLEV Plug-in Vehicle Grants. There are a number of other funding options available including the [Workplace Charging Scheme](#) and the [eCargo Bike Grant Fund](#).
- 🔊 Incentivise staff to move to zero emission vehicles with lease car policies requiring lower emission vehicles
- 🔊 Install EV charging points for patients, visitors, staff, supplier and internal fleet vehicles
- 🔊 Implement Active Travel Plan
- 🔊 Ensure that there are cycling facilities available
- 🔊 Offer incentives for public transport and cycling
- 🔊 Work with civic partners and local transport agencies to implement efficient transport to the health care sites

Digital

As we move into a digital healthcare age, we need to understand that the buying choices we make now will have a long lasting effect on information storage and energy consumption. Data storage is likely to



contribute to 6% of the world's carbon emissions in the 2020s. Data through emails, information, scans, records, everything in the health system is now electronically stored (even faxes!!) and is contributing to an increasing carbon footprint of ICT. Data files can be stored for up to 10 years after someone's death so we need to work out how we can start to store less and reduce the size of data. Here are some useful links to guide you through lower carbon with your ICT:

- 🔊 Move your search engine to [Ecosia](#) which plant trees for every 50 searches you carry out
- 🔊 Moving your data storage from a server to a data centre and then moving storage data centres to cloud can have major energy savings. Ensure your data centre is a very efficient and you can make even more carbon savings
- 🔊 Telehealth through remote treatment and consultation technologies can deliver major carbon reductions.
- 🔊 Skype and Webinars – to avoid travel you can reduce costs, travel as well as air pollution
- 🔊 Ensure that if you are commissioning digital health care that all aspects are looked at – the energy consumption of the product, the source of the product (modern slavery act should play a role in this)
- 🔊 [TCO Certified](#) - sustainable IT products
- 🔊 [Guide to Greener Electronics](#)
- 🔊 [Greenpeace report on Clicking Clean](#)
- 🔊 [The Climate Group](#), SMART 2020: Enabling the low carbon economy in the information age - [Global Electricity Usage](#) of Communication Technology
- 🔊 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. The [greening government sustainable technology strategy 2020](#) and the [ICT case studies](#).
- 🔊 [How to stop data centres from gobbling up the world's electricity](#)
- 🔊 World Economic Forum - [A New Circular Vision for Electronics, Time for a Global Reboot](#)
- 🔊 [Energy and Carbon Footprint of the Global ICT Sectors 2010–2015](#)

Procurement

Over 75% of the health sector's spend goes through supply chain. The NHS spends in excess of £40 billion on the procurement of goods and services every year. This is where we can make a huge impact on Carbon reduction

- 🔊 Talk to your procurement team to see what greener products you can shift to reduce your carbon footprint
- 🔊 Talk to your suppliers and framework providers to see what products have low carbon footprints
- 🔊 Procure local products wherever possible
- 🔊 Procure products with low to no packaging. This helps to reduce the amount of waste that you have to pay to dispose of
- 🔊 Ask for reusable delivery boxes from your suppliers
- 🔊 Investigating the current state of [sustainable procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical devices](#)
- 🔊 Sustainability checklist criteria for major procurements (all over 250k)
- 🔊 [Procuring for carbon reduction](#)
- 🔊 [Ethical procurement for health workbook](#)
- 🔊 Ethical procurement for the [British Medical Association](#)
- 🔊 [Ethical procurement for GPs and CCGs](#)



Training and Education

Some training programmes to look at the impact of carbon emissions:

- 🔊 Design an online training course for staff to understand sustainability and carbon reduction
- 🔊 Carbon Literacy Project - www.carbonliteracy.com. The Carbon Literacy Project has a variety of different programmes available for the NHS offering a unique day's - worth of action-based climate learning for everyone. They are a regulated social enterprise, working for a registered charity.
- 🔊 The [British Society for Lifestyle Medicine](#) offer training
- 🔊 The [Carbon Trust](#) runs various programmes to train anyone on carbon reduction
- 🔊 [Operation TLC](#)
- 🔊 [Green Impact](#) - The web-based scheme is designed to improve the environmental performance of general practice while saving money and ensuring that the way we provide our services offers the greatest benefit to society as a whole.

Tree Planting and Biodiversity

Tree planting is one of the best ways of offsetting emissions. Biodiversity plays a key role in health and wellbeing.

- 🔊 Plant trees and log with the [NHS Forest](#) -. The NHS Forest is a project coordinated by the [Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#) and aims to plant a tree for every worker within the NHS, all 1.5 million of us.
- 🔊 Set up a [green health route](#) in your healthcare setting
- 🔊 Work with your local beekeepers to install beehives on your site
- 🔊 Work with your local [Incredible Edible](#) to see what you can do on your site to raise awareness of healthy, local eating

Funding

Funding for any NHS green projects is always challenging. Most low carbon projects have a return on investment (ROI) period. Those with long ROIs may not seem viable to most health sector organisations, however these are projects that will present the greenest options (i.e. solar, wind). Many organisations can fund programmes to reduce carbon emissions and the finance team will require business cases in order to fund. In some healthcare organisations, there is funding available from the Trust's charitable fund – please check their funding criteria. There are alternative funding routes for low carbon projects if there aren't funding pots available internally. These are some of the external funding routes that are available to enable green projects to proceed:

- 🔊 [Salix](#)
- 🔊 [NHS Testbeds](#)
- 🔊 [Innovate UK](#)



- 🔊 Your local AHSN can direct you towards funding that may be available
- 🔊 NHS England have some funding pots
- 🔊 Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) have funding occasionally for low emission vehicles
- 🔊 Local Councils offer funding for some low carbon projects
- 🔊 Regional development funds
- 🔊 Interreg
- 🔊 Horizon 2020
- 🔊 Postcode lottery
- 🔊 National lottery

Adaptation

On our present carbon emissions trajectory, we are set to hit temperature rises of four degrees. Of the NHS estate, 7% of hospitals are located in the middle of floodplains. We have already melted enough sea ice as well as land ice to raise the sea level by 1m by the end of this century (source: UKCP18), but with tipping points it is likely that we will have sea level rise beyond this. We need to adapt to climate change whether we manage to control our emissions to below 1.5 degrees or not.

In order to assess the impact of climate change, we need to look what the issues are as well as assess what we need to adapt to. These resources look at various elements of climate changes as well as the social impact due to climate change.

- 🔊 Put climate change on your risk register
- 🔊 Work with your business continuity and resilience teams to establish plans to look how to deal with extreme weather incidents
- 🔊 Get your estate team to assess the estate in relation to flood and overheating
- 🔊 Assess the risk with [Climate Just](#)
- 🔊 [Shape Atlas](#) – Strategic Health Asset Planning and Evaluation (SHAPE) is a web enabled, evidence based application that informs and supports the strategic planning of services and assets across a whole health economy.
- 🔊 UKCP18 – the Met Office, Environment Agency and DEFRA produced the [UKCP18](#), UK's Climate Projections in 2018, mapping different temperature scenarios up to 2300

Legislation and Guidance

To support your bid for implementing your climate emergency there is a lot of supporting legislation and plans. These are detailed below:

Legislative

List of the key legislative drivers

- 🔊 Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- 🔊 Public Services (Social Values) Act 2012
- 🔊 Climate Change Act 2008



- 🔊 Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019
- 🔊 [Net Zero Legislation](#)

Mandatory

Legislation mandated within the NHS Standard Form Contract requirements for Sustainable Development 2017-19

- 🔊 HM Treasury's Sustainability Reporting Framework
- 🔊 Public Health Outcomes Framework

International

Legislation driven by International Guidance Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR5 2013

- 🔊 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2016
- 🔊 World Health Organisation (WHO) toward environmentally sustainable health systems in Europe 2016
- 🔊 World Health Organisation (WHO) Health 2020; European policy for Health and Wellbeing
- 🔊 The Global Climate and Health Alliance; Mitigation and Co-benefits of Climate Change

UK guidance

Driven by UK Guidance National Policy and Planning Framework 2012

- 🔊 Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) The Economics of Climate Resilience 2013
- 🔊 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Government Buying Standards for Sustainable Procurement 2016
- 🔊 The Stern Review 2006; the Economics of Climate Change
- 🔊 Health Protection Agency (HPA) Health Effects of Climate Change 2012
- 🔊 The National Adaptation Programme 2013: Making the country resilient to the changing climate
- 🔊 Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 25 Year Plan

Health Specific Requirements

- 🔊 The Marmot Review 2010: Fair Society, Healthy? Lives
- 🔊 Sustainable Development Strategy for the Health and Social Care System 2014-2020
- 🔊 Saving Carbon, Improving Health: a NHS carbon reduction strategy
- 🔊 Adaptation to climate change for health and social care organisations
- 🔊 The Carter Review 2016
- 🔊 National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Physical Activity: walking and cycling 2012
- 🔊 Health Technical Memoranda (HTM)'s and Health Building Notes (HBN)'s
- 🔊 Social Value Act 2012
- 🔊 [NHS England's Long Term Plan](#) aims to reduce fleet air pollutant emissions by 20% by 2023/24 and to support the government's target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. Climate change features within the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) in the appendix section 17 regarding how the plan supports wider social goals
- 🔊 Sustainable Transformation Partnerships (STP) Plans
- 🔊 Lord Carter's review into unwarranted variation in NHS ambulance trusts 2018



Background reading

- 🔊 [You've declared a Climate Emergency... what next?](#) – Arup report
- 🔊 Welcome to the Anthropocene video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvgG-pxlobk>
- 🔊 Healthcare climate footprint - <https://noharm-europe.org/ClimateFootprintReport>

Communications

Communications are really important to engagement and bringing others along with you as well as connecting with those who don't know what is happening. Here are some ideas as to the comms that you can do to start to get everyone engaged:

- 🔊 Set up a slack group - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1r2d62CzP2VpJKRB9kt-8u7UHqLD357nqrJITlabsdtg/edit#slide=id.p>
- 🔊 Set up a whatsapp group for your department/green network to encourage staff to engage in lower carbon projects
- 🔊 Emails – sending monthly emails or updates helps to keep everyone engaged
- 🔊 Newsletters – regular newsletters can help to inform your organisation as to what is going on
- 🔊 Shout about your declaration. Log it with the Climate Emergency UK page who are keeping track of who is declaring climate emergencies in the NHS as well as wider public sector and educational organisations - <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/category/nhs/> get your comms team onboard to report it in the media, communicate it to staff, tell your patients.
- 🔊 External media – write articles about what you are doing within your Trust. This can inspire others to follow your example. Work with your internal communications team ensuring that they know what you are writing about and you get their approval
- 🔊 Twitter – important to spreading your message and your positive wins
- 🔊 Facebook – facebook pages are important to get the message out within your organisation as well as to the general public.

Twitter

Who to follow – some good twitter leads

@healthdeclares	@lancetcountdown	@sduhealth	@carbon_literacy
@NHSClimate	@Docsforhealth	@NurSus_EU	@IPCC_CH
@DoctorsXR	@ph_alliance	@ClimateEmergUK	@Medact
@NursesXR	@climate4health	@WarplT_	@cleanairday
@greenerpractice	@DrsAgstdiesel	@greennurse	
@susthealthcare	@UKHealthClimate	@dayforaction	



Net Zero Route Map

2020-2021	2021-2030	2030-2050
Identify a Board level lead for sustainability ⁶	Move to green electricity contract by April 2021 ¹	<p>2030-2050</p> <p>Diesel and petrol vehicle sales will be ended by 2030 so it is critical to provide the support for zero emission vehicle infrastructure</p> <p>Offset emissions that cannot be eliminated</p> <p>Ensure all estate is climate resilient</p> <p>Achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045 and earlier if possible^{5,6}</p>
Board approved Green Plan ^{1,6} with clear sustainability and carbon targets (April 2021)	Reduce the carbon impact of Metered Dose Inhalers in line with long term plan commitments ³	
Set Net Zero carbon reduction targets to eliminate carbon by 2045 ⁶ at the latest	Identify route to eliminating harmful anaesthetic gas phase out ^{1,3}	
Sign up to the NHS Plastics Pledge ^{2,6} and eliminate single use plastic where possible	Invest in zero emission infrastructure i.e. solar, battery storage, wind, district heating etc	
All organisations should implement the Estates and Facilities Management Stretch programme by NHS England and NHS Improvement in 2020 ³	Implement a Green Procurement Strategy with action plan for eliminating emissions in supply chain	
All new builds and retrofits building projects have to be Net Zero ^{3,6}	Create a Climate Change Adaptation plan that incorporates EPRR planning	
All lighting replaced with LED alternatives during routine maintenance activities ³	90% of fleet to be zero emission (including 25% ultra-low emissions) by 2028 ¹	
Reduce air pollution from vehicles purchased/ leased after 1 April 2020 to support the transition to low and ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) ³	Reduce business mileage by 20% by 2023/24 (NHS Standard Contract)	
Ensure car leasing schemes restrict the availability of high-emission vehicles ³	Create a fossil fuel phase out strategy including diesel, petrol, oil and gas use and identify a heat decarbonisation plan	
Conduct a Green and Grey fleet review with the Energy Saving Trust ^{3,6}	Phase out primary heating from coal and oil fuel	
End business travel reimbursement for domestic flights within England, Wales and Scotland ³	Encourage staff to use zero emission modes of transport	
	Invest in EV charging infrastructure including that to support staff's personal transition to ULEVs	



Who are Health Declares?

Health Declares are a group of health professionals and organisations from across the UK. We recognise that the climate and ecological crises are health emergencies requiring urgent action, and we are committed to acting and advocating to protect planetary and human health.

We recognise that the climate and ecological crises we face are also a health emergency. As countries respond to and start to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, urgent and concerted action on climate and ecological breakdown is needed more than ever to protect and promote human and planetary health and health equity. We are committed to speaking out and taking action personally, and we are working to influence the health organisations of which we are members of staff, or which represent us, so that they take meaningful action on this major public health threat. We believe that all health professionals and organisations have a key role to play in speaking out and pushing the government to act.

We are also part of a [wider movement](#), and aim to work in close partnership with other organisations who share our vision of a fair, safe and liveable future in which planetary and human health are protected and can thrive.

Find out more and join us through our webpage <https://healthdeclares.org/>.

With Thanks

This list guidebook is just to kick start you, there are many other resources that are out there. Let us know what you stumble across on your sustainability journey.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the making of this guidebook – Alexis Percival, Ben Tongue, Clare Topping, Mike Gent, James Dixon, Clare Nash, Ian Stenton, Chris Newman, Zoe Steley and all the other sustainability leads and clinicians across the health sector who have helped to drive the climate emergency.

Be green and leave this guide on the screen

HEALTH DECLARES

