

Recommendations from the South West Clinical Senate Council on empowering and equipping clinicians, the wider workforce, healthcare leaders, and patients on making the necessary change in response to the threat of climate change, to protect the health of current and future generations.

18 November 2021

Overview

In November 2019, as several healthcare organisations within England declared climate emergencies the South West Clinical Senate was convened to consider the responsibility of the healthcare system to climate change and to explore the concept of the climate crisis as a health crisis. The resulting recommendations¹ acknowledged the threat posed by climate change to health and the role health care providers can and should play in making the NHS more sustainable. Key recommendations from the report covered known carbon intensive areas and practices ranging from decarbonising travel and estates, reducing the use of environmentally harmful anaesthetic gases and inhalers, driving sustainable procurement, digitally enabled care, training of the workforce on sustainability, and setting up governance structures to deliver this work.

Since those recommendations were published a lot has happened to move this agenda forward at both a regional and national level. January 2020 saw the launch of the 'Greener NHS' program and the setting up of an NHS Net Zero expert panel chaired by Dr. Nick Watts, the first NHS Chief Sustainability Officer, tasked to create a national road map to get the NHS to 'net zero'. October 2020 marked the release of the '*Delivering a "Net Zero" NHS*'² landmark report and the NHS became the world's first health system to commit to becoming 'carbon net zero'. The report highlights the latest NHS carbon footprint, trajectories to net zero, and the interventions needed to

¹ [191128-FINAL-Recommendations.pdf \(swsenate.nhs.uk\)](#)

² [Greener NHS » Delivering a net zero NHS \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

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get there. With this came two ambitious but achievable targets:

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

October 2021 marked the one-year milestone of this report and the work towards delivering these targets. This coincided with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) being hosted in Glasgow in November 2021. It, therefore, seemed an opportune time for the SW Senate Clinicians to revisit this topic only 5 days after the conclusion of COP26. To reflect on what has been achieved since the first senate recommendations on climate change and use this moment to consider and put forward recommendations on how we move this agenda forward and reenergise the issue in the SW. Especially pertinent as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic and move towards recovery. An opportune time to build on the lessons learned from tackling one health crisis and work on preventing the next by recovering with resilience and sustainability in mind.

To develop these recommendations the Clinical Senate brought together speakers from the national and regional Greener NHS teams, showcasing what has and is being done within the healthcare system to decarbonise the NHS. Coupled with reflections from the Citizens' Assembly on how to engage our patients and the communities we serve. The discussion was focused on developing recommendations to enable the SW healthcare system to drive meaningful change by mobilising and equipping clinicians, the wider workforce, leaders, and patients within the region to engage and take action.

Background

Climate change is one of the greatest health threats of the 21st century³. The effects of climate change on our health are evident now in the UK. We are already seeing the effects of air pollution which is the single greatest environmental threat to human health in the UK, accounting for 1 in 20 deaths. UK heatwaves are on the rise, having claimed more than 2,500 lives in 2020 alone, with nine of the hottest years on record occurring in the last ten. More intense storms and floods such as those experienced in the UK in July 2021 lead to the closure of some emergency departments; directly affect health, lead to the displacement of communities, and have wider effects on the social and structural determinants of health. These effects are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities, further driving existing health inequalities.

By tackling climate change we have an opportunity to improve health and save lives

³ [The 2019 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate - The Lancet](#)

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now and for future generations. Reducing carbon emissions will see fewer cases of asthma, cancer, and heart disease. Action on climate change will not only improve health but brings with it wider environmental, social, and financial benefits. As the largest employer in the UK, with over 1.4 million staff, and a significant carbon footprint of 4.6%, larger than some medium-sized countries, the NHS is part of the challenge and the solution.

National oversight

In recognition of this, the NHS has committed to delivering the world's first net zero health service. Building on the work of the sustainable development unit (SDU), set up in 2008 as part of the government's response to the Climate Change Act, and the clear ambition in the NHS Long Term Plan, January 2019, to reduce the environmental impact of the NHS, the Greener NHS Programme was launched in 2020.

The landmark report '*Delivering a "Net Zero" NHS*⁴ sets out a practical, evidence-based, and quantified path to the 'net zero' targets highlighted above. It provides a comprehensive breakdown of the NHS' carbon footprint using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP) scopes 1, 2, and 3. GHGP scope 1 being direct emissions from owned or directly controlled sources, on-site, GHGP scope 2; indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, mostly electricity and GHGP scope 3; all other indirect emissions that occur in producing and transporting goods and services, including the full supply chain. The overall 'net zero' target is aimed at tackling the '*NHS carbon footprint plus*' which includes all 3 scopes as well as emissions from patient and visitor travel (Figure 1).

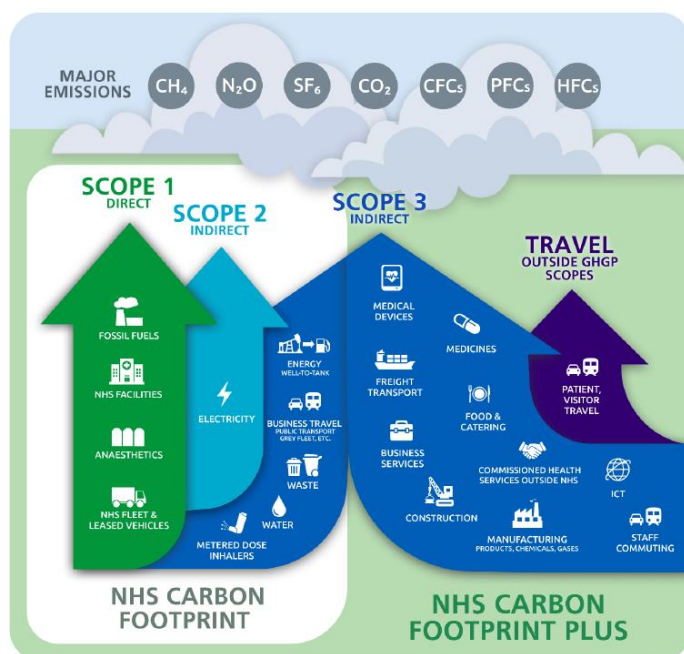
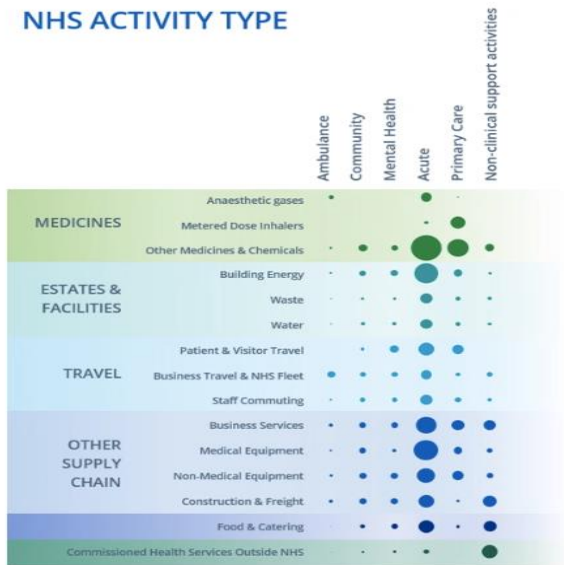


Figure 1: GHGP scopes in the context of the NHS

⁴ [Greener NHS » Delivering a net zero NHS \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/delivering-a-net-zero-nhs/)

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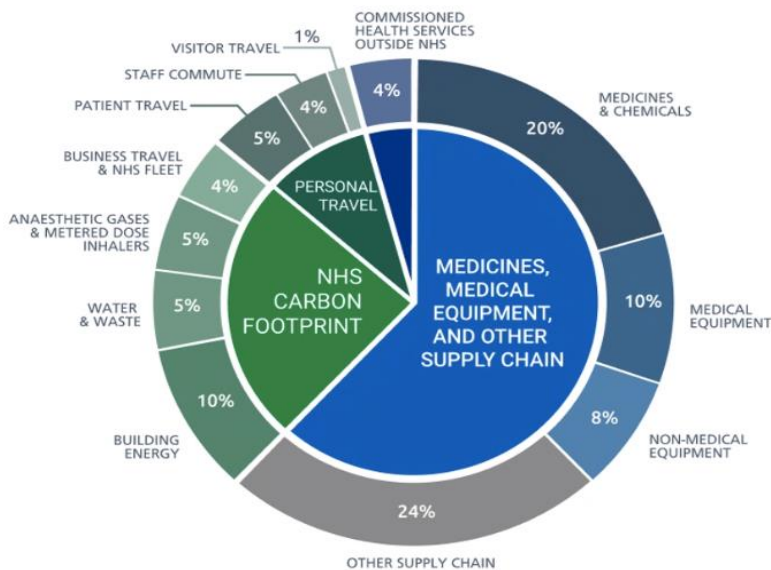
The report highlights the sources of carbon emissions by the proportion of the 'NHS carbon footprint plus' as well as by activity type and care setting, ranging from community and mental health to primary and acute care. Acute care is the most carbon-intensive (Figure 2).



Sources of carbon emissions by activity type and setting of care

Figure 2: Sources of carbon emissions by activity type and setting of care

Some of the key carbon hotspots highlighted in the report are the NHS supply chain which accounts for 60% of the NHS carbon footprint, medicines which make up 25% of which 5% is from inhalers and anaesthetic gases, and 14% from travel and transport (Figure 3).



Sources of carbon emissions by proportion of NHS Carbon Footprint Plus

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Figure 3: Sources of carbon emissions by proportion of NHS Carbon Footprint Plus

Work on tackling the carbon hotspots highlighted in the report has been driven nationally by specific workstreams driving direct (medicines, supply chain, travel, and transport, estates and facilities and food, nutrition and water) and indirect (models of care, digital, adaptation, and research and innovation) interventions. In addition, cross-cutting themes such as workforce, data and monitoring, and communication and engagement have their dedicated workstreams.

One year on and COP26⁵ highlights

One year on progress⁶ this work was presented to the NHS England Board highlighting that the NHS is on track to meet its targets, reducing emissions equivalent to powering 1.1 million homes with electricity for a year (1,260 ktCO₂e). This has been driven by NHS staff and leaders across the country who have worked on turning the NHS net zero ambition into practical actions.

The NHS is dependent on more than 80,000 suppliers integral to the running of the service, who contribute to ~ 60% of the NHS carbon footprint. The support of every supplier is therefore needed to decarbonise. The net zero supplier roadmap⁷ maps out how the NHS aims to do this so that by 2030, the NHS is no longer purchasing from suppliers that are not aligned with the net zero ambition. Significant progress on this was made at COP26 by the convening of an international group of leaders representing some of the largest NHS suppliers such as Unilever, GSK, AstraZeneca, Biogen, BT Group, Novo Nordisk, Microsoft, and others. All 12 pledged their support for a Greener NHS and committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2045 or earlier. This was published as an open letter in the BMJ⁸.

Decarbonising NHS Estates and Facilities, which makes up 15% of the NHS carbon footprint has seen over £310 million in capital investment in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and lighting. Travel and transport initiatives include the promotion of active travel and innovative ways of decarbonising the NHS fleet such as the use of e-bike couriers at Oxford University Hospitals⁹. The recent, July 2021, NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) review of Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) is driving plans for a zero-emission NEPT fleet by 2035. COP26 saw the NHS present another world first with the unveiling of the first zero-emission hydrogen-electric ambulance, capable of travelling up to 300 miles. Developed by NHS and ambulance trusts in partnership with industry – visited and supported by Secretary of State Sajid Javid.

⁵ [HOME - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](https://www.ukcop26.org/)

⁶ [item4-delivering-net-zero-nhs-updated.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/item4-delivering-net-zero-nhs-updated.pdf)

⁷ [Greener NHS » Suppliers \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs-suppliers)

⁸ [Key healthcare and tech companies pledge to decarbonise NHS supply chain by 2045 | BMJ](https://www.bmj.com/news/key-healthcare-and-tech-companies-pledge-to-decarbonise-nhs-supply-chain-by-2045)

⁹ [Greener NHS » Green transport delivers life-saving drugs and improves patient experience \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs-green-transport-delivers-life-saving-drugs-and-improves-patient-experience)

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Reductions in the carbon footprint of medicines have been driven by reducing the use and phasing out, in over 40 trusts, of desflurane, an anaesthetic gas with a much high greenhouse gas potential than its clinical equivalents. 3% of the medicines' carbon footprint comes from metered-dose inhalers (MDIs). Tackling this presents the opportunity to improve asthma care by reviewing asthma treatment and optimising the type and technique of inhaler use. Further drivers include the Primary Care Network Investment and Impact Fund published in August 2021 which includes an incentive for primary care networks to prescribe lower-carbon inhalers where clinically appropriate and as part of a shared decision-making conversation with patients.

All this has been made possible through the efforts of NHS staff across the country. Some such work was showcased at COP26 in a photography exhibition highlighting the contributions of staff like Jo. An occupational therapist in the SW region, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, has been delivering remote sessions for patients who find it hard to travel due to poor mobility. The adoption of video and phone appointments across the Devon ICS has saved patients 13.5 million miles of travelling over the year, saving 2,503 tonnes of CO₂ – the equivalent of taking 1,200 cars off the road.

There are examples like this across the country highlighting changes to the way we deliver healthcare that reduces carbon, improves care, and have associated financial savings. Many of these are shared and developed through the Greener NHS¹⁰ a community that now has more than 600 members. This reflects the recent YouGov survey result that 9 in 10 NHS staff support the NHS taking action to tackle climate change. Turning this support into action requires systems, governance, and leadership in place. This will be supported by Trust and ICS board-approved Green Plans (a local net zero strategy), mandated to be in place by January and March 2022, respectively.

Regional oversight

Overseeing this is the Regional Greener NHS team. The 7 regions report back to the regional board and have oversight of regional work and drive delivery of the net zero ambitions. Regional work is being driven by the regional sustainability teams, Trust, and ICS board-level sustainability leads due to all being in place by March 2022, green champions, and dedicated and enthusiastic frontline staff. The SW regional Greener NHS team is in the process of expanding and developing a strong regional leadership structure to drive sustainability across the region. The key roles of the SW regional Greener NHS team as highlighted in their memorandum of understanding (MoU) as:

- 1) Assurance and governance
 - a. Supporting national data monitoring and assuring local system delivery
 - b. Ensuring governance structures are in place to manage finances, delivery, and manage risks

¹⁰ [Greener NHS \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/)

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2) Delivery

- a. Driving, coordinating, and supporting local system-level action to achieve the NHS' net zero targets
- b. Providing local feedback to the national programme; managing, mitigating, and where appropriate escalating delivery issues

3) Communication

- a. Communicating with local systems about the national and regional Greener NHS work
- b. Contributing to and supporting national campaigns and key communication moments
- c. Identifying and sharing examples of good practice and supporting two-way feedback between the national and regional teams and local systems.

The purpose of the MoU is to define the functions and actions of the regional Greener NHS team as above and highlight specific yearly deliverables. The SW regional deliverables for 2021/22 are to reduce the carbon emissions associated with; 1) medicines; MDI inhalers, anaesthetic gases (desflurane), and medical gases such as nitrous oxide, 2) travel and transport by for example ensuring all systems have salary sacrifice cycle to work schemes, transitioning the NHS fleet to ultra-low emission (ULEV) or zero-emission (ZEV) vehicles and 3) reducing the use of single-use plastics and the purchase of 100% recycled paper across all systems, a southwest specific deliverable. In addition, the SW regional team acknowledges that delivering a net zero NHS has the potential to secure significant benefits across the population, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised populations (who will be most affected by the effects of climate change), and to address existing health inequalities. These benefits will only be fully realised through involvement, and engagement with those communities as this work goes forward. This can be achieved by harnessing the role of the NHS as an anchor institution and working across sectors.

Delivering on the regional priorities requires governance, work across all systems, and a community of good practice that showcases and shares ideas. The South West sustainability governance structure and delivery of the regional Trust, and ICS Green plans form part of this. Work will be led by board-level sustainability leads in all trusts and ICSs, responsible for delivering on net zero and the broader greener NHS agenda.

Progress in the South West has been showcased and tracked by; the creation of a regional community of practice – sharing good practice and innovation¹¹, as showcased at the recent regional sustainability roadshow "On the Road" as part of the build-up to COP26. Greener NHS quarterly informal data collection published on the Greener NHS dashboard together with regional and ICS-level carbon footprint data

¹¹ [NHS England and NHS Improvement South West » Greener NHS – South West](#)

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allows for benchmarking and monitoring progress.

Showcased at the Senate Council meeting were some great examples of work being done across the region¹². This ranged from initiatives on increasing biodiversity, rewilding and conservation in local areas, turning food waste into ice cream, innovative projects that reduce single-use plastic consumables in urine testing pathways with measured carbon and cost savings through to the introduction of reusable facemasks and eliminating the use of environmentally harmful anaesthetic gases.

Citizens' Assembly – the public voice

- What role does the public play in the NHS net zero commitments and does this matter?
- How important is understanding and improving this if we are to meet our net zero targets?

A recent paper published by The Health Foundation¹³ explores the public perceptions of climate change, health, and the NHS. Drawing from the key findings of a nationally representative survey of 1,858 UK adults, conducted by Ipsos MORI in July 2021. The paper highlights 3 important reasons why we have a responsibility to take our patients and communities on this journey to a net zero health service and the key role they play in meeting our targets:

1) “public opinion drives policy decisions, and the NHS net zero agenda must be properly prioritised and resourced if it is to succeed.”

2) achieving our net zero ambitions will change how we design and deliver care which will not only affect those delivering it but importantly those receiving it

3) meeting our targets is dependent on behaviour change – from how patients travel to appointments to care choices. These points were echoed by the Citizens' Assembly which highlighted the need to co-design and co-deliver low carbon care with public representation.

The study highlighted that 73% of the UK public understand and accept that climate change and health go hand-in-hand with almost half (48%) thinking that climate change threatens the health of people in the UK right now. 60% of the public believe that actions to address climate change will improve the health of people in the UK with about a third (37%) thinking it will not. Given that many of the actions to tackle climate change have co-benefits to health and well-being through mechanisms such as reductions in air pollution, increased physical activity, healthier diets, better housing, and green spaces there is scope to strengthen the framing of action on climate change as a health opportunity. Educating patients on this and the NHS net zero ambitions

¹²

<https://southwestinternalcommunications.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/d/BBB04F6DB73C5E492540EF23F30FEDED/C08E30173BF621199780B6D0B3F3FC10>

¹³ [Going green: what do the public think about the NHS and climate change? - The Health Foundation](#)

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would help move this agenda forward, as only 13% of the public are aware of NHS net zero ambitions but once explained, 70% supported it with only 6% opposing it.

The views of the South West public represented by the Citizens' Assembly, reflected this and emphasised the need and benefit of, further and on-going public involvement on this issue, through the local Healthwatch and other public engagement organisations.

Recommendations

The Clinical Senate acknowledged this is an opportune time to build on the momentum of the one-year on progress and COP26 to move this agenda forward in the region. Whilst COVID-19 has dominated and influenced how we work and deliver care there is an opportunity to build on the lessons learned from the pandemic response and to prepare and recover with resilience and sustainability. There was a clear sense that the NHS is at a pivot point and there is the impetus to act now with urgency.

Key recommendations on how to drive this forward amongst clinicians and the wider workforce, healthcare leaders in the SW, patients, and the local communities are as follows:

Clinicians and the wider workforce

1. Consider the environmental and carbon footprint of care pathways

Clinicians and those involved in the development and delivery of clinical care pathways should consider their environmental impact and work towards delivering low carbon models of care. By viewing clinical care pathways through a greener sustainability lens, the care delivered will be high quality, efficient and effective. This needs clear messaging to ensure that low carbon care is not associated with poor quality care or seen as comprising patient care but improving it. This can be aligned with and build on work already underway across the system, such as action to strengthen our contribution to prevention and health inequalities, providing more joined-up, personalised care closer to home, delivering digitally-enabled care, reducing variation, and inappropriate use of acute service.

2. Two-pronged approach – “bottom-up for innovation and top-down for policy and strategy”

Encourage and harness grassroots initiatives at all levels and across the whole MDT and all health care professions. Acknowledging the merit of such initiatives and ensuring that these are celebrated, and the learning shared across the region. Support sustainable quality improvement, innovation, and research at all levels with the appropriate resources.

Ensure that policy and strategy support and enables the Green Agenda.

3. Drive a transition to circular economy principles – the 5 R's (reduce, reuse, remanufacture/reprocess, reduce, recycle)

Clinicians and the wider workforce are best placed to challenge and drive a shift away from single-use items. From single-use plastics in our canteens to single-use surgical gowns, drapes, and instruments. This starts with behaviour change

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that moves us away from the 'throw away culture' and reengages us with appropriate resource use and an appreciation of the environmental impact of the consumables we use and associated waste.

In addition, collaborative working with infection prevention control (IPC) teams, procurement leads, industry, financial services, and others could help drive sustainable system change away from linear models of procurement and the use of medical devices and consumables.

4. Lead by example, harness small changes and drive local change

Each of us can play a part in this and it is acknowledged that even seemingly small changes can contribute to bigger collective change. Demonstrating, driving, and sharing action within one's sphere of influence can lead to a cascade of change. Understanding the local environment and context is key to driving meaningful change that clinicians and the wider workforce can directly relate to.

5. Communication, dialogue, and training

Communication and engagement on the Green agenda are needed across the board. Staff engagement campaigns such as the '*Healthier Planet, Healthier People*'¹⁴ a campaign should be used to raise awareness across the region. The southwest workforce should be encouraged to raise the issue at staff meetings, create networks and working groups, present at team / departmental events, and have access to training such as the e-learning course on '*Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare*'¹⁵ available at e-learning for health (e-lfh).

6. Primary care support

The Clinical Senate endorses the need to consider the challenges faced by primary care and to harness the unique position and opportunity they have to decarbonise the NHS. Efforts should be made across systems to support and enable primary care networks to play their part.

Leadership in the SW

7. Health systems thinking to drive system-wide change

Use the experience and learning from other system-wide cultural and organisational changes such as patient safety and quality improvement to raise the profile of this important issue and embed change throughout the system.

8. Making it business as usual

Healthcare leaders are urged to ensure that action on climate change is a core part of how we design and deliver care, that it becomes business as usual and embedded in the NHS culture rather than an add-on. This can be achieved by ensuring sustainability is a regular agenda item in all meetings, part of business

¹⁴ [Greener NHS » Suppliers \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

¹⁵ [Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare - elearning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)

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planning, performance metrics, impact assessments, and the formal appraisal and revalidation process.

9. Supporting the workforce

With workforce and competing clinical pressures, financial constraints, and limited time there was consensus that re-energising this issue must go hand in hand with senior leadership support and action. Staff should be educated, encouraged, and equipped to drive change and learning celebrated and shared across the region.

10. System-wide leadership – across all sectors, directorates, and professions

Senior leadership is needed across the multi-disciplinary team from the Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Pharmacist through to the Medical Directorate, etc. This will enable joined-up collective action across all areas of healthcare delivery with the inclusion of the whole workforce. There is a need to work collaboratively and in partnership with sectors within the NHS from ambulance services to primary care but also outside the NHS; with Arms' Length Bodies (ALB's) such as The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Get It Right First Time Programme (GIRFT), Care Quality Commission (CQC), local authorities, the independent and voluntary sectors for example.

11. Make change easy

Work towards making the greener option the default. Consider 'common sense policies' and low to no risk policies with obvious health and environmental benefits. Where the evidence is clear this should be mandated to drive systems-wide change now with reprioritisation of policy positions involving all key stakeholders.

12. Clear and consistent messaging from leaders in healthcare

There is a need for clear messaging for both staff and patients around the impacts of climate and health, the reasons for action by the health service, with an emphasis on the opportunities this presents and the benefits it brings to health and care delivery.

13. Resource and financial investment

It is acknowledged by the Clinical Senate that action on climate change requires resources and, in some cases, additional funding and capital investment. There is clear evidence of return on investment on funding projects, resources, and infrastructure that help mitigate and adapt to climate change. To deliver on the actions required investment planning for decarbonising the NHS should be high on the agenda when allocating funding.

14. Sharing Best Practice to encourage the spread of innovation

The Clinical Senate noted that there are already examples of best practice and innovation led by individual organisations in the region. However, these examples are not widely shared, for the benefit and learning of other organisations. There needs to be a way developed which will share best

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practice consistently across the region, to encourage innovation and an effective response to the climate change agenda.

Patients and communities

15. Co-design and co-deliver

There was a clear direction that patients and the public want and should be part of the process to 'net zero'. There needs to be a greater understanding of what is important to the public e.g. green spaces so that this can be incorporated.

16. Public engagement and open dialogue

Lessons learned from how public opinion and behaviour have successfully been changed in the past e.g. smoking cessation, road safety, etc. should be assessed and used to move this agenda forward. A public engagement campaign would help raise the profile of this issue and open a channel of communication between the public and provider. Create a dialogue with the local communities and get them involved in discussions. This can be done through the Citizens' Assembly engagement and local health watch. Create a forum or space for the public to engage with and challenge their local health services on the Green agenda.

Next steps / summary

These recommendations will be shared with the national and greener NHSEI teams, all regional systems, sustainability leads, and more widely across the regional networks.

The time to act is now. We should capture this moment and use the current momentum to move this agenda forward and change the narrative to make this everyone's agenda and drive collective system-wide change.

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28/04/2022	V0.3	Comments from Senate Council
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Further reading and resources:

1. Greener NHS National program work [Greener NHS \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/)
2. Net zero Greener NHS strategy [delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/strategy-delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service/)
3. One year on blog [Greener NHS » Blog: One year on from a world-first ambition – let’s stay impatient on the NHS reaching net zero \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/blog/one-year-on-from-a-world-first-ambition-lets-stay-impatient-on-the-nhs-reaching-net-zero/)
4. One year on board paper [240621-board-meeting-item-8-a-net-zero-nhs-june-2021-progress-update.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/240621-board-meeting-item-8-a-net-zero-nhs-june-2021-progress-update/)
5. Case studies depicting what is already happening [Greener NHS » System progress \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/system-progress/)
6. Greener NHS Staff engagement campaign launched November 2021 [Greener NHS » ‘Healthier Planet, Healthier People’ staff engagement campaign \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/healthier-planet-healthier-people/)
7. What’s happening in the South West <https://southwestinternalcommunications.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/d/BBB04F6DB73C5E492540EF23F30FEDED/C08E30173BF621199780B6D0B3F3FC10>
8. What does the public think? [Going green: what do the public think about the NHS and climate change? - The Health Foundation](https://www.healthfoundation.org.uk/going-green-what-do-the-public-think-about-the-nhs-and-climate-change/)
9. More than 200 health journals have called on governments to take emergency action to tackle the “catastrophic harm to health” from climate change. [Climate crisis: Over 200 health journals urge world leaders to tackle “catastrophic harm” | The BMJ](https://www.thelancet.com/journal/2021/07/26/s0140674121004444)
[Call for emergency action to limit global temperature increases, restore biodiversity, and protect health \(thelancet.com\)](https://www.thelancet.com/journal/2021/07/26/s0140674121004444)
10. For an insight into several UK health organisations who are working to address the climate crisis, links below to some of the different organisations, the type of work they are doing, and how healthcare students and staff can get involved.

[Health Care Without Harm Europe](#): *Nurses Climate Challenge Europe*

[Students for Global Health](#): *Climate Justice*

[Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#): *Changing clinical practice*

[Sustainable Healthcare Coalition](#): *Working with the private sector*

[Health Declares a Climate Emergency](#): *Building grassroots activists*

[Medact](#): *Green new deal*

[UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#): *Harnessing the power of the health*

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establishment

[The Greener NHS Programme](#)

11. COP26 health highlights – the first COP26 Health Pavillion, the Greener NHS, and other key international organisations raising awareness of the health impacts of climate change and how we must act;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/2021/10/zero-emission-ambulances-show-the-nhs-is-in-the-driving-seat-in-the-race-to-net-zero/>

[Health Events at COP26 \(who.int\)](#)

[Useful links to help connect, collaborate and act with the support of the Greener NHS team](#)

12. Join the Greener NHS Community and connect with like-minded people across the NHS. Find out more here: <https://future.nhs.uk/GreenerNHSCommunity/grouphome>

13. All Trusts and ICSs are required to develop Green Plans by January 2022, and March 2022, respectively. Find support for this here [Green Plan: www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/get-involved/organisations](#)

14. A guide to individual, organisation and supplier action, plus a useful staff engagement campaign [Greener NHS » Take action \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)