

Green Plan Summary 2023-2026

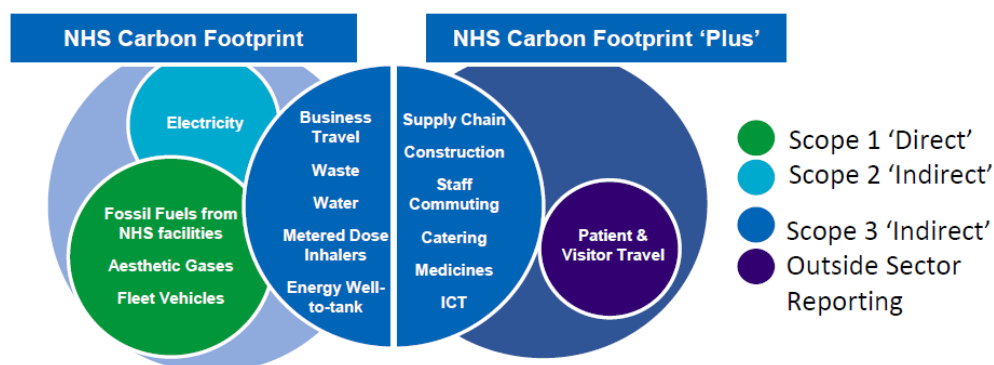
The University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) have produced a Green Plan, that seeks to embed sustainability and low carbon practices in the way we offer vital healthcare services helping the NHS to become the first net zero health service in the world.

This summary document gives an overview of the aspirations of our Green Plan, which should be read in conjunction with '[Together towards net zero](#)'. Our Plan illustrates how the Trust will move towards reaching our net zero goal target by target.

Our Green Plan will

1. Demonstrate UHCW support for the NHS' net zero ambitions.
2. Prioritise interventions that simultaneously improve patient care and community wellbeing whilst tackling climate change.
3. Ensure compliance with public sector expenditure and procurement legislation and Trust Standing [Financial Instructions \(SFIs\)](#).

Our Goals



Climate Change and the link to healthcare

- ❖ As the UK's largest employer, the NHS recognises the importance of reducing our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and their environmental impact. Although the NHS is a world leader in sustainability, 4% of the nation's GHG emissions are attributed to the NHS.
- ❖ Climate change not only poses a threat to the environment, but also to the health and well-being of our patients and surrounding communities. The combination of risks will exacerbate existing health conditions and give rise to the growing negative mental and physical health impacts that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our communities.
- ❖ By recognising and acknowledging our exposure to these risks, we can begin to implement actions to lessen the associated negative consequences. Our fundamental purpose is to deliver the best possible care for our communities through local integrated care, valuing and empowering our people, being a centre of excellence, promoting sustainability and advancing research, innovation and teaching.

Emissions reductions and sustainable development

To become a fully sustainable healthcare Trust, we have set ambitious targets within each 'area of focus' of our Green Plan. Targets are detailed in action plan tables, which track our progress. The UHCW Trust vision is to be a Net Zero Healthcare provider ahead of the national targets, to ensure we mitigate the climate impacts on the community we serve. UHCW wants our every action to have a positive environmental, social and economic impact for the Trust and local community. Our Green Plan has been developed in consultation with experts from many disciplines across our Trust. We have engaged with both internal and external partners to deliver our Green Plan and this engagement has allowed us to identify our sustainability priorities and highlighted areas for productive collaboration.

Green Plan structure

Our Green Plan is divided into nine Areas of Focus:

Workforce & Systems Leadership	Sustainable Models of Care	Digital Transformation
Travel and Transport	Estates and Facilities	Medicines
Procurement	Food and Nutrition	Climate Change Adaptation

Each Area of Focus provides an overview of the work we are already doing in this area with individual actions to monitor and improve our performance over the next three years to 2026.

Workforce and Systems Leadership

Our Trust has already made considerable progress from a governance standpoint. We have appointed a Sustainable Development lead and will subsequently include sustainable development as part of our annual report. The Trust cannot reach net zero alone, making engagement pivotal. Membership of the Coventry and Warwickshire ICS Sustainability Group allows us to share best practice with other Trusts across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Food & Nutrition

UHCW will work to fulfil Long Term Plan priorities for food provision on our premises, promoting plant-forward diets, higher welfare, and more sustainable food options, and supporting regional producers wherever we can.

UHCW Carbon Footprint

Most of our emissions (**80%**), come from sources we have little or no control over: **75.7%** from our supply chain, and a further **4.3%** from patient and visitor travel.

The remaining **20%** arise from sources we can control or strongly influence: **13.1%** of our emissions came from the operation of our buildings, **2%** from our prescription of inhalers and volatile anaesthetics and **2.7%** from transport associated with the delivery of care (including staff commuting).

Emissions Reduction Trajectory (tCO₂e)

- Building energy
 - Waste arisings
 - Patient and visitor travel
 - Supply chain
- Water consumption and treatment
 - Business travel inc. commuting
 - Inhalers and volatile anaesthetics



Achievements

Inhaler prescriptions emitted 414 tCO₂e in 2019/20

25% of all inhalers prescribed were Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)– below the NHS target of 30%.

Desflurane is a fluorinated volatile anaesthetic and 2,540 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

UHCW has achieved a successful discontinuation of the usage of desflurane, exceeding the NHS Standard Contract reduction target.

How can I get Involved?

This Green Plan is a living document and will be regularly reviewed for progress against the action plans. If you have any suggestions or comments, we welcome your feedback.

If you'd like to be more involved with the delivery and improvement of our Green Plan, please contact sustainability@uhcw.nhs.uk for more information.

Our Actions Towards Net Zero

Over 100 changes we are making now to be more sustainable

Leading effectively on this priority

- ✓ Creating more Net Zero Champions
- ✓ Having named leads for focus areas we want to prioritise
- ✓ Our Trust Board are reviewing our procurement to achieve a net zero supply chain
- ✓ Ensuring fair working practices from our suppliers
- ✓ Find funding opportunities to help support us doing this work
- ✓ Working closely with other NHS and public sector organisations
- ✓ Make sure we know if its working by measuring the impact (quarterly reports)
- ✓ Letting staff know what we are doing on our intranet

Sustainable Models of Care

- ✓ Providing care closer to home
- ✓ Helping patients by getting it right first time
- ✓ Standardising delivery of care
- ✓ Removing carbon from the way we deliver care wherever we can
- ✓ Embedding the commitment to sustainability in our working practices

Digital Transformation

- ✓ Offering more patient clinics and appointments using digital technology e.g. virtual appointments, telephone
- ✓ Using government information and communications technology frameworks to ensure our systems are robust
- ✓ Develop Electronic Patient Records (EPR) that improve our service to patients
- ✓ Develop a Green Ward programme through our Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
- ✓ Delivering at least 25% of clinical appointments by telephone or virtual appointments

- ✓ Making our processes digital and reducing the use of paper wherever we can
- ✓ Enhance our patient guidance and information online
- ✓ Collect data on GHG emissions reductions by delivering information digitally
- ✓ Engage staff and care groups in digital care channels

Travel and Transport

- ✓ Increase the number of charging points for electric vehicles at both our hospitals and Coventry Urgent Treatment Centre
- ✓ Encouraging people to cycle as an option by increasing the number of cycle racks and facilities on site
- ✓ Implement and promote a sustainable travel plan
- ✓ Using the Clean Air Hospital Framework to develop a Clean Air Action Plan
- ✓ Enhance the business travel expense system
- ✓ Shift to a Net Zero fleet by 2032 (80% reduction by 2028)
- ✓ Improve ordering and the way we manage our stores
- ✓ Work with our partners to improve bus operations and Very Light Rail to University of Hospital Coventry

Estates and Facilities

- ✓ Enhance proactive planned preventative maintenance (PPM)
- ✓ Source funding available to help upgrade our estates and facilities
- ✓ Implement Net Zero Hospital Building Standard in any new builds
- ✓ Optimise energy use by embedding networked Automatic Meter Readers (AMRs)
- ✓ Look to procure "Green Gas" through Green Gas Certification Scheme
- ✓ Implement ISO50001 Energy Management System

Our Actions Now Towards Net Zero

- ✓ Develop a Net Zero project application to estimate our carbon output as a Trust
- ✓ Explore District Heat Networks with neighbouring partners
- ✓ Install rainwater harvesters and grey water systems
- ✓ Set water efficiency targets and use water efficient technologies
- ✓ Follow Estates “Net Zero” Carbon Delivery Plan guidance on efficiency and decarbonisation protocols for the built environment and BREEAM “Excellent” rating for major refurbishments
- ✓ Collate all waste stream data and produce monthly reports
- ✓ Start food waste collections
- ✓ Increase biodiversity and enhance natural surroundings

Medicines

- ✓ Collate inhaler prescribing and volatile anaesthetic gas use data and report quarterly
- ✓ Reduce the use of carbon intensive anaesthetic gases
- ✓ Work with external partners to trial anaesthetic capture system
- ✓ Change from primarily IV to oral paracetamol in theatres
- ✓ Set a target of prescribing at least 50% DPIs for all inhaler types

Supply Chain and Procurement

- ✓ Ensure all our tenders adopt Procurement Policy
- ✓ Embed NHS Sustainable Supplier Framework
- ✓ Ensure the purchase of 100% closed-loop recycled paper
- ✓ Explore the development of an ISO20400 Sustainable Procurement strategy
- ✓ Engage a key supplier on plans to align their operations and delivery with NHS Net Zero targets

- ✓ Embed NHS improvement supplier engagement strategy for fostering relationships
- ✓ Reduce clinical single use plastics by 10%
- ✓ Develop a whole-life costing for new purchases
- ✓ Reduce the use of clinical and non-clinical single use plastic items

Food and Nutrition

- ✓ Implement meal ordering system for patient meals to reduce food waste
- ✓ Phase in more plant-forward meal options
- ✓ Limit the sales of sugary drinks
- ✓ Identify opportunities for local and SME food producers
- ✓ Ensure only sustainable palm oil and fish ingredients are used
- ✓ Reduce overall food waste by 20%
- ✓ Explore opportunities to push forward the long-term Plan to address obesity

Climate Change Adaptation

- ✓ Appoint a Climate Change Adaptation lead
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting when internal temperatures rise above 28 degrees to NHS England and review findings
- ✓ Review and mitigate the effects of flooding and heatwaves on the infrastructure, patients and staff
- ✓ Incorporate Climate Change Risk Assessment on the Corporate Risk Register
- ✓ Create an ISO14090 Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- ✓ Work with NHS Supply Chain to better understand climate change risk
- ✓ Factor Climate Change into existing health related contingency planning