



**Wirral University
Teaching Hospital**
NHS Foundation Trust

Greener
wuth 



Green Plan 2025 – 2028

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Foreword

In 2022, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) published its first Green Plan which covered 2022 – 2025. In the document, we considered our impact on the environment as a consequence of our activity to deliver care to our communities, ensuring that the Green Plan aligned to the Trust’s “2021-2026 Our Strategy” document. Although we recognise that there is still much work to be done, we have achieved some key milestones in that time, thanks to the contribution from our teams and individuals within the Organisation.

This refreshed Green Plan covers our objectives for the next three-year cycle (2025 – 2028), we remain absolutely committed to ensuring the Trust is on track to reach Net Zero by 2040 for emissions we control directly, and Net Zero by 2045 for emissions we can influence, in accordance with the [Delivering a Net Zero NHS Report](#) [2020, Updated 2022]. Reaching these targets will only be possible with the continued contribution from stakeholders within the Trust covering many departments, and our partnership work with NHS organisations across Cheshire & Merseyside and the wider NHS portfolio.

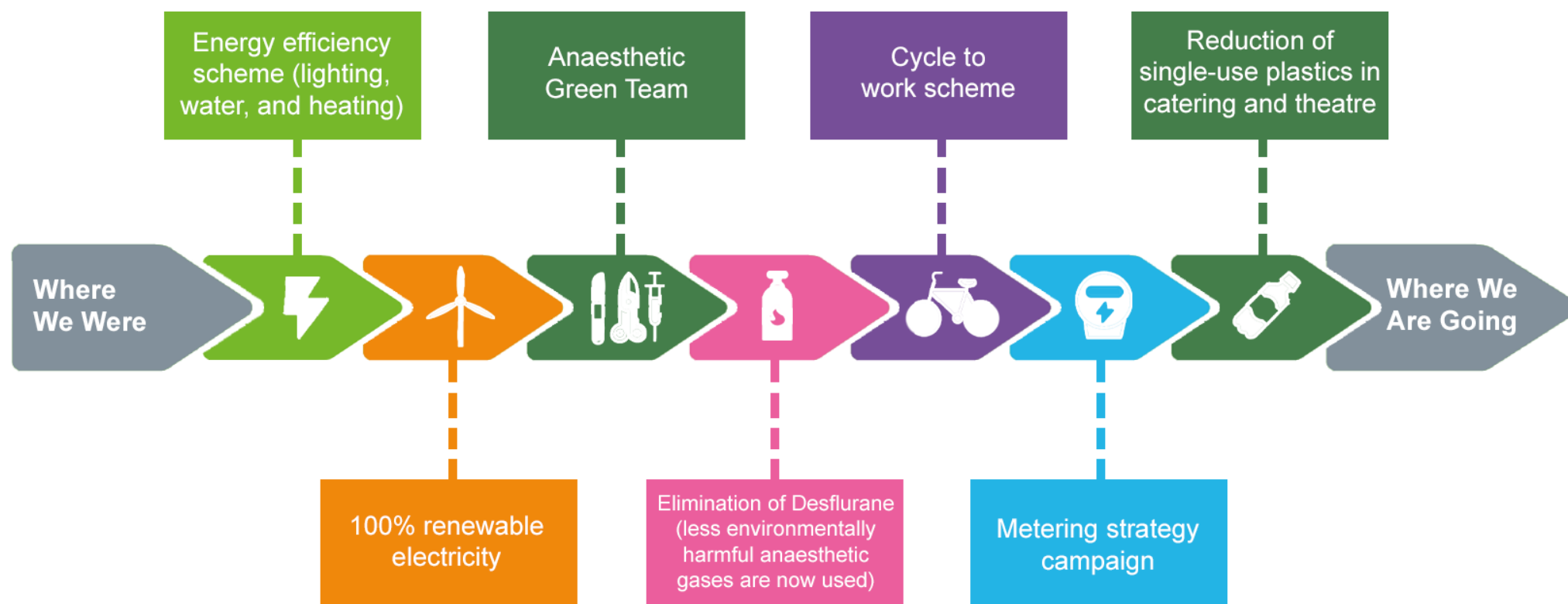
The structure of the refreshed Green Plan continues to follow the NHS Guidance which defines the following nine Areas of Focus; Workforce & Leadership, Net Zero Clinical Transformation (previously Sustainable Models of Care), Digital Transformation, Medicines, Travel and Transport (including Air Quality), Estates and Facilities, Supply Chain and Procurement, Food and Nutrition, and Climate Adaptation.

However, it must be emphasised that Net Zero Carbon is not the only objective this plan sets out to achieve. We are already seeing the effects of climate change. We must adapt to these changes to enable us to continue to deliver the best quality and safest care to the communities we serve. In doing so, the Trust must strive to improve local air quality, reduce waste, deliver social value and provide health benefits to our staff and patients.

Hayley Kendall, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Net Zero Lead

Highlights

Looking back at the road we've travelled



Green Plan Achievements (2022-2025)

Workforce and Leadership

Communication of Greener NHS campaigns to improve staff engagement and implementation of “Building a Net Zero NHS” training onto ESR

Net Zero Clinical Transformation

Launch of “Without Gloves” campaign, aimed at all staff across our organisation that might usually reach for a pair of gloves as part of their work. The campaign aims to improve hand hygiene, reduce gloves use (and therefore carbon footprint) and reduce spend on non-sterile gloves.

Digital Transformation

Adoption of staff and patient portals, reduction in paper payslips and appointment letters

Medicines

Switched off a Nitrous Oxide Manifold at our Clatterbridge site which will reduce the amount of Nitrous Oxide that is wasted, it is estimated to reduce our carbon footprint by 100 tonnes CO₂e per year.

Awarded funding as part of the NHSE Nitrous Oxide Waste Mitigation Scheme. The funding will be used to supply Arrowe Park Hospital with cylinder trolleys so that the Nitrous oxide manifold can then be switched off.

Travel and Transport

Provision of Dr Bike sessions for staff and partners to promote cycling to work schemes and low carbon transport

Provision of discounted staff public transport through local partners

Green Plan Achievements (2022-2025)

Estates and Facilities

Supported Endoscopy Team with improving waste segregation processes. The aim of this project was to reduce the amount of waste that was being disposed of as Offensive waste and re-directed to Recyclable waste streams as a result of correct segregation.

Successful in securing approximately £1m to support LED lighting improvements at both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospital sites, improving carbon savings and reducing energy costs for the Trust and wider NHS which can be reinvested in patient care

WUTH Charity received an award-winning show garden from the Tatton Flower Show which has been installed on the Clatterbridge site. “Constructing Minds” is based on the hidden issues of mental health for construction workers and has been designed as a calming space to help those struggling with their mental health.

Supply Chain and Procurement

All procurement tender evaluations now include a minimum of 10% net zero and social value weighting

Food and Nutrition

Explored feasibility of food dryer at Arrowe Park Hospital to reduce volume of food waste

Climate Adaptation

The Trust have been successful on two applications for fully funded trees from NHS Forest which have been planted on the Clatterbridge Hospital site and will help to alleviate flood risks in the long term and improve staff wellbeing and green spaces.

Introduction

What is climate change?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, [human activities have been the main driver of climate change](#), primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

The main GHGs that are causing climate change are carbon dioxide and methane. These are produced when driving a petrol/diesel car or burning coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the [main sectors](#) causing greenhouse gases. [What Is Climate Change? | United Nations](#)

A growing coalition of countries, cities, businesses and other institutions are pledging to get to net-zero emissions. Net Zero refers to the balance between the amount of GHG that's produced and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere.



Image courtesy of Pixabay

A Net Zero NHS

On 1 July 2022, the NHS became the first health system to embed Net Zero into legislation, through the [Health and Care Act 2022](#). This places duties on NHS England, Trusts, Foundation Trusts and ICBs to consider statutory emissions and environmental targets in their decisions.

WUTH is expected to meet these duties and contribute to the NHS's [net zero ambition](#) through the delivery of a board-approved Green Plan, as outlined in statutory [green plan guidance](#). This will bring direct benefits for public health, health equity and taxpayers, including through reducing air pollution, reducing energy costs and minimising waste.

As part of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment framework, organisations are expected to have Green Plans and take action to ensure the settings in which they provide care are as low carbon as possible, energy efficient, and use renewable energy sources where possible.

The WUTH Green Plan serves as the central document for the Trust's sustainability agenda and strategy and outlines our commitment to deliver sustainable and high-quality services, and how we work with colleagues and partners to positively impact the wider determinants of health to address health inequalities, embed social value, and deliver a number of actions to reduce emissions.



Image courtesy of Delivering a Net Zero NHS Report 2022

Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

(by 2040 and 2045)

The UK is committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2050, as per the Climate Change Act 2008. The national NHS targets are based on the Climate Change Act 2008. In October 2020, the NHS became the world's first health service to commit to reaching carbon net zero, in response to the profound and growing threat to health posed by climate change.

The 'Delivering a Net Zero Health Service' report sets out a clear ambition and two evidence-based targets:

- by 2040 for the NHS Carbon Footprint, with an ambition for an 80% reduction (compared with a 1990 baseline) by 2028 to 2032.
- by 2045 for the NHS Carbon Footprint Plus, with an ambition for an 80% reduction (compared with a 1990 baseline) by 2036 to 2039.

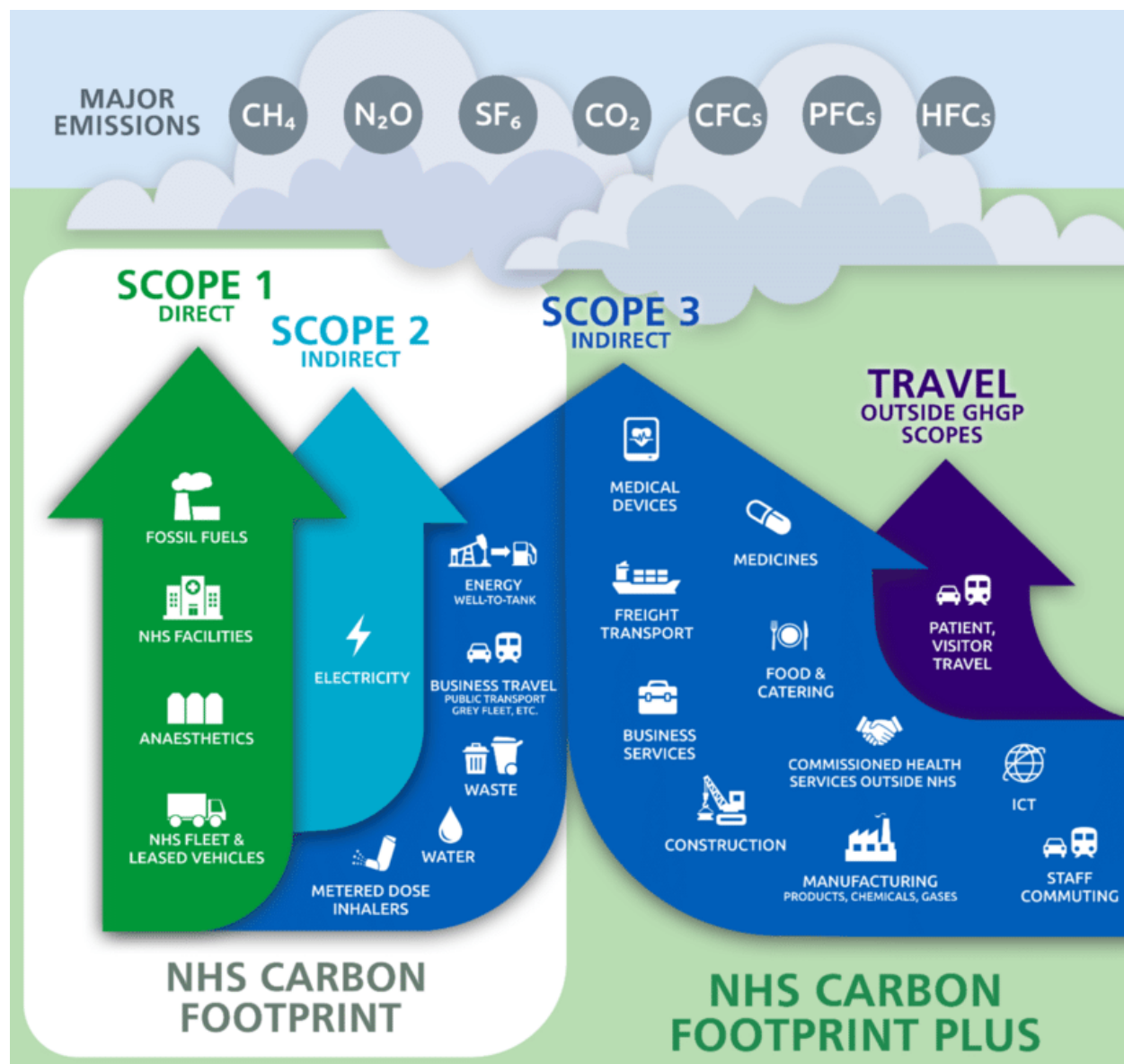


Image courtesy of Delivering a Net Zero NHS Report 2022

Carbon Footprinting and Emissions Tracking

WUTH have developed a Carbon Footprinting tool to identify the gap between the Trust's current performance and the pathway required to meet the NHS's 2040 and 2045 Net Zero targets. This footprint adheres to the NHS Carbon Footprint requirements specified in the Delivering a Net Zero NHS Report and provides a quantification of the annual carbon emissions of the organisation for which data has been collected.

The carbon footprint tool provides a visual demonstration of WUTH's current performance and desired trajectories. This provides the basis for the Trust to develop a narrative on the need and urgency for action, and the ability to show the negative impact of 'do-nothing' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios. It also provides the capacity to identify key carbon 'hot spots' within WUTH's operations, which will in turn support the Trust in the identification of key areas for intervention that bridge the gap between the current performance and the trajectory towards target delivery.

WUTH Carbon Emissions have followed a consistent trajectory towards Net Zero by 2040, with the exception of the FY 2023/24, which saw greater output of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) System which provides the majority of the Trust's Electrical Demand.

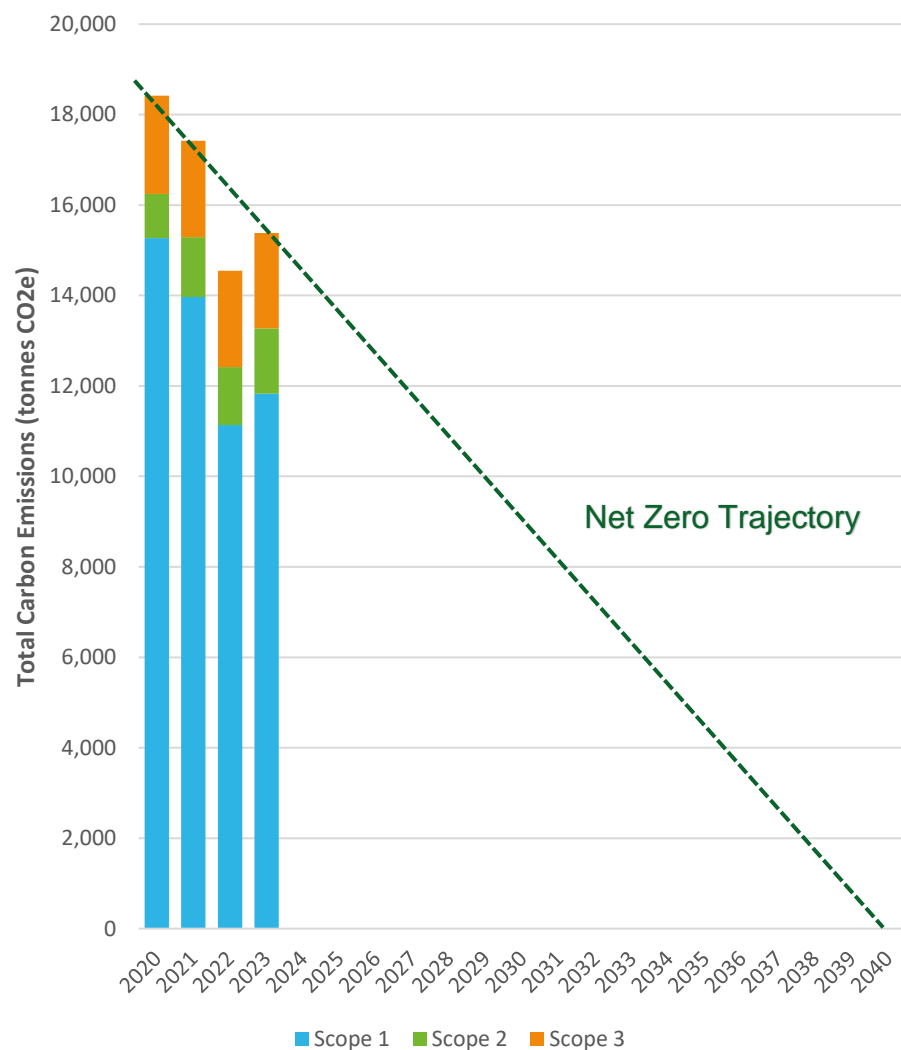
The CHP System produces electricity and heat which is used by the Trust, but produces carbon dioxide and other GHG as a waste product of the combustion of natural Gas. The Trust

are looking at alternative power systems to supply buildings with sufficient electrical and heat capacity, which include solar PV, Air Source and Ground Heat Pumps, and are monitoring research being conducted into larger capacity systems such as Geothermal extraction and Hydrogen Fuels.

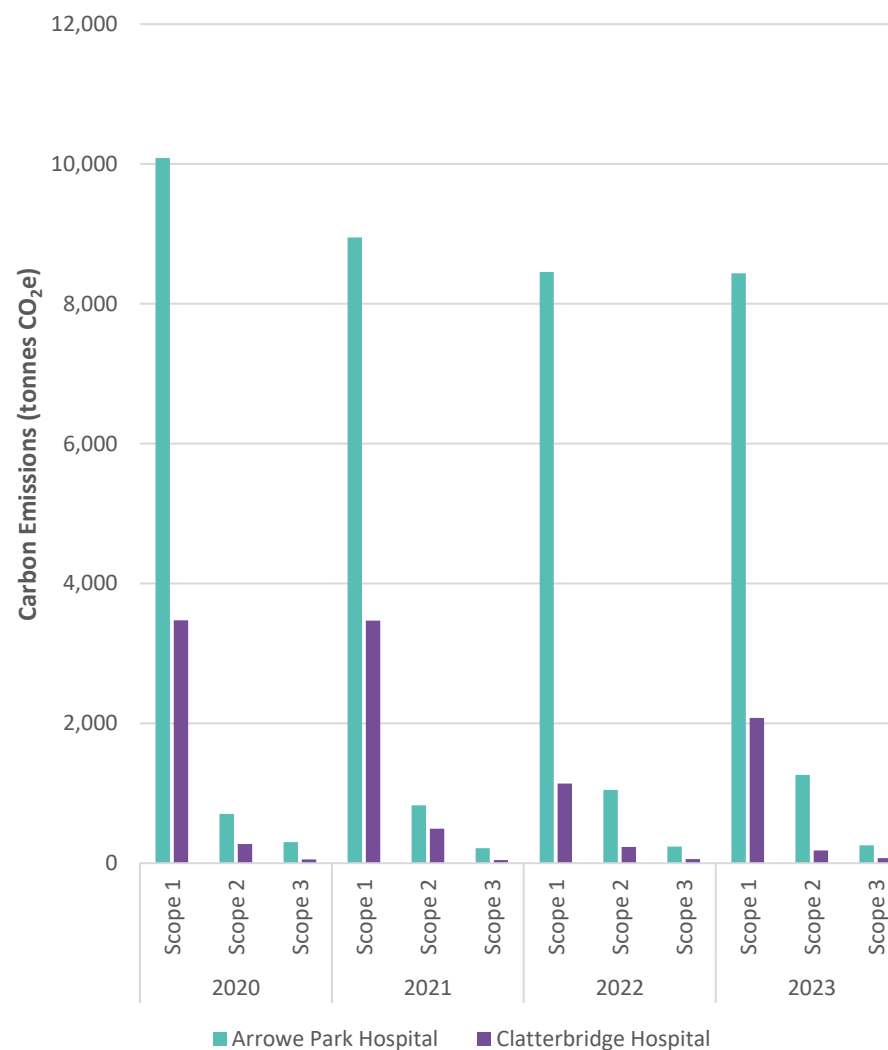


Image courtesy of WUTH Library

WUTH Total Carbon Emissions by Scope (per year)*



WUTH Carbon Emissions by Site and Scope (per Year)*



**FY 2023/24 saw greater output of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) System which provides the majority of the Trust's Electrical Demand. The Trust has contractual agreement for displacement and savings targets relating to the generation of CHP usable Electricity and Heat*

The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our Trust is working meaningfully towards the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our Green Plan, which we have aligned to relevant SDG targets.

The SDGs underpin a global action framework to 2030, adopted by every UN member country to address the biggest challenges humanity faces.

Each goal has targets and indicators to help nations and organisations prioritise and manage responses to key social, economic and environmental issues.

“The NHS belongs to all of us” *

The NHS and its people contribute to multiple SDGs through the delivery of its core functions, for example, target 3.8, to achieve universal health coverage.

Established on 5th July 1948, the UK’s National Health Service is the world’s first modern fully universal healthcare system, free at the point of use, and celebrating its 75th year in 2023.

** Constitution of NHS England*



Organisational Vision

Delivery of the WUTH Green Plan will continue to be co-ordinated by the WUTH Sustainability Team and will be overseen by the Executive Net Zero Lead.

The refreshed WUTH Green Plan structure continues to follow the NHS Guidance ([Green Plan Guidance](#) [2025], and [How to produce a Green Plan: A three-year strategy towards net zero](#) [2021]), which defines the following nine **Areas of Focus**:

- **Workforce and Leadership**
- **Net Zero Clinical Transformation** (*previously Sustainable Models of Care*)
- **Digital Transformation**
- **Medicines**
- **Travel and Transport** (including Air Quality)
- **Estates and Facilities**
- **Supply Chain and Procurement**
- **Food and Nutrition**
- **Climate Adaptation**

The Green Plan aligns to the current Trust Strategy (2021-2026) and will inform and be embedded into the new strategies which are being developed for 2026-2031.

To monitor progress of the actions, Green Plan Delivery Groups have been established to bring together stakeholders aligned to workstreams tackling actions across the breadth of the Areas of Focus. The Green Plan Delivery Groups are as follows:

- Digital Healthcare
- Medicines
- Travel and Transport
- Estates and Capital Projects
- Waste
- Supply Chain and Procurement
- Catering

They are supported and chaired by the Trust's Sustainability Team, who report progress to the Estates and Capital Committee chaired by the Trust Chairman and attended by members of the Trust Board.

WUTH Strategy (2021-2026) and Stakeholder Engagement



Our strategic priorities have been derived by reviewing national, regional and local context and can be found in our '2021-2026 Our Strategy' document. Six strategic objectives will be incorporated throughout this Green Plan as part of the Sustainability Areas of Focus.

It is important that the 2021-26 Trust Strategy is put into practice across the Trust through appropriate sub-plans. The Trust Strategy sets out what the trust intends to achieve between 2021 and 2026 and how to improve to deliver the best care for our patients. The strategy introduces the vision, values and six strategic objectives. Our Enabling Strategies provide the link between our Trust strategy and its delivery in practice, and in particular, the Estates Strategy.

The Green Plan development has considered sub-priorities of the six strategic priorities intending to support the provision of outstanding care across the Wirral through our hospital sites and units, as a lead provider within the Wirral system. The Green Plan recognises that as the Wirral system develops, the Trust and its partners may need to adapt our Green Plan to ensure opportunities to improve patient experience and outcomes, staff experience and value for money do not get delayed and are progressed forward.

Each Trust Strategic Priority has been aligned with one or more Sustainability Areas of Focus to ensure both plans align.

There have been lengthy discussions between stakeholders to ensure the actions within the Green Plan are SMART and that delivery is achievable and measurable. Stakeholders have agreed to take accountability and responsibility for the delivery of actions relating to their areas to ensure the Green Plan progresses and delivers what it intends to achieve.

Strategic Priority



Sustainability Area of Focus

Net Zero Clinical Transformation
Medicines
Food and Nutrition

Workforce and Leadership

Travel and Transport
Climate Adaptation

Supply Chain and Procurement

Digital Transformation

Estates and Facilities

Estates Enabling Strategy

Consideration has also been given to the Trust's Estates Strategy. The Estates Strategy is a key enabler to the delivery of our Clinical Strategy. Our Estates Strategy describes how we need to respond to planned and anticipated changes in activity, efficiency, models of care, ways of working and demographics. Objectives from the four campaigns of the Estates Strategy have been implemented into the Green Plan.



Portfolio Development & Future Planning

Optimise the use of our estates through enhancements that are directed by population health needs and our understanding of capacity and demand of our clinical services.

Introduce sustainability and social value as a standard consideration in our procurement processes, in order to enhance recycling, reduce waste and minimise the use of single-use equipment where appropriate.

Technical Management Review

Undertake a robust technical assessment to understand the key components that support and drive improvements across property management, including environmental impacts to inform integrated capital planning and investment programmes.

Support Delivery of Clinical & Non-Clinical Service Strategies

Make effective use of our estates through delineating the roles and functions of the sites, whilst promoting sustainability and social value.

Improve travel and transport to our hospital campuses

People

Improve our staff facilities, including indoor break areas and outdoor space, enhance changing areas, shower facilities and bicycle storage, across our campuses to support staff wellbeing.

Develop and implement a WUTH transport plan in collaboration with Wirral Place partners to enable patients and staff to utilise eco-friendly sustainable methods of transport to reach our hospital campuses.

NHS and External Partners

Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M)

At WUTH we are committed to working individually as well as at Place and System level. Since the adoption of the first iteration of our Green Plan we have actively engaged with partner organisations to establish system priorities and have been working towards delivering them. This exemplifies the collaborative efforts of Cheshire and Merseyside ICS in mitigating our carbon footprint, reducing health inequalities, and enhancing social value.

Our refreshed Green Plan is aligned to the Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Green Plan 2025–2028 and regular updates on WUTH's progress are provided at the Cheshire & Merseyside Sustainability Board.

The Cheshire & Merseyside Sustainability Board has five sub-groups which WUTH also attends: Air Quality (AQ), Waste, Energy, Travel and Transport, and Biodiversity. Some examples of how we are working together to maximise outcomes in these sub-groups are:

Air Quality

- Agreeing a local NHS position statement on AQ and health to use our voice as health professionals to influence wider action
- Actions on AQ as part of Green Plans
- Engaging our board level leads on AQ
- Joining up campaigns on indoor and outdoor air pollution including around clinical, managerial, and patient engagement
- Sharing experiences, best practice, and value of AQ monitoring
- Exploring how to improve indoor air pollution
- Joining together to explore sources of funding

Waste

- Baseline waste stream supplier and waste disposal activity to identify and optimise operations
- Identifying opportunities to eliminate or reduce single-use plastics
- Maximising the potential of recycling and generating rebates from items such as scrap metals and batteries
- Embedding the waste hierarchy throughout our organisations
- Donating surplus furniture to community organisations and developing countries

Energy

- Working together on sources of funding and funding bid submissions
- Support with Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDP)
- Collaborating with ICB Estates Team regarding estates strategy
- Maximising opportunities to act collectively in establishing efficient service standard expectations from suppliers and energy brokers
- Sharing ideas, best practice, and 'quick wins' to reduce emissions and make financial savings, i.e. LEDs; CHP performance; building occupancy
- Piloting renewable energy technology to generate learning and advancement opportunities
- Monitoring the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources

Travel & Transport

- Supporting each other to meet the national targets set out in NHS England's [Net Zero travel and transport strategy](#)
- Collaborating on ideas to encourage modal shift to active travel and public transport
- Strengthening relationships with Local Authorities and aligning strategy/ campaigns where appropriate
- Developing a list of events (Dr Bike/ cycling buddy sessions, etc) to share with wider partners, staff and communities

Biodiversity & Nature Recovery

- Defining what nature recovery looks like for C&M
- Explore the 'doing', starting with biodiversity baseline assessments on sites
- Linking to Biodiversity Net Gain targets and establishing collective goals
- Mapping nature based social prescribing opportunities and addressing barriers to setting activity up
- Improving biodiversity through large-scale, multi-landowner/landscape nature recovery projects in urban areas
- Sharing best practice and resources across Trusts

Moving forwards, C&M have identified some key priorities that we aim to achieve, as a system:

- LED Lighting across our entire estate – Approximately 80% of all Lighting at WUTH is high efficiency LED
- Increased use of solar panels across the estate – WUTH has been successful in a funding application to introduce roof mounted solar on our sites which is planned for installation within 2025/26.
- Have one agreed measurement approach for Carbon Footprinting across the system – WUTH currently report Carbon footprint aligned to Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions described in section: Carbon Footprinting and Emissions Tracking
- Have all organisations signed up to the anchor framework and TOMs – WUTH became an Anchor Institution on 31st March 2023

Social Value and Anchors

Cheshire and Merseyside ICS has been a social value accelerator site since 2018 and has co-produced a Social Value Charter as well as developed a Social Value Award. Working closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as the [All Together Fairer](#) Marmot team, they have also co-produced an anchor framework.

Public, private and voluntary sector organisations, including WUTH have signed up to these initiatives, delivering one approach. In addition, they have developed a systemwide set of themes, outcomes and measures (TOMs) to measure social value and demonstrate delivery.

Cool Wirral Partnership

WUTH is part of the Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly the Wirral Climate Change Group) which co-ordinates local action on climate change. The partnership is supported by the Wirral Council and meets three times a year. A variety of organisations participate, including: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership, Energy Projects Plus, Faiths4Change, Forum Housing, Magenta Living, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, Merseytravel, and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.

WUTH has supported the development of the third iteration of the Cool Wirral Strategy 2025–2030.

Integration of Single Organisation Form with Wirral Community Health and Care Trust

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHC) are commencing an integration into a single form organisation. Once formal arrangements have taken place, the opportunity to combine each organisation's Green Plan will be undertaken to support an integrated NHS Wirral wide Green Plan across the Acute and Community portfolio.

Areas of Focus Contents

The following Areas of Focus give an overview of what WUTH has achieved currently, what the Green Plan aims to deliver over the next three years, and what the success measures will be for these aims

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Workforce and Leadership



The transition to a Net Zero NHS will be driven by its people, our workforce will be vital to delivering our ambitions. We will build our Green Plan into our strategic planning and governance, and support our staff and leaders to learn, innovate and embed sustainability into [everyday actions](#).

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Appointment of Board-level Net Zero Lead
- ✓ Green Champions Network
- ✓ Communication of Greener NHS campaigns to improve staff engagement and implementation of “Building a Net Zero NHS” training onto ESR

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Nominate and empower a Health Inequalities Lead and a Climate Change Adaptation Lead
- Ensure staff are resourced to undertake Green Plan duties
- Implement mandatory training related to Environmental Sustainability to build capability in all staff, including the link between climate change and health, including practical actions that staff can take to help achieve Net Zero
- Create Green Plan intranet pages for staff access and external webpages for other stakeholders; upload Green Plan content and progress updates accordingly

Success measures:

- ❖ Appointment of Health Inequalities Lead and a Climate Change Adaptation Lead
- ❖ Delivery of Green Plan actions
- ❖ Provision of additional Net Zero/Sustainability training for all staff
- ❖ Development of Green Plan intranet and webpages for staff/external stakeholders



Image courtesy of WUTH Library

Net Zero Clinical Transformation



To achieve our Net Zero ambitions, we must deliver care in a way that incorporates reducing carbon emissions. This includes principles such as optimising location of care, earlier and quicker detection, diagnosis and treatment, embedding the best clinical practice, treating for the long-term and digital technology. Carbon savings will predominantly be achieved by reduced presentations in A&E and outpatients, reduced staff and patient mileage, reduced bed days, fewer pharmaceuticals being prescribed, and less carbon intensive procedures

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Initiated integration with the Community Trust which has opened up conversations and opportunity to move care closer to people's homes
- ✓ In 2022, WUTH launched a "Without Gloves" campaign. This was aimed at all staff across our organisation that might usually reach for a pair of gloves as part of their work, the campaign aims to improve hand hygiene, reduce gloves use (and therefore carbon footprint) and reduce spend on non-sterile gloves.

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Develop care pathways and systems such that patients can receive treatments in the community rather than attending the acute site
- Build on current efforts to reduce health inequalities and improve early intervention, linking this work to potential emissions reductions
- Health Inequalities Lead to coordinate delivery of an updated Health Inequalities Action Plan
- Continue to collaborate with other Trusts and public authorities on the population's health

Success measures:

- ❖ Reduced traffic and congestion on the acute site improving carbon footprint
- ❖ Delivery of Health Inequalities Action Plan

Digital Transformation



Strong digital foundations are essential for transforming care by improving access, quality, productivity and reducing emissions. NHS organisations achieved remarkable digital transformation during the coronavirus pandemic. WUTH intends to build on this progress by focussing on ways that further harness digital infrastructure, systems and data to streamline service delivery and supporting functions, improve use of resources and reduce carbon emissions. WUTH is well-placed to support the development of digital care as a tool to promote inclusion and increase access to quality care in the Cheshire and Merseyside region.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Provided appropriate hardware and software to staff delivering work remotely, reduction in staff travel to and from site
- ✓ Adoption of staff and patient portals, reduction in paper i.e. payslips and appointment letters
- ✓ Continued cyclical replacement programme of IT hardware with more energy efficient solutions

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Build on our current practice and current online patient guidance, participate in delivery of the Long-Term Plan commitments for digital first primary care and an NHS digital front door, linking this to potential emissions reductions.
- Use relevant guidance to ensure the Trust has robust ICT systems in place to deliver on digital transformation.

- Build on current practice of engaging staff and care groups in digital care channels, meaning fewer patient journeys.
- Transfer paper-based systems such as prescribing, bed state, observations, ward state, referrals, expense claims forms to a digital alternative. Reduce use of paper across all back-office functions.

Success measures:

- ❖ To complete phase 2 & 3 of Trust's One Patient Record Programme
- ❖ Measurable progress with digital transformation
- ❖ Reduce paper use and postage



Image courtesy of WUTH Library

Medicines



A small number of medicines account for a substantial proportion of all emissions within the NHS in England, particularly anaesthetic gases, nitrous oxide and inhalers which account for around 5% of NHS emissions.

The production and use of medications, inhalers, and anaesthetic drugs contribute significantly to environmental damage due to the waste generated from packaging, the manufacturing processes, pollution of water bodies during production, the disposal of unused drugs into public water sources and landfills, and the release of pollutants into the air. This Green Plan will set out how WUTH intends to address these issues and reduce our impact on the environment whilst continuing to prioritise patient care.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Worked with our anaesthetists and pharmacy teams to phase out the use of Desflurane completely
- ✓ Switched off a Nitrous Oxide Manifold at our Clatterbridge site which will reduce the amount of Nitrous Oxide that is wasted, it is estimated to reduce our carbon footprint by 100 tonnes CO₂e per year.
- ✓ The Trust was awarded funding as part of the NHSE Nitrous Oxide Waste Mitigation Scheme. The funding will be used to supply Arrowe Park Hospital with cylinder trolleys so that the Nitrous oxide manifold can then be switched off.

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Establish a nitrous oxide project to reduce nitrous oxide waste from Medical Gas Pipeline Systems (MGPS) by progressing actions outlined in the Nitrous Oxide Waste Mitigations Toolkit
- Educate patients to promote correct medication technique, self-management and adherence to support reduction in waste
- Trust to undertake Entonox Waste Audits supported by the Nitrous Oxide Toolkit.

Success measures:

- ❖ Completion of actions outlined in the Nitrous Oxide Waste Mitigations Toolkit
- ❖ Production of educational materials relating to medication technique
- ❖ Completion of Entonox Waste Audits and corresponding action plans

Travel and Transport



Approximately 3.5% (9.5 billion miles) of all road travel in England relates to patients, visitors, staff and suppliers to the NHS, contributing around 14% of the system's total emissions. The NHS fleet is the second largest in the country, consisting of over 20,000 vehicles. It directly contributes to harmful air pollution. The aim at WUTH is to promote low-carbon travel for patients, visitors and staff, and work with our partner organisations across Cheshire and Merseyside to reduce our contribution to air pollution.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Supported flexible working and increased staff's home-working arrangement where possible
- ✓ Reviewed existing staff lease scheme to encourage the uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and Zero Emission Vehicles
- ✓ Provision of Dr Bike sessions for WUTH staff and partners at both sites
- ✓ Provision of discounted staff public transport

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Develop a Sustainable Travel Plan which incorporates a variety of strategies for travel to and from the hospital sites for patients, visitors and staff
- Explore campaigns on outdoor air pollution with local authorities and explore how to improve indoor air quality
- Install Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points to support transition to an EV fleet

- Investigate NHS Salary Sacrifice Scheme to ensure delivery of NHS Net Zero Travel and Transport Strategy guidance, which states that by 2026, all vehicles offered through NHS salary sacrifice must be Electric
- All new vehicles owned and leased by the NHS will be zero emission vehicles from 2027

Success measures:

- ❖ Development of a Sustainable Travel Plan
- ❖ Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargepoints
- ❖ Electric Vehicles (EV) only to be offered through NHS Salary Sacrifice Scheme
- ❖ Purchase or lease of Zero Emission Fleet Vehicles



Image courtesy of Jacek S

Estates and Facilities



As we provide critical services 24 hours a day 365 days a year, our energy and resource consumptions are significant. Therefore, we need to optimise energy use in our buildings and move away from using fossil fuels to meet NHS Net Zero goals. Our estate comprises a mixture of buildings of different types, ages and usage, which presents challenges to retrofitting resource efficiency measures and heating improvements.

Estates & Facilities comprises of the following areas:



Capital Projects

The Built Environment of the NHS influences both the quality of our care and our environmental impact. How we design and construct our buildings in the future will play a decisive role in our collective ability to achieve net zero.



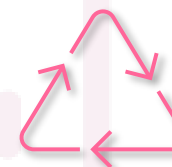
Water Efficiency

The supply of fresh water and treatment of wastewater produces indirect harmful emissions. Although these emissions are low compared to those produced by energy consumption, water efficiency is important to prevent and alleviate water stress.



Biodiversity & Greenspace

WUTH wants to protect biodiversity within our estate and reduce our negative impact, both locally and globally. Greenspace and nature are important for the health and wellbeing of patients, visitors and staff alike. WUTH will promote access to greenspace and consider opportunities and risks for biodiversity in the areas we operate.



Waste

The NHS is one of the largest producers of waste in the country, therefore it is vital that waste is disposed of in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner. To achieve sustainable practices WUTH will work to ensure that waste is segregated correctly and that we are reducing, reusing and recycling our waste where possible.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ WUTH has been successful in securing approximately £1m to support LED lighting improvements at both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospital sites. Funding was awarded by NHS England as part of the National Energy Efficiency Funding (NEEF) Scheme Phase 3. This will improve carbon savings and reduce energy costs for the Trust and wider NHS which can be reinvested in patient care.
- ✓ In July 2024, WUTH Sustainability Team and Facilities & Support Services supported the Endoscopy Team with improving their waste segregation processes within the department. The aim of this project was to reduce the amount of waste that was being disposed of as Offensive waste and re-directed to Recyclable waste streams as a result of correct segregation.
- ✓ In October 2023 WUTH Charity received an award-winning show garden from the 2023 Tatton Flower Show which has been installed on the Clatterbridge site, the garden's theme "Constructing Minds" is based on the hidden issues of mental health for construction workers and has been designed as a calming space to help those struggling with their mental health.

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Optimise energy use across the Trust through infrastructure improvements and culture change
- Develop a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) which identifies the phasing out of all existing fossil fuels and submit business cases to support measures outlined in the HDP
- Ensure all applicable new building and major refurbishment projects are compliant with the NHS Net Zero Building Standard

Success measures:

- ❖ Measurable reduction in energy consumption and associated carbon emissions
- ❖ Development and publication of a Heat Decarbonisation Plan with associated strategy
- ❖ Assurance from Capital Team that all newbuilding and major refurbishment projects are compliant with the NHS Net Zero Building Standard



Image courtesy of Pixabay

Supply Chain and Procurement

NHS England procures around £30 billion of goods and services annually across 80,000 suppliers. Procurement has major potential social, economic, and environmental impacts both locally and globally. This includes using local suppliers to reduce carbon emissions and tackling modern slavery in supply chains.

WUTH is committed to engage our suppliers and support the sustainable procurement objectives of NHS England wherever practicable.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Tenders adopt the new social value procurement note PPN 06/20 and carbon management PPN 06/21 in major contracts from April 2022 and 2023 respectively
- ✓ All paper purchased is now closed-loop recycled paper
- ✓ All procurement tender evaluations now include a minimum of 10% net zero and social value weighting

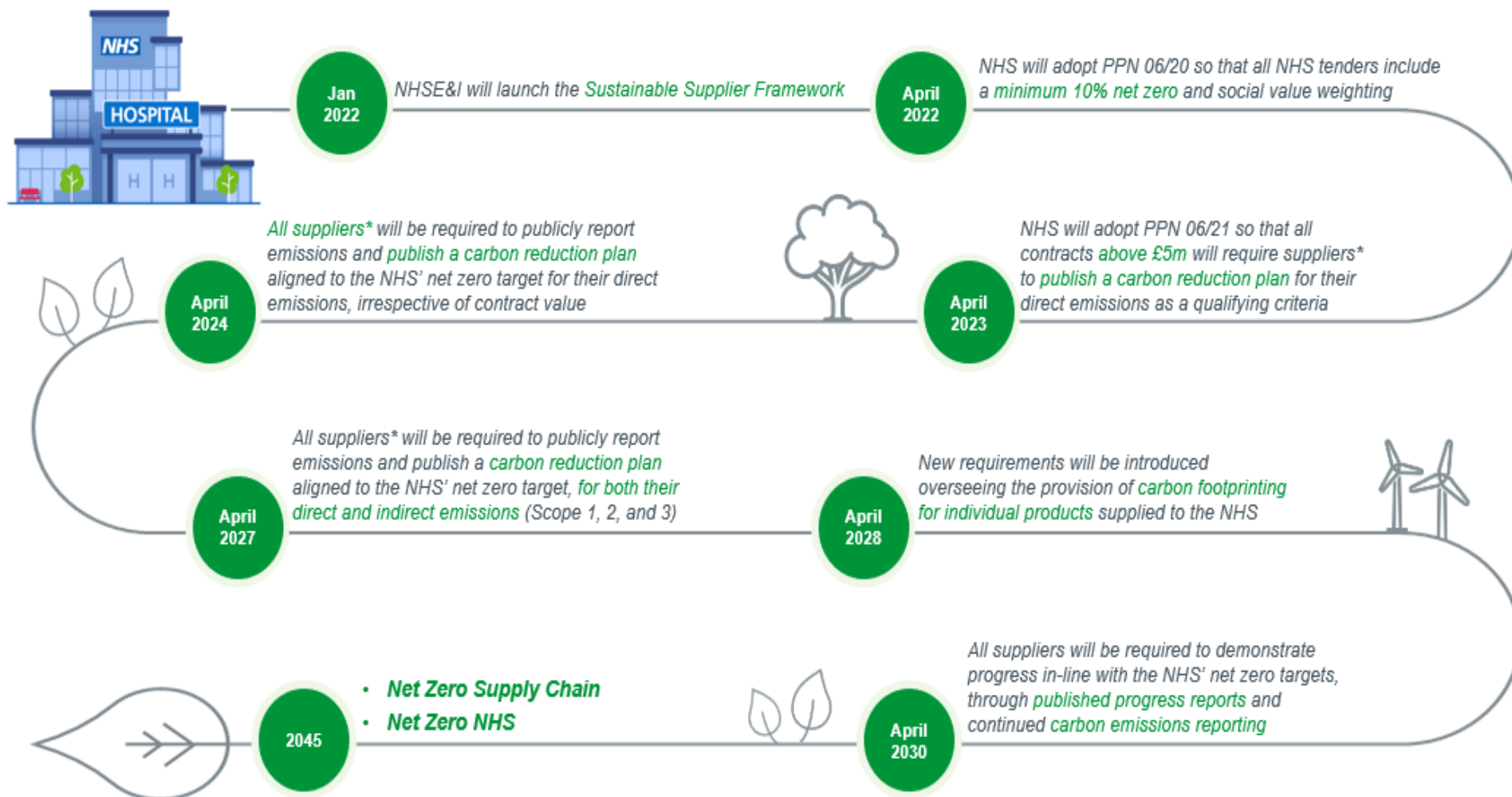


What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Embed NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap requirements into all relevant procurements and
- All suppliers intending to tender for a contract or framework will require, at the point of submission, a valid Evergreen sustainable supplier assessment as well as a compliant Carbon Reduction Plan for contracts over £5,000,000.00 per annum (excluding VAT).
- Support work to reduce reliance on single-use products, considering how to safely build this work into clinical improvement projects and patient pathways

Success measures:

- ❖ Monitor NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap requirements and update SOP accordingly
- ❖ Record of Evergreen sustainable supplier assessment and compliant Carbon Reduction Plan (when appropriate)
- ❖ Implement reusable products into clinical improvement projects and measure carbon and cost effectiveness



Building net zero into NHS Procurement – shows how NHS England will require all suppliers to provide carbon and social value reporting

Food and Nutrition



Food illustrates the links between climate change and public health. The NHS Long Term Plan commits us to promote plant-forward diets and reduce unhealthy options like sugary drinks on NHS premises. Not only will these actions help prevent obesity and non-communicable disease, but they will also play a role in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Limited sugary drinks sales at our facilities across both sites
- ✓ Switched to plastic-free cutlery and food containers in our restaurants across both sites
- ✓ Explored feasibility of food dryer at Arrowe Park Hospital to reduce volume of food waste

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Phase in more Plant-forward diets and explore greater seasonal menu changes high in fruit and vegetables and low in heavily processed foods
- Measure food waste in line with the Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC) and set reduction targets
- Introduce electronic meal ordering system for patients

Success measures:

- ❖ Provision of more Plant-forward foods and evidence frequent seasonal menu changes
- ❖ Measurable reduction in food waste in line with ERIC benchmarking
- ❖ Implementation of electronic meal ordering system for patients



Image courtesy of WUTH Library

Climate Adaptation



As well as working to reduce our emissions to reach the NHS Net Zero targets, we must also adapt to the changing climate which brings along many risks such as; extreme weather events, shifts in disease patterns, sea-level rise and their impact on vulnerable populations in our community. These risks will impact demand for services, staffing, supply chain, travel and transport, digital systems, and physical infrastructure. In order to ensure continuity of our services to our community, WUTH will analyse these risks and develop a strategy and action plan across our estate and service areas.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Completed trial of Cheshire & Merseyside Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit
- ✓ The Trust have been successful on two applications for fully-funded trees from NHS Forest which have been planted on the Clatterbridge Hospital site and will help to alleviate flood risks in the long term
- ✓ Collaborated with partners across Cheshire and Merseyside to understand Climate Adaptation risks

What the refreshed Green Plan aims to deliver (2025-2028):

- Develop Climate Adaptation Plan
- Add Climate Adaptation risks onto the Trust risk register
- Comply with the adaptation provisions within the NHS Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) and the NHS Standard Contract to support business continuity during adverse weather events
- Factor in the effects of climate change when making infrastructure decisions and designing new facilities, including enhancements like improved green spaces, drainage systems and passive cooling solutions
- Ensure adequate cascading of weather health alerts and relevant messaging across the organisation, in line with the government's Adverse Weather and Health Plan

Success measures:

- ❖ Development and publication of Trust Climate Adaptation Plan
- ❖ Inclusion of Climate Change risks and mitigation on Trust risk register
- ❖ Compliance with NHS Core Standards for EPRR and the NHS Standard Contract
- ❖ Assurance from Capital Team to factor in effects of climate change when making infrastructure decisions and designing new facilities
- ❖ Assurance from Trust EPRR Lead of adherence to Adverse Weather and Health Plan at Trust level

Conclusion

This Green Plan is a living document and will be regularly reviewed for progress against the action plans. As such, actions and targets may be revised where necessary.

Adequate budgets and resources should be allocated to achieve our goals and deliver sustainable care. We will look to achieve the low cost 'quick wins' first, though anticipate significant investment requirements in future years, especially in making our buildings 'climate-ready'.

This Green Plan will enable us to become an adaptable and resilient organisation. It will help steer our direction of travel with other local anchor institutions, bolstering our ability to provide a continued critical service.

Our dedicated workforce is core to our care provision and delivery of this Green Plan. With the necessary structures in place, it will be our people and service users who will drive the changes to make us a more sustainable organisation. We will continue an open dialogue with all stakeholders to improve our Green Plans and the care we deliver.



Arrowe Park Site - Image courtesy of Google Earth

Contact Details

All of the information contained in this report is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate at the time of publishing.

If you wish to contact the Wirral Sustainability Team, please email wuth.sustainability@nhs.net

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