



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Annual Sustainability Progress Report

Delivering Net Zero Carbon
Autumn 2022

Our environment | Our health | Our commitment

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Foreword



This is the first of our Annual Progress Reports since publishing our Care Without Carbon Green Plan in 2021, and more recently our detailed Delivery Plan. Here we set out three core commitments: firstly to meet the ambitious new NHS England Improvement (NHSEI) Net Zero Carbon targets; secondly to exceed these targets where possible; and thirdly to show leadership in the sector through our work to understand and reduce our indirect emissions – those which we don't control but can influence.

As Trust lead for Sustainability for many years now, I have always strongly felt the value of taking action on climate change as healthcare providers. In tackling our emissions we are directly taking action to support the health of our communities; we saw only this year unprecedented temperatures in the south east over the heatwave and the impact that had on our communities. This link between climate and health is at the heart of our new Green Plan and reflected in our Sustainable Healthcare Principles. Our aim in this phase of work is to fully embed sustainable thinking into day-to-day decision making at Sussex Community, and into all aspects of how we deliver care.

We're driving change within the Trust, but our role as part of the wider system is also critical. As an anchor institution, the potential to increase our impact through partnership working and collaboration locally is significant. Central to this is our work to support sustainable practices within our NHS partners locally and, in time, within our local patient community. I am particularly proud of our sustainability work at system level, driving change through our Care Without Carbon framework. The 'Evolving System' section of this report outlines in more detail what we are doing with our partner organisations.

You will see in this report that we are working towards reducing our emissions and in doing so, improvements in care – the two go hand in hand. Embracing sustainability in all that we do at Sussex Community is also about innovating and challenging the status quo and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve as we ask ourselves, 'how can I do this differently?'. It isn't always an easy question to answer, but in asking the question we are already on the road to making a difference.



**Mike
Jennings**
Interim
Chief
Executive
Officer

The context for more sustainable healthcare



Our health and our climate are intrinsically linked.

This year we saw some of the hottest weather on record and unprecedented flooding events. In the South East alone the 2020 Heatwaves caused 530 excess deaths – more than any other region. And in Brighton, areas with poor air quality saw higher than average incidents of lung cancer and deaths due to cancer, circulatory disease and stroke and above average hospital admissions for COPD and stroke.

Within the public sector, the NHS is the largest emitter of CO₂, making up 4-5% of England's carbon footprint. With 3.5% of vehicles on the road associated with NHS business, plus the huge amount of waste produced, our impact on climate change and the environment – both as a sector and as a Trust – is significant.

The way we currently deliver healthcare as a Trust and across the wider NHS is contributing to climate change; and therefore contributing to these health problems within our communities. Those most at risk of the most harmful effects of climate change are our vulnerable populations, those who are older (65+), those with severe or chronic illness and the very young.

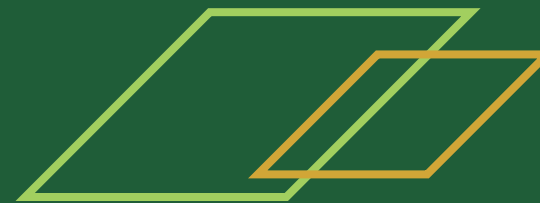
The good news is that in actively reducing our impact on our environment and taking action to adapt to the impacts of climate change, we can actively support the health of our communities at the same time.

In 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) set ambitious new sustainability targets for NHS providers to tackle their impact on the environment:

- **Net Zero by 2040 for direct emissions** (NHS Carbon Footprint), with an interim target of 80% reduction by 2028-32.
- **Net Zero by 2045 for indirect emissions** (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), with an interim target of 80% by 2036-39.

Our Green Plan ([available online here](#)) sets out how we will achieve these targets, while at the same time tackling health inequalities such as fuel poverty, access to green spaces and exposure to air pollution.

Delivering our vision



Our Trust vision is to provide excellent care in the heart of the community; it is imperative that we are able to continue to deliver this in the context of climate change.

In September 2021, we published our Trust Green Plan. This built on the work we've done over the last ten years through our Care Without Carbon programme, setting out our approach to tackling the ever increasing challenge of climate change over the next three years.

Our Care Without Carbon vision:



Together we lead the way in Net Zero Carbon healthcare, protecting the environment on which our health depends.

Delivering on this vision through our new Green Plan will drastically reduce our environmental impact as a Trust and deliver real health benefits to our patients and the wider community.

We've recognised the importance of this in our new Trust Strategy, with sustainability identified as one of five strategic goals over the next three years, with strong links into each of our other strategic goals.

This Annual Sustainability Progress Report sets out our final (and independently verified) carbon footprint figures for 21/22 as well as a summary of what we have achieved in our first year of the Green Plan (Sept 21 – Aug 22).

It highlights our work within Sussex Community, which has focussed on three key areas:

- Setting out more detail on our Net Zero Carbon (NZC) commitments in a Delivery Plan including identifying projects required to deliver against them.
- Working with stakeholders to hone down and prioritise our action plans and set up the right governance to deliver them.
- Delivering high priority projects, in particular our Net Zero Carbon Ready (NZC-R) Chailey project, electrification of the operational fleet and refresh of our staff engagement programme.

Reflecting our ambition to increase our impact outside of the Trust, we also highlight for the first time our work with partners outside of Sussex Community. This includes how we support our core partner trusts locally with their sustainability programmes as well as highlighting our work at Integrated Care System (ICS) level and beyond.

Finally, this report provides a look forward to key areas of focus for the coming 12 months.

Our environmental impact



Delivering community care to our patients across Sussex requires significant use of resources across nearly 80 sites as well as in patient homes. In 2021/22, we:



42% reduction ↓ ↓ ↓

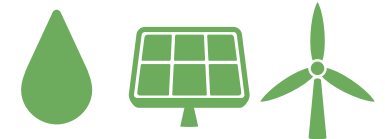
in our carbon footprint since our base year of 2010/11. This is an increase on last year as we return to more normal service levels following the pandemic, but still within our NZC target trajectory.

Purchased only

100%

renewably backed

power from hydro solar and wind.



Upgraded our operational fleet to include



alternate fuel vehicles

(fully electric or hybrid) including 15 electric vehicles.



Nitrous Oxide
in dentistry and MIU



of our non-healthcare waste.

total amount of waste produced

880
tonnes



Achieved

50%
offensive (non-infectious) healthcare waste.



Sent
ZERO
non-healthcare waste to landfill

Making progress to Net Zero



Our carbon footprint 21/22

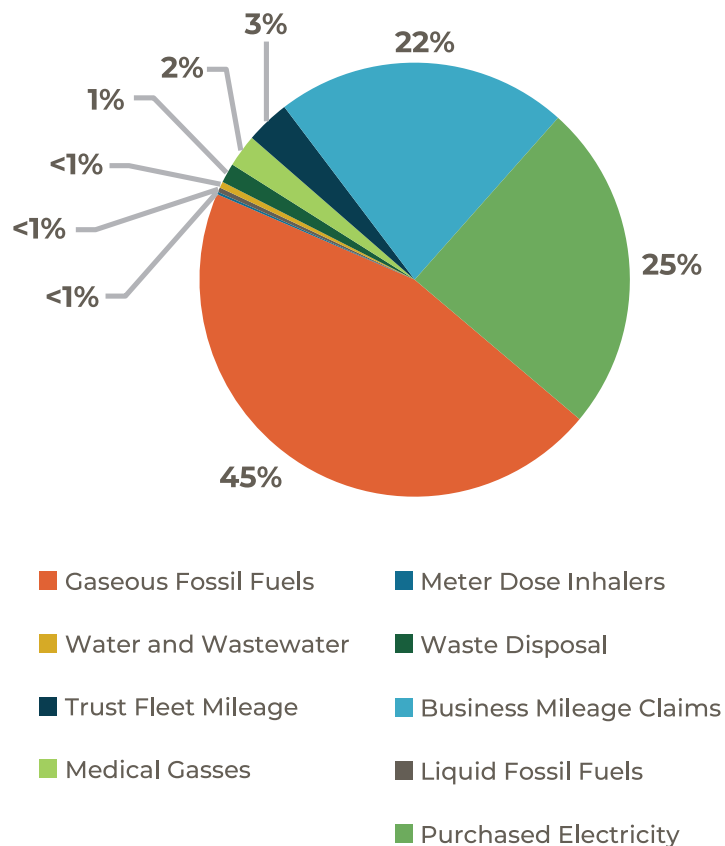


Figure 1: 2020/21 Sussex Community NHS Carbon Footprint breakdown by source

Our commitment

Balancing the need to retain our focus on the immediate challenges facing care delivery, with the gravity of the health impacts of climate change on our patient population, we made three core commitments in our recent Delivery Plan:

- 1 We will meet the NHSEI Net Zero targets for our direct and indirect emissions.** Our first interim target is to reduce our direct carbon footprint (NHS Carbon Footprint) by 25% from 21/22 by end 2025/26.
- 2 We will exceed NHSEI targets where possible by setting stretch targets.** During 22/23 we will explore the opportunity to set stretch targets in our owned estate.
- 3 We will show leadership in the sector through our work to understand and reduce our indirect emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus).** This will include pioneering approaches to circular economy, developing our expertise in sustainable community care pathways and integrating our Sustainable Healthcare Principles into core business processes and practice.

Our progress to date

Since the programme started in 2010, we have made significant progress, reducing our carbon footprint through a range of measures tackling travel, energy use, waste and with a strong focus on staff engagement. From here on, the scale of the challenge increases significantly.

In 2021/22 we saw an increase in our carbon footprint (see Figure 2) compared to the previous year. This was expected following a move back to pre-pandemic service levels and the resultant increase in staff travel; and we remain within our target trajectory. The next three years will be critical to ensure we remain on track, including making the most of the learning we gained through the pandemic around agile working and virtual care.

Delivering NZC: opportunities mapping

In practice, even meeting the minimum requirements of the NHSEI targets will be a significant challenge.

Our first phase of carbon opportunities mapping has focussed on our direct impacts, in particular our estate, travel and medical gases. In our recent Delivery Plan, we identified a series of carbon reduction projects to keep us on track with our 2025/26 NZC target (see Appendix 1).

A number of these projects have already commenced – some of these are described in further detail in this report.

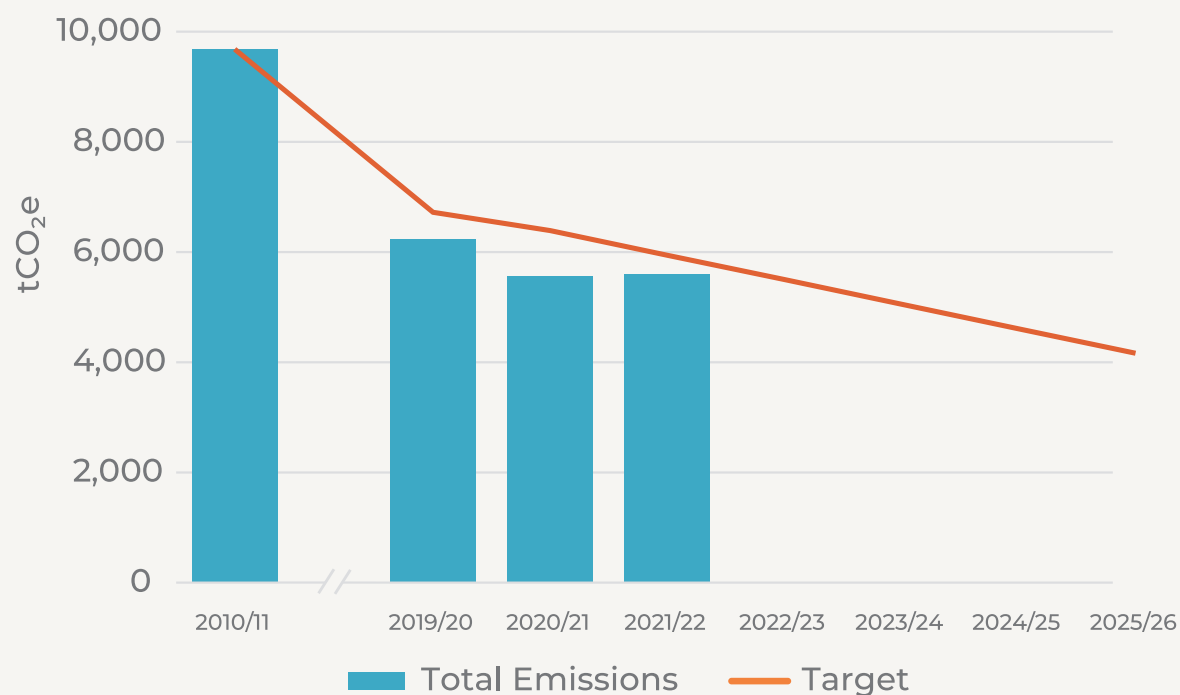
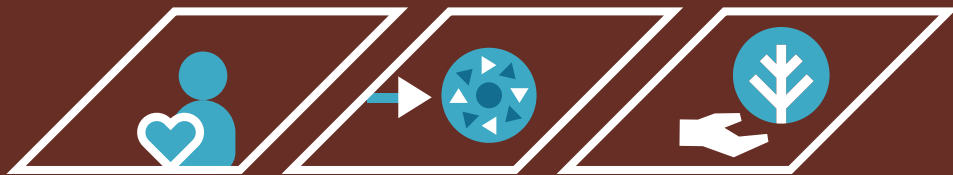


Figure 2: Sussex Community NHS Carbon Footprint from baseline year and target trajectory

Our Green Plan in action

Delivering against our Sustainable Healthcare Principles



Our CWC framework for sustainable healthcare



Together we lead the way in net zero carbon healthcare, protecting the environment on which our health depends



The following pages show how we're delivering against our three sustainable healthcare principles, with case studies highlighting our work both at SCFT and more broadly.



Healthier Lives

Making use of every opportunity to help people be well, to minimise preventable ill health, health inequalities and unnecessary treatment, and to support independence and wellbeing.

This principle reflects the fact that, at a very basic level, the healthier people are, the fewer healthcare interventions are required. This means less resource needed to support care – whether that is staff time, carbon or financial. As such, everything we do to support the health of both our patients and our staff is supporting the delivery of our sustainability and carbon reduction ambitions.

Our work to date

Our focus to date has been on working with wellbeing and public health colleagues to understand how we can best feed into existing work in this area, and develop a programme of work to support delivery.

Our patient community: Sussex Community as an Anchor Institution

The concept of an anchor institution began in the US, and refers to an organisation, usually public sector, that is so geographically committed to its location that its long-term sustainability is intrinsically linked into the wellbeing of the population it serves. The NHS is well suited to this designation, and specifically can act as an anchor institution in five key areas:

- Employment
- Procurement and commissioning for social value
- Use of capital and estates
- Environmental sustainability
- As a partner in place

As an organisation, we closely align with the principles and practices of an anchor institute. In 2022 Sussex Community made the formal decision to become an anchor institute. Work is in progress to set out what this means for us in practical terms, and key projects that will deliver on this commitment.

Care Without Carbon is central to our ambition to become an anchor institution. This goes beyond supporting sustainable practices within the NHS but also within the local community, particularly for disadvantaged populations who face the highest levels of environmental risk.



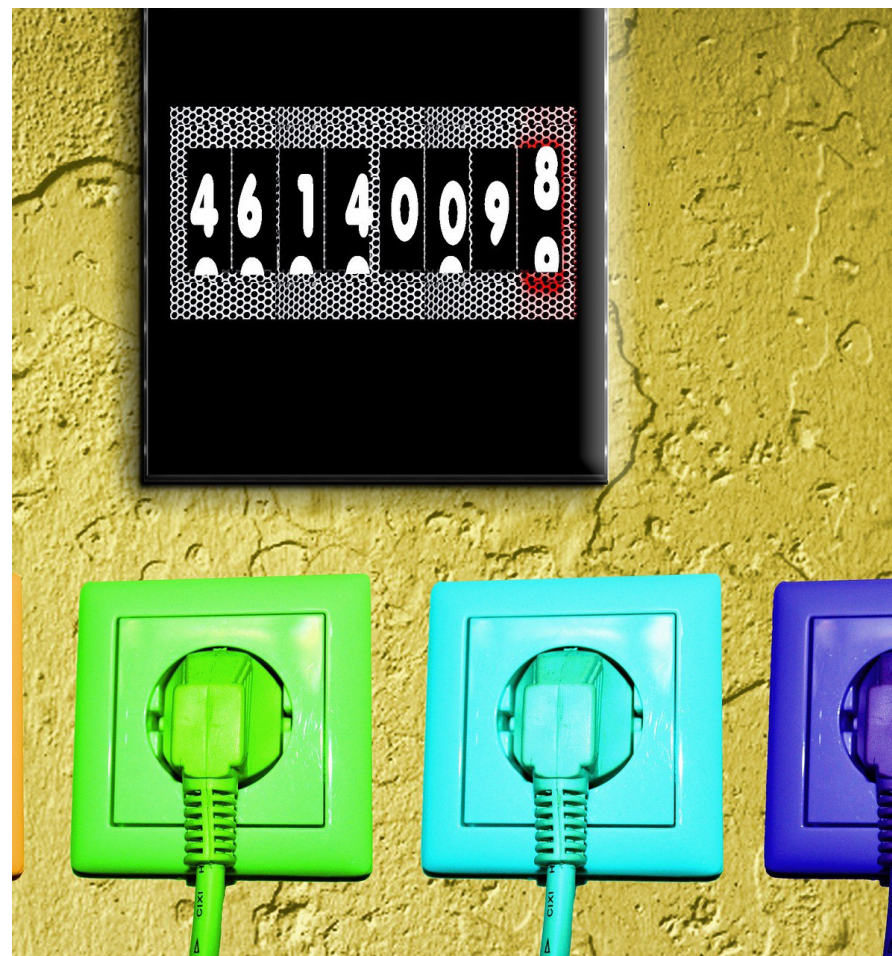
Our staff community: Tackling the cost-of-living crisis

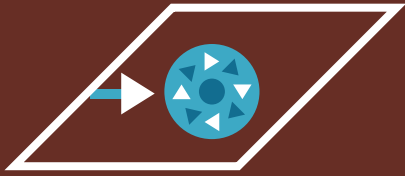
From late 2021 and throughout 2022 we have seen fuel and energy bills rise to levels that are causing people financial distress, anxiety and stress. The Trust recognised that staff needed additional support and set in place a range of measures to address the problem.

This included financial support and guidance, such as the introduction of Wagestream to enable staff to access their pay in advance of pay day, and a temporary increase across all business mileage rates.

What's next?

While the cost-of-living crisis continues to unfold, the CWC team is developing a suite of guidance blogs and a leaflet with tips for saving money on fuel, energy and food waste that bring together sustainable behaviours with practical measures to reduce costs and boost wellbeing. In addition, the Trust's Travel Bureau continues to provide bespoke advice to colleagues on opportunities to save on upfront travel costs, including booking public transport through the Trust's web portal and accessing pool cars.





Streamlined Processes and Pathways

Minimising waste and duplication within the Trust and wider health system to ensure delivery of safe and effective care.

Our work to date

There are a multitude of teams working towards this Sustainable Healthcare Principle across the Trust through quality improvement and transformation projects. These are primarily delivered through clinical and corporate teams, with the Care Without Carbon team focussing work this year on providing support in drawing out the sustainable benefits of these projects.

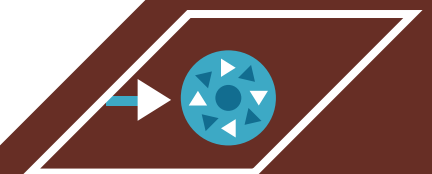


Embedding sustainability into change processes

To achieve Net Zero healthcare, sustainability impact needs to be considered in decision making processes of all kinds. A key focus this year has been to understand how best to achieve this. We were fortunate to gain a clinical member of the team who worked with us for 5 months as part of their junior doctor training on a project to embed sustainable thinking into project development. Working with the development and partnerships and quality improvement teams, we conducted initial local research (through a staff survey, observational study, and interviews), which showed that sustainability is often not considered in the development of quality improvement projects, and given an understanding of some of the key challenges and opportunities associated with doing this.

Using this research, we have started to develop a tool for consistent assessment of the sustainability impact of projects and service development at SCFT. It is based on Care Without Carbon's Sustainable Healthcare Principles and incorporates a basic carbon footprint calculator.

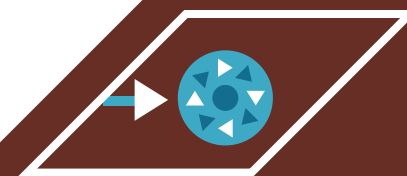
Next steps are for us to run an in depth pilot of the tool with clinical teams. This will help embed sustainability thinking across areas of both clinical and non-clinical project work and empower teams to make more sustainable decisions.



Reducing travel impacts with digital care and agile working

As a community healthcare provider, travel is essential for ensuring we can deliver care to patients where they need it. This is reflected in the Trust's carbon footprint, where the burning of petrol and diesel for our travel accounts for a quarter of all direct emissions. Local air quality is also negatively affected. Poor air quality causes excess deaths and ill health by increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke and asthma. The challenge is to ensure that we can continue to deliver high quality healthcare for our patients and the community without negatively affecting their health or increasing the risks of climate impacts.

Our approach to achieving this is to eliminate non-essential journeys and to optimise the number of essential journeys. During the pandemic the Trust made huge changes to the way services are delivered and rapidly accelerated a shift towards digital care and agile working. In a single year, these changes saved 1.5 million road miles, £700k in mileage claims, improved local air quality, and reduced our travel greenhouse gas emissions by 38%.



A few of the projects that supported this change were:

- **Switching face-to-face meetings for virtual meetings, reducing travel claims in this area by 81% compared to 2019-2020.**
- **Switching to telephone consultations at Crawley UTC. This avoided 2,600 appointments over 7 months, 49k miles of patient travel and 17 tonnes of carbon emissions.**
- **A digital project trialling route optimisation software for community healthcare showed staff time, travel costs and emissions could be significantly reduced through better route planning.**

Digital and agile working interventions used to maintain healthcare delivery during the pandemic have had positive health and climate benefits, reframing what is considered essential travel. Since then we know our travel emissions have gone up – and continue to do so as we return to pre-pandemic service levels and behaviours. Our challenge now is to better understand and measure the potential carbon benefits of key projects such as virtual wards and consultations, remote monitoring, home and agile working, and apply these projects into everyday healthcare delivery. By adopting these new behaviours, we will improve local air quality and actively support the health of our communities.





Respecting Resources

Where resources are required, prioritising use of treatments, products, processes, and pathways with lower carbon environmental and health impacts.

This is primarily the Sustainable Healthcare Principle that the CWC team will lead on; it falls into the more traditional space for sustainability and encompasses energy and waste.

Our work to date

We are building on a successful programme of carbon reduction at SCFT and pandemic notwithstanding have made good progress on projects set out within our new Green Plan.



Net Zero Carbon Ready (NZC-R) Chailey

Our gas and electricity consumption accounts for 70% of the Trust's NHS Carbon Footprint. Retrofitting our buildings with low carbon heating systems, high efficiency equipment and on-site renewables are key if the Trust is to meet its NZC targets.

After Brighton General Hospital, which is currently earmarked for redevelopment, the Chailey Westfield building is the Trust's second largest owned property. A key project in the Green Plan was to reach NZC-R for Chailey Westfield by 2025/26. We've already made significant progress towards this through:

- Installing 145 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof space, providing enough power to support 25% of the site's total annual electricity demand.
- Successfully bidding for funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to retrofit the building and replace of the site's existing gas-fired boilers with new, air-source heat pumps. These are an efficient way of heating a building and powered by electricity, the site's carbon emissions will continue to fall as the national grid decarbonises.

The project is a challenging one – especially in the context of increasing costs across all capital works, but this is a positive start towards the full decarbonisation of this building and will act as a pathfinder project for similar schemes across the estate.



80% EVs by 2026: an electrician goes electric

A key commitment in our Green Plan was to move our operational and pool vehicle fleet to 80% electric vehicles by 2025/26. The Fleet and Travel Team have created a vehicle replacement programme to achieve this.

In many cases this is relatively straightforward, such as switching a hybrid pool car for an electric vehicle (EV). But for some specialist 'tool of trade' vehicles, such as those used in Estates, it must be a more considered process to ensure that each member of staff has a vehicle that can fully support them in their role, whether it be in carrying a big enough load or travelling as far and as frequently as their workload requires.

One example is the Trust's Estates vehicles. Traditionally always diesel commercials (4x4s, panel vans and larger trucks) a move to an EV was more complex here. In order to support a smooth transition, the Fleet and Travel team worked with Estates to identify the current usage of the electrician's diesel vehicle, including the nature of goods carried (volume, dimensions, weight) and the frequency and length of journeys made, to create a shortlist of suitable replacements. The team then provided a breakdown of whole life costs for each option, showing how the higher EV lease costs would be offset by reductions in fuel and maintenance, and helping to select the most suitable model.

This was a great example of partnership working, balancing the Fleet and Travel team's specialist knowledge of new vehicle technologies against the specific needs of a professional Estates colleague's role and responsibilities.

Since handover the vehicle has travelled almost 7,000 miles and generated zero CO₂e – a saving of 4.3 tCO₂e compared to its diesel predecessor over the same distance.



Bringing Net Zero and Social Value into procurement

The NHS procurement process is essential to providing the goods and services necessary for the safe delivery of excellent community healthcare at SCFT. In addition, 70% of our total carbon footprint is from the goods and services we use. This means the way in which our procurement is conducted and governed is a critical towards meeting our Net Zero commitments.

From April 2023 there will be a legal requirement to include Net Zero Carbon and Social Value evaluation criteria for all procurements at a minimum of 10% of the total evaluation score. Over the last year we have laid the groundwork for implementing this criteria. The Trust has set a minimum of 15% evaluation score, reflecting its core ambitions to reduce inequalities and achieve Net Zero Carbon Healthcare by 2045. Initially we will focus on ensuring suppliers are actively reducing their environmental impact and have clear strategy to do so.

Over 6 months we have included a draft set of criteria for all our procurements. We will now review this to ensure that our criteria is encouraging positive changes in supplier behaviour, that the criteria can be monitored throughout contracts and suppliers are delivering on their commitments. We are also developing a system for applying higher evaluation scores (above 15%) where the goods or service provided may risk significantly increasing inequalities or carbon emissions.



Nitrous oxide review

Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas, which means when it is released into the atmosphere it contributes to climate change. It is 298 times more damaging per kg than carbon dioxide, therefore small quantities can have significant impacts. Eight kilograms of nitrous oxide has the same impact as driving an average car for a whole year. In 2021-22 the Trust used an estimated 463kgs of nitrous oxide. In order to reach our 2025 target these emissions will need to be reduced by 78%.

To address this challenge we have reviewed our consumption data to identify which sites and departments were using nitrous oxide and in what quantities. Our dental services and urgent treatment centres were identified as key users. Initial conversations were held with department leads to better understand how nitrous oxide was being used in the delivery of healthcare. In parallel we undertook market engagement to review technologies available for the destruction of nitrous oxide after use.

This initial review of data and research has pinpointed key areas for intervention in reducing nitrous oxide emissions. There is more work to do and over the next 6 months we will develop a targeted carbon reduction programme in conjunction with our clinical teams for delivery in 2023-2024.



Developing our engagement approach: Together to Zero

We are committed to enhancing our impact in delivering more sustainable healthcare by working with others within Sussex and beyond.

Our award-winning staff engagement programme, Dare to Care, was developed to support the delivery of our original Care Without Carbon strategy. The programme focused on what staff as individuals could do to bring sustainability into their working daily lives.

Our new green plan shifted focus by really driving sustainability into our core business of clinical care and healthcare delivery. Therefore a new staff engagement approach was needed.

With the support of a specialist sustainable comms agency, we are now working on developing a new engagement programme for Sussex Community to take us to 2025 – ‘Together to Zero’. Working collaboratively with key stakeholders across the Trust, we are aiming to ensure the programme not only supports our journey to Net Zero Carbon, but also our other strategic goals - on continuous improvement and making SCFT a great place to work for example.

While this remains, at the point of writing this report, a work in progress, we are well on our way in developing a new programme. The ‘Together to Zero’ programme will align with a short 12-month ICS level engagement campaign to add impact to key messaging linking climate with health.

Our health and care system is under unprecedented pressure; we recognise this in our approach to engagement for ‘Together to Zero’, by ensuring we reach staff where they are at. This means tapping into existing structures for information sharing to promote innovation in a way that builds into business as usual processes. The call to action will be delivered across a range of channels including an updated Care Without Carbon website.



Supporting change system wide

Carbon emissions across the Sussex Integrated Care System are around 70,000 tonnes CO₂e. In working together to deliver Net Zero Carbon across Sussex – and beyond - we open new and greater opportunities to cut carbon, reduce duplication, and make best use of our resources.

The Care Without Carbon team has been working with other NHS trusts and organisations locally and further afield for a number of years; we value the opportunity to work in collaboration with our colleagues across the NHS, learning from each other and sharing best practice.

How we collaborate with others is a key aspect of our Green Plan Partnerships and Collaboration workstream. It's also reflected in our vision, which focuses on delivering change 'Together' because we understand that tackling climate change is a collective endeavour.

This section of the report highlights our collaborative work outside of SCFT, covering two key areas in particular:

Working at ICS level: in particular, working with NHS Sussex to develop an ICS level Green Plan 'Together to Zero' to set the strategic direction for sustainable healthcare in Sussex, and identify key areas of opportunity. We've also delivered four other regionally funded sustainability projects setting us in the right direction for delivery of the wider Green Plan.

Our work with other Trusts and Healthcare Providers: the skills and experience we've developed through the Care Without Carbon programme have enabled us to support other NHS trusts and organisations on their sustainability journey. Over the last 12 months, we've supported all the trusts in our ICS with the development, and in some cases, the delivery of their Green Plans. For the first time, we've highlighted on page 26 some of our work with other NHS organisations locally, showcasing the value that working collaboratively can bring.



Five key projects with our ICS partners



In early 2023, we were awarded regional funding to deliver five key projects across Sussex and Surrey to kick start sustainability work at ICS level and support our collective goal towards Net Zero Carbon by 2040.

ICS Green Plan

Working with the new Integrated Care Board, we have developed a sustainability strategy for system level impact across NHS Sussex using the Care Without Carbon framework. It is focussed on collectively meeting the NHSEI Net Zero Carbon target by 2040 and is called 'Together to Zero'.

Climate Impact Assessment

We are producing a climate impact report for healthcare across Sussex that will allow the ICS and its healthcare organisations, including SCFT, to understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The report includes an assessment of:

- Physical climate impacts (e.g. extreme heat, flooding)
- Clinical impacts on the health and wellbeing of our local populations
- Impacts on healthcare infrastructure and delivery of healthcare
- Potential adaptation measures to reduce severity of impacts

Green Inhaler Project

Inhaler use contributes significantly to the carbon footprint of healthcare, making up around 25% of the carbon footprint of Primary Care. Addressing it has been identified as a priority both nationally and regionally – and is key to achieving our Net Zero Carbon goals. Working closely with colleagues in Primary Care and within the ICB we are developing a suite of materials to inform and guide both GP's and patients on how to reduce the carbon emissions from inhalers.

ICS wide staff engagement campaign

To support the delivery of NHS Sussex's sustainability strategy 'Together to Zero', we are developing a 12-month staff engagement campaign for all NHS organisations in Sussex, aiming to further embed sustainability across the ICS and inspire people to action within their own organisations.

Patient research project

Alongside Sussex Health and Care Partnership and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership we conducted research to understand public perceptions of sustainability in healthcare to help us develop our work in some key areas that are likely to impact patients.

Findings indicate strong support from patients for sustainable interventions in care, with the caveat that they need to be clearly informed about the changes and the emphasis that levels of care would not be compromised. Read the full report here: <https://www.carewithoutcarbon.org/what-do-patients-think-about-sustainable-healthcare/>

Our work with other Trusts and healthcare providers



With SCFT's Care Without Carbon programme leading the way in defining what we mean by sustainable healthcare, we are proud to share our expertise with our colleagues in Trusts and healthcare organisations across Sussex and beyond.

We have four core partner trusts where we are supporting delivery sustainability programmes. Some examples of projects we've focussed on this year include:

- Surrey and Sussex Healthcare: Team Lead toolkits. As well as developing and supporting delivery of the SASH Green Plan we are also sharing our expertise on engagement and behaviour change. We're adapting our Envoy programme toolkit into a Team Lead toolkit so they can talk about a sustainability topic each month at their team meetings, fully informed and with ideas for how to take action.
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust: CWC Energy Bureau. Our Energy Bureau has been working with ESHT since 2012, managing ESHT's utility contracts and energy consumption across its estate. The team also monitor and report on performance across the estate through monthly energy and water KPIs, enabling the Trust to identify issues early on and take appropriate action, as well as supporting the Trust with legislative compliance.

In addition, we've also supported a number of NHS trusts and organisations on specific sustainability projects. The focus this year has been on developing Green Plans. In 2021/22 we helped Queen Victoria Hospital, University Hospitals Sussex, First Community Healthcare and CSH Surrey Healthcare with development of their Green Plans in line with requirements from NHSE's Greener NHS programme and based on the CWC framework.

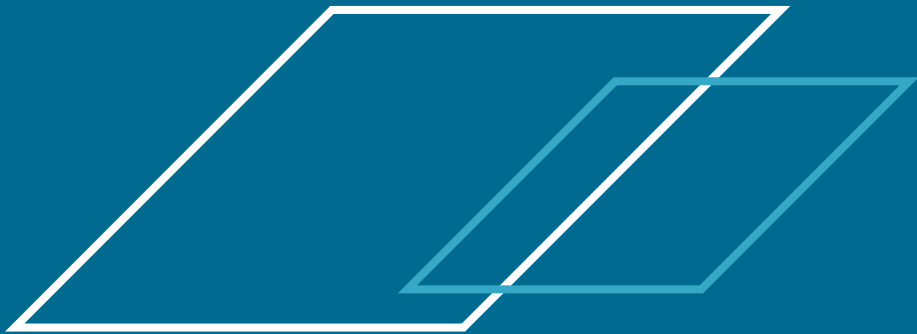
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: solar panels at Langley Green

We've been supporting the development and delivery of SPFT's sustainability programme for several years now.

A project to install solar panels at Langley Green was completed in May 2021. The panels have a total installed capacity of 97kWp and are expected to produce approximately 10-15% of the site's total electricity demand, and to save the Trust around £13,000 in electricity charges annually. Although the panels output will degrade approximately 1% year-on-year, they should provide 30-40 years of renewable power generation with very little maintenance required. There is also a significant carbon saving from this renewable energy which will help SPFT reach its Net Zero Carbon target by 2040.



The next 12 months



As we set out in our Green Plan, our work to achieve Net Zero Carbon needs to have a real impact on all aspects of how we operate as healthcare providers. We've begun to lay the groundwork for this and over the coming 12 months we will continue to build on this progress, delivering projects in our four key areas of focus:

1 Refocussing through the pandemic: responding to the increase in PPE and business mileage post pandemic.

Single use PPE: work with clinical colleagues to optimise glove use and improve waste segregation following the pandemic.

Agile working programme: embedding a culture of agile working across the Trust, and accelerating and scaling clinical digital projects to support efficiencies in staff travel and productivity (e.g. route optimisation).

2 Deeper clinical integration across the Trust: meeting Net Zero by 2040 requires a big shift in delivery of care which cannot be achieved without input from clinicians.

Nitrous oxide: using our initial analysis of NOx data, develop a carbon reduction programme with dental and UTC clinicians.

Engagement programme: launching our new staff engagement programme with a focus on embedding the Sustainable Healthcare Principles into core clinical practice.

Service level carbon footprints: to understand our highest impact areas and prioritise action.

3 Delivering against our NZC commitment: to keep us on track towards this challenging target.

Owned estate: Delivering NZC-R Chailey Westfield and undertaking detailed heat decarbonisation plans for sites due to come over from NHSPS.

Operational fleet: developing our programme to reach 80% electrification of operational fleet.


Net Zero and Social Value criteria: developing a programme to support and enable staff across the trust to integrate Net Zero and Social Value criteria into procurements.

Indirect emissions: measure the carbon footprint of our food and catering services.

4 Escalating our impact through partnership working, in particular through leading on system wide approaches to tackling carbon emissions.

Sustainability Impact Tool: developing a tool to understand and measure the sustainability impact of projects, programmes and pathways within the Trust.

ICS Delivery Plan: support the development of the ICS Delivery Plan to ensure the strategic ambitions of the Green Plan are delivered.



As we progress, some projects will be delivered via the Care Without Carbon team or the estates department, and others will require a path of significant joined up working across the Trust.

It is only through the alignment of both these paths that we can achieve our Net Zero Carbon ambitions. The next 12 months will be heavily focused on ensuring this alignment is in place, supported and achievable.

Appendix 1

carbon reduction projects to 25/26



In delivering Net Zero Carbon, we are working with clear constraints: the complexity of our estate and services; the increasing costs of labour and materials for capital projects; the necessity for clinical travel as a community trust; the proportion of our estate that is leasehold; grid capacity at some of our sites locally; and the lack of certainty over external funding streams to support decarbonisation.

Our first phase of carbon opportunities mapping has focussed on our direct impacts, in particular our estate, travel and medical gases. In our recent Delivery Plan, we identified projects to 2025/26 and (where possible) to 2030/31. We've found carbon reduction opportunities totalling a saving of 1,389tCO₂e to 2025/26, with an emissions gap of 13tCO₂e still to find. Projects are listed here

Project	Carbon reduction to 25/26 (tCO ₂ e)
Our Estate	
Grid decarbonisation	773
NHSPS buildings on track with NZC targets	187
Chailey Westfield NZC-Ready	64
Portslade Health Centre - insulation and heat pump	9
Move from Central Clinic to new NZC building	9
Relocate from poor efficiency building to a lower carbon property	8
Estates rationalisation due to agile working	7
Enhanced energy metering and monitoring	7
Move from Moulsecoomb HC to new NZC Hub	6
Staff engagement programme	3
Our Travel	
Expected increase in business travel as service returns to normal post pandemic	-212
Agile working for meetings and training	120
Electric vehicle use in grey fleet up by 10%	114
Optimising clinical travel reduction through digital projects e.g. route planning	113
Operational fleet: 80% electric vehicles	48
Lease car scheme: 80% electric vehicles	41
Increase active travel and public transport use	14
Behaviour change: business mileage awareness	13
Our Medical Gasses	
Tackle nitrous oxide within dental and UTC	65
Total	1389

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