

# NHS SCOTLAND CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

In the service \_\_\_\_\_  
of Scotland



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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# MHAIRI ROBERTS

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# WHY A STRATEGY?

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# **‘GOOD CARE IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CARE’**

The principles of environmentally sustainable care emphasise:

- prevention,
- patient empowerment and self-care,
- lean clinical pathways
- low-carbon alternatives.

These support what we want to achieve in NHS Scotland more widely.

# HEALTH CO-BENEFITS OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

- Improved air quality reduces exposure to air pollution
- Increase in active travel reduces risks of hypertension, cardiac disease and diabetes
- Increase in green space promotes health and wellbeing
- Well-insulated buildings promote energy savings
- Energy security and reducing medicinal residues in waste water helps tackle Anti-Microbial Resistance.

[NHSSUSTAINABILITYACTION.CO.UK](https://www.nhssustainabilityaction.co.uk)

# **ACTING NOW WILL REDUCE THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

- Extreme weather events
- Heat stress
- Decreased air quality
- Decreased water quality and quantity
- Decreased food security and safety
- Increase in vector-borne disease

**[NHSSUSTAINABILITYACTION.CO.UK](https://www.nhssustainabilityaction.co.uk)**

# THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

- The climate emergency
- Pollution
- Biodiversity loss

**“We are waging a war on nature. This is suicidal... Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority for everyone, everywhere.”**

UN Secretary General António Guterres,  
2 December 2020, “The State of the Planet” address



# NHS EMISSIONS

- Healthcare estimated to account for 4.4% of global emissions
- NHS Scotland produced at least 608,700 tCO2e in 20/21
- Actual NHS Scotland carbon footprint will be comfortably more than double that figure

Source	tCO2e (20/21)
Supply chain	Unknown
Building energy	431,000
Metered dose inhaler propellant	79,000
Staff, patient and visitor travel	Unknown
NHS fleet	60,000 (data incomplete)
Medical gases	27,000
Waste	7000 (incomplete data)
Water	4,800
<b>Known total</b>	<b>608,700</b>



# WHAT THE STRATEGY SAYS

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## 5 MAIN THEMES

- Sustainable Buildings and Land
- Sustainable Travel
- Sustainable Goods and Services
- Sustainable Care
- Sustainable Communities

## NHS SCOTLAND AIMS

- ensure that we contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs and national outcomes for health
- **become a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions health service by 2040 or earlier**
- make our assets and activities more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, particularly extreme weather events
- establish a culture of stewardship, where we safeguard and responsibly use resources to provide environmentally sustainable healthcare
- establish NHS Scotland as part of the circular economy
- increase our contribution to tackling the ecological emergency and restoring biodiversity

# STRATEGY AIMS

- Make clear that there is plenty we can do
- Raise the level of ambition
- Make it an organisational priority
- Increase the scale and pace of action





# THREE LEVELS OF ACTION ACROSS THE NHS

- Organisational focus – getting own house in order
- Health and care system focus – help the system become more sustainable
- Scotland, UK and international focus – anchor organisations domestically, working with other health systems internationally



# WIDER FOCUS

Supporting organisations and communities in Scotland and elsewhere to be more sustainable

- Role as anchor organisations
- COP26 Health Programme – over 50 countries committed to low carbon health systems

[COP26 Health Programme](#)  
[\(who.int\)](#)

[Inaugural Meeting of the Alliance](#)  
[for Transformative Action on](#)  
[Climate and Health \(ATACH\)](#)  
[\(who.int\)](#)



**“I AM DETERMINED THAT WE FOSTER A NEW CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP - WHERE WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE RESOURCES WE USE AND DELIVER GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE - BETTER VALUE CARE FOR THE PEOPLE WE CARE FOR AND FOR OUR SYSTEM. AND I THINK WE CAN ALL PLAY A PART IN ACHIEVING THIS.”**

Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for  
Health and Social Care

August 2022

# NHSScotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy: Progress

3 November 2022

**Caitlin Hamlett**  
Head of Climate Change and  
Sustainability

# COP26: Climate, biodiversity loss pollution...and health

- The triple planetary crises
- **Climate change** and **biodiversity** related health risks cause millions of deaths annually and rising health inequalities
- **Pollution** kills 9 million people prematurely each year (air pollution causes 13 deaths per minute worldwide)



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

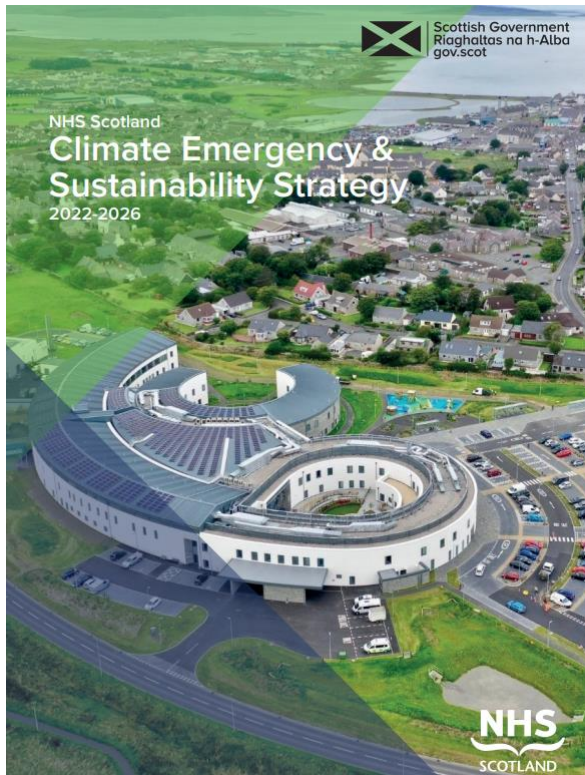
Half our greenhouse  
gas emissions by 2030

Restore nature

Minimise pollution  
and waste



# NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022 to 2026



- Cut greenhouse gas emissions
- Adapt to climate change impacts
- Minimise pollution and waste
- Foster a culture of environmental stewardship
- Restore biodiversity
- Reduce the environmental and social impacts from our supply chains
- Maximise social and environmental co-benefits

# Climate

- All buildings renewable heating systems by 2038
- 1,250 existing buildings Net Zero by 2040 and new builds designed to have Net Zero operational emissions
- Whole of the NHS Estate Net Zero by 2040 or earlier
- No diesel or petrol fuelled fleet by 2025 and increased active travel
- Energy transmission and distribution Net Zero by 2035
- Supplies, goods, services including waste, water consumption and treatment, leased assets and staff travel Net Zero by 2040
- Estate and supply chains adapted and resilient to increasing climate change impacts



National  
Services  
Scotland

£ 7.2bn  
total assets



9,300  
Vehicles  
60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



140,000  
staff



£ 1bn  
medical  
equipment

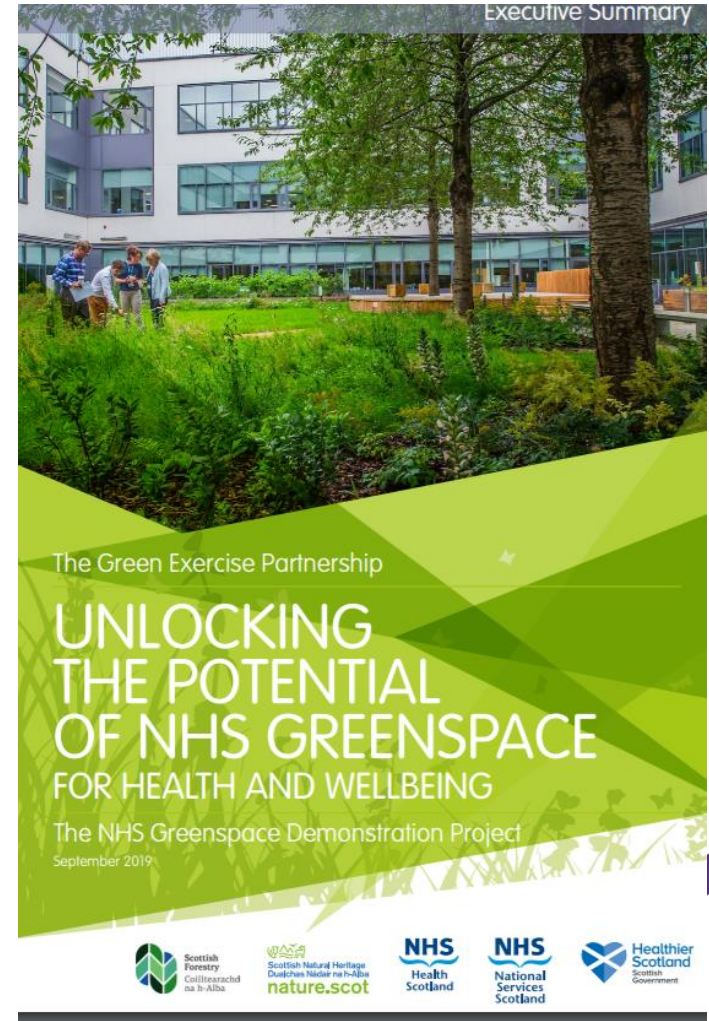


£ 2.4bn  
Drugs and  
medical  
supplies



# Nature and Biodiversity

- Mainstream the lessons learned through the NHS Greenspace Demo Project
- Assess the extent and quality of all NHS greenspace and its contribution to biodiversity by 2026
- Develop and implement a Natural Capital Accounting approach (one Health Board to date)
- Step change in the management and regular use of NHS greenspace for health, biodiversity and climate change
- Roll out of Green Health Partnerships and Social Prescribing



# Pollution and Waste

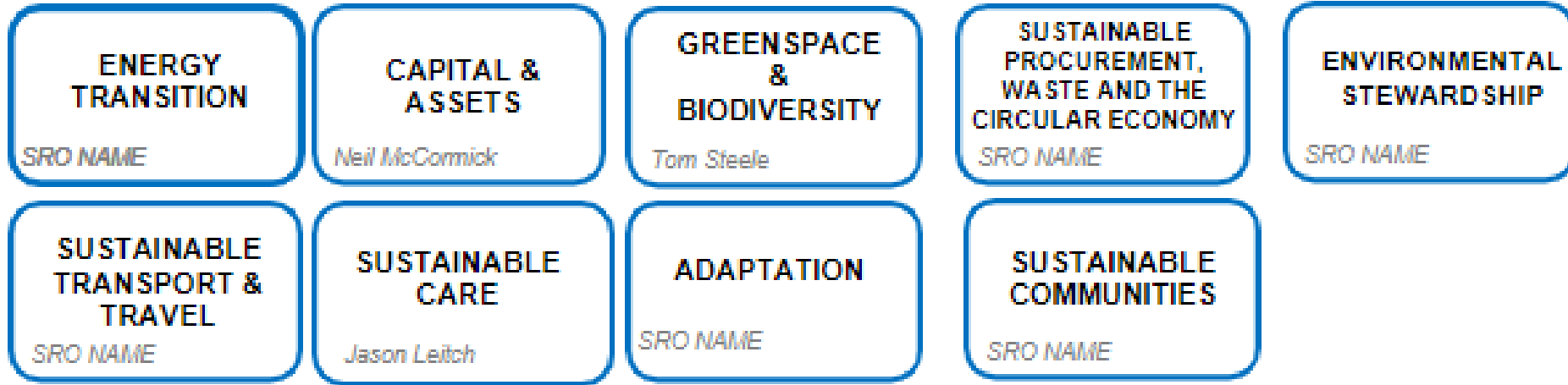
- Reduce domestic waste 15% by 2025
- Max 5% domestic waste to landfill by 2025
- Set targets for healthcare waste
- Create circularity in our supply chains
- Scale up the Green Theatre Project
- Reduce the impact of pharmaceutical residues
- Foster a culture of environmental stewardship





# National Priority Workstreams

## NHSS Climate Emergency and Sustainability National Priority Workstreams



## NHSS Climate Emergency and Sustainability National Enabling Workstreams



# Governance

- Scottish Government Climate Emergency and Sustainability Board
- Core Programme Team (national workstreams)
- National Environmental Sustainability Group (NESG)
  - National Energy Forum
  - Waste Management Steering Group
  - National Procurement Group
  - Environmental Management System (EMS) User Group
  - Travel, Fleet and Transport Planning Group
- Each Board Climate Emergency and Sustainability Group chaired by a member of the Senior or Executive Management Team
- Each Board sustainable care medical planning team



# Sustainability Champions and Executive Leads

Purpose:-

- **Sustainability Champion:** to support and promote board-level commitment to the delivery of [name of Board]'s duties and commitments on the climate emergency and environmental sustainability.
- **Executive Lead:** to have oversight of the delivery of [name of Board]'s duties and commitments under DL (2021) 38 and the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.



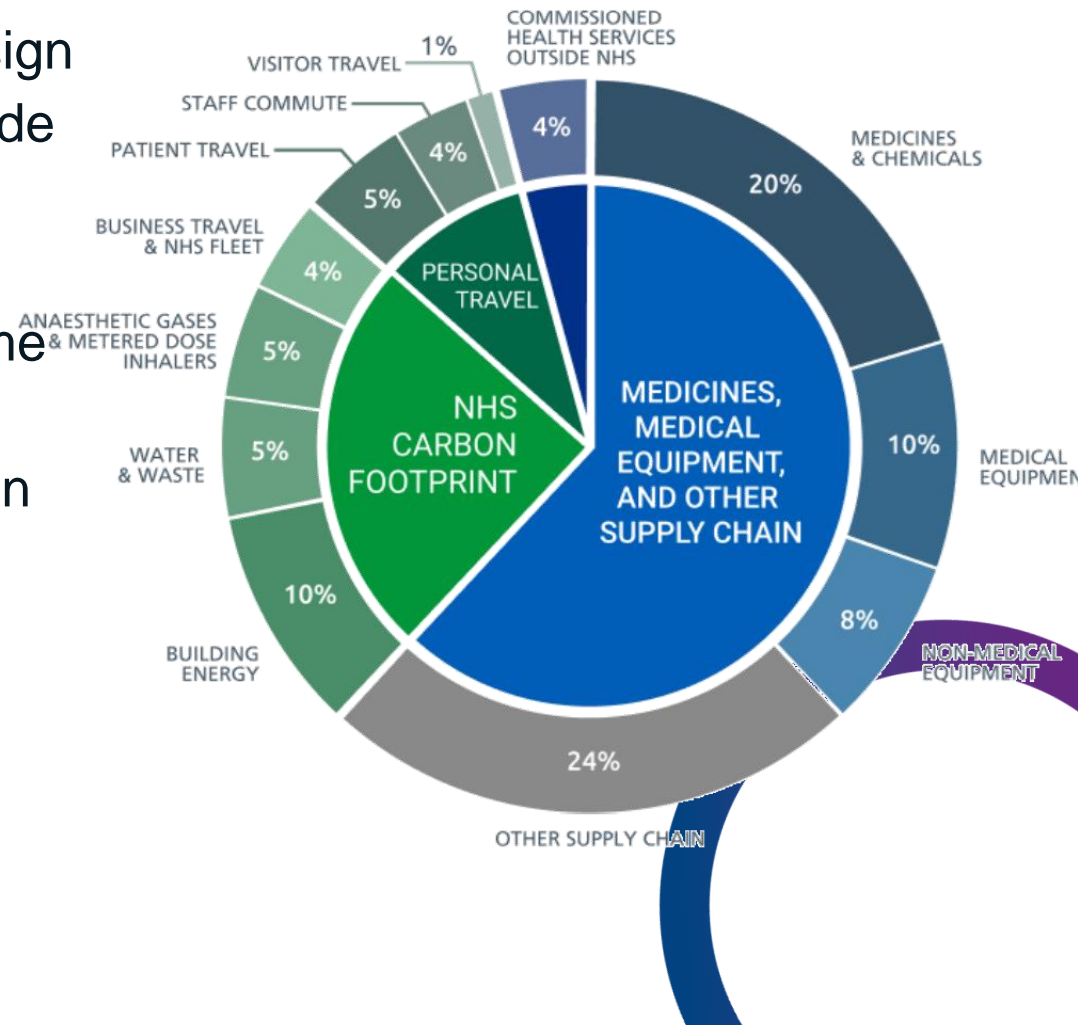
# National Workstream Charters

- SRO and Delivery Lead
- Objectives for year 0 (2022/23) - Mobilisation
- Key milestones and deliverables – documents, models, plans etc.
- In scope / out of scope
- High level activities
- Workstream governance
- RAID log



# National Workstream Charters Year 0 - Climate

- Net Zero Routemaps
- SHTN 02-01 Sustainable Design and Construction (SDaC) Guide Heat and Power Purchase Agreements feasibility
- Switched on Fleets Programme
- Nitrous Oxide report
- Mitigation Implementation Plan
- Discontinuation of Desflurane
- Entonox Mitigation Implementation Plan
- Green Theatres Programme
- Scope 3 Emissions Strategy



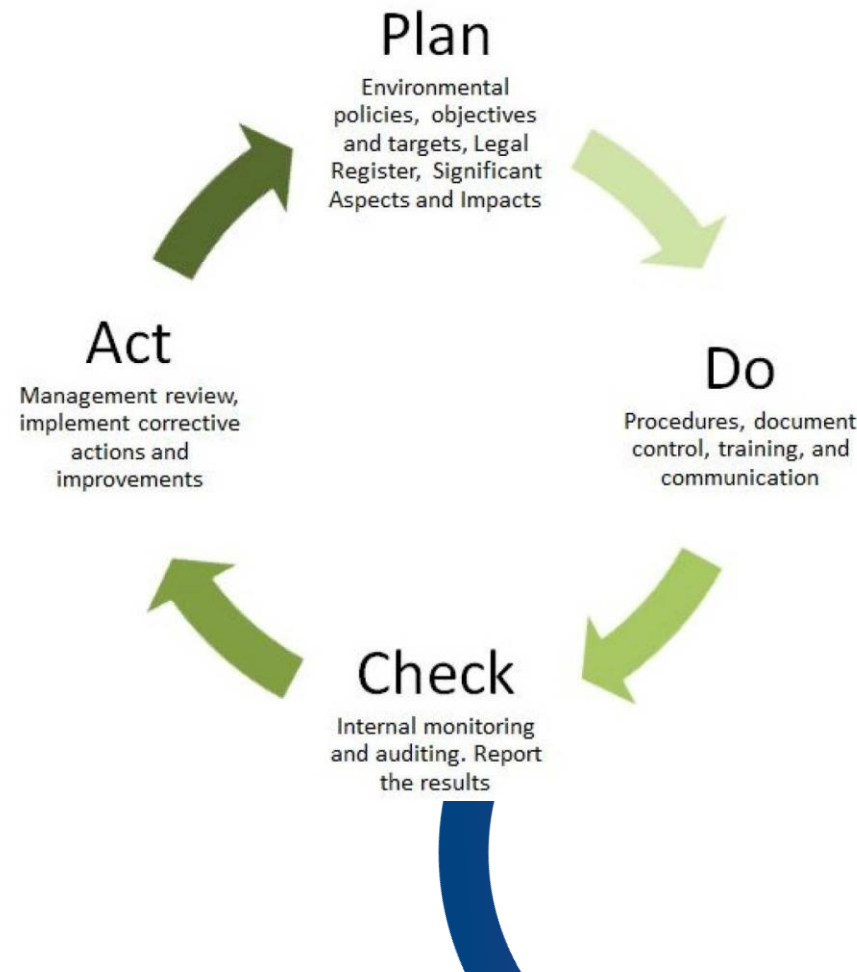
# National Workstream Charters Year 0 - Nature and Biodiversity

- Establish National Green Estate Group
- National funding for greenspace small scale enhancements
- Strategic mapping of the NHS outdoor estate
- Development of a Natural Capital Accounting tool
- Green Health Partnerships and community engagement
- Sustainable grassland management guidance



# National Workstream Charters Year 0 - Pollution and Waste

- NHSScotland Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Partnerships land and water stewardship e.g. OHBP / SLC / SEPA
- Material Management Plans with a specific Plastics Charter, Register and Action Plan
- Sustainable Procurement Delivery Plan
- Waste Management Action Plan
- Behaviour change (Sustainability Action, waste awareness campaigns, Warp-IT etc)



## Reporting – Boards

- Quarterly Energy Report – DL (2022) 28 – energy use and electricity generation not provided under a national contract
- Quarterly fleet reports – information will be extracted from the National Fleet Management System. Boards not using the system will need to provide returns directly to SG
- Annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Reporting – required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act
- Biodiversity Duty Reporting – every 3 years
- Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan
- National Sustainability Assessment Tool (NSAT) - DL (2021) 38
- Annual Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report DL (2021) 38 – on public website

# Reporting - National

- National data (e-Sight, WDT, CCRA returns, national fleet management system, etc)
- Annual NHSScotland Sustainability and Environment Report
- National Environmental Sustainability Group and sub-groups (Transport, Waste, Energy, EMS, Procurement)
- National Sustainability Assessment Tool (NSAT) Annual Report - DL (2021) 38
- Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan (national)



Thank you.  
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