

Greener NHS



Delivering a Greener NHS

HOPE AGORA

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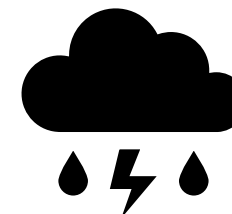
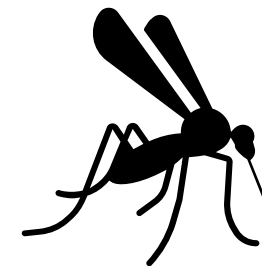
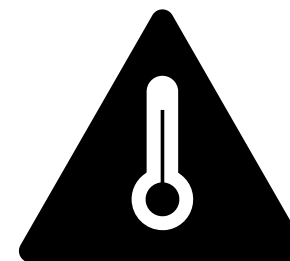
Why deliver a net zero health service?

The climate emergency is a health emergency. Climate change can affect health in many ways, including through:

- Severe weather
- Extreme heat
- Increased risk of vector-borne, foodborne & waterborne diseases
- Air pollution
- Water and food insecurity

The health sector contributes around 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions – if it were a country it would be the fifth largest emitter.

Many of the actions needed to tackle climate change directly improve health and health equity.



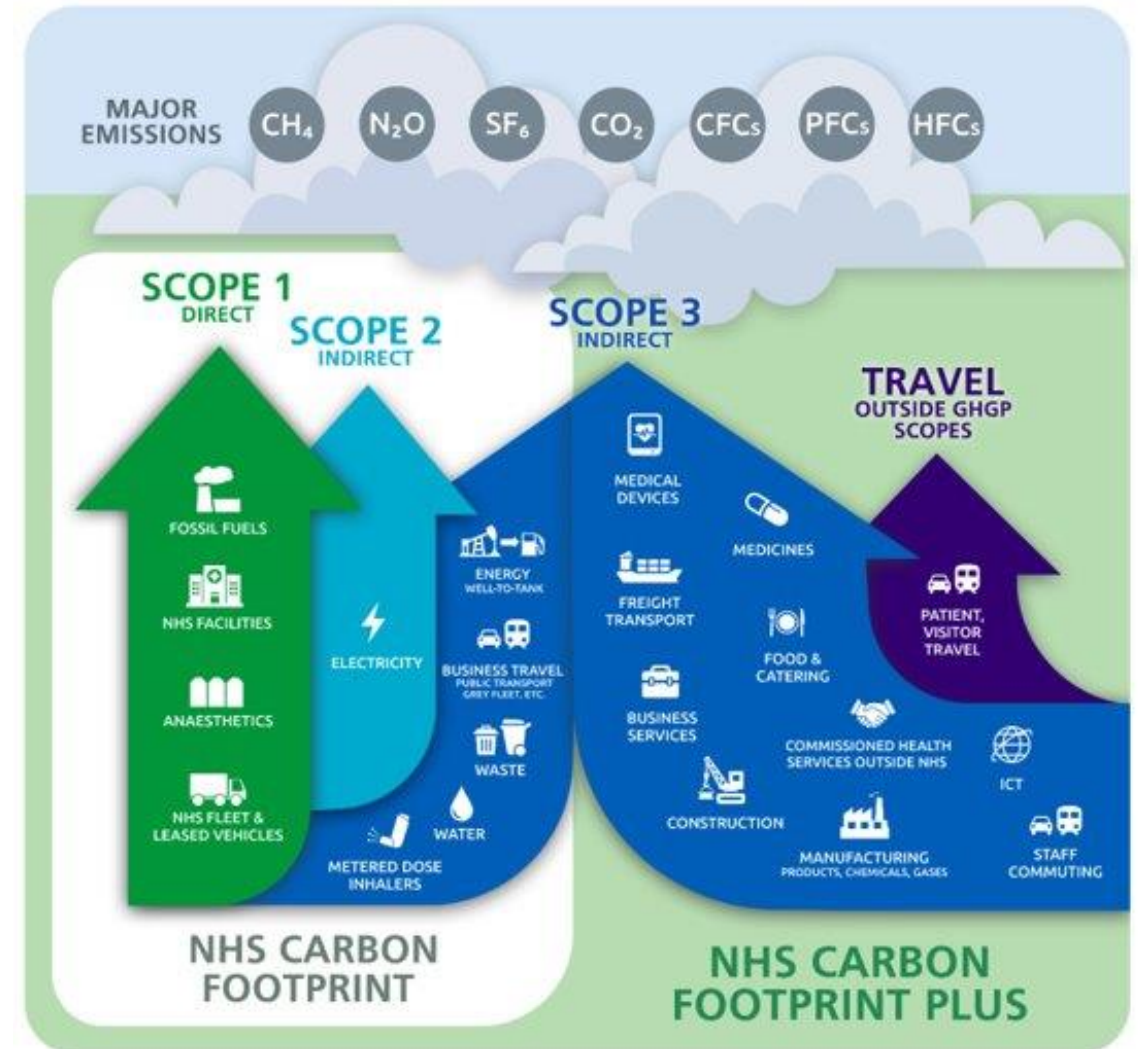
Delivering a net zero NHS

Net zero by 2040 for the emissions we control directly, with an 80% reduction by 2028-2032.

Net zero by 2045 for the broader emissions we can influence, with an 80% reduction by 2036-2039.

Every intervention will seek to:

- improve health and patient care outcomes
- reduce system inefficiencies
- reduce health inequalities
- deliver a more resilient healthcare system.



Where do we need to act?

Delivering on our goals will require action across every part of the NHS...

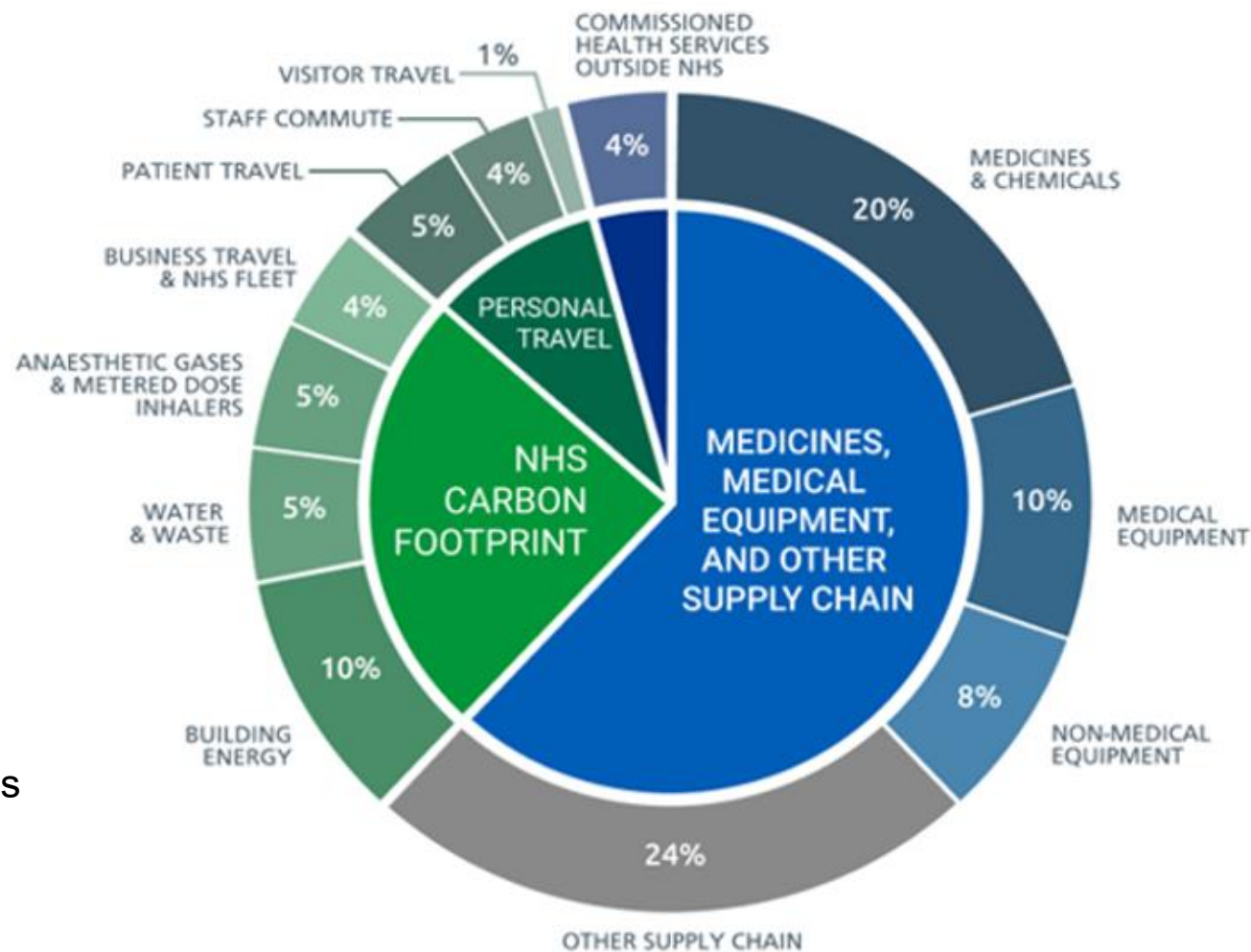
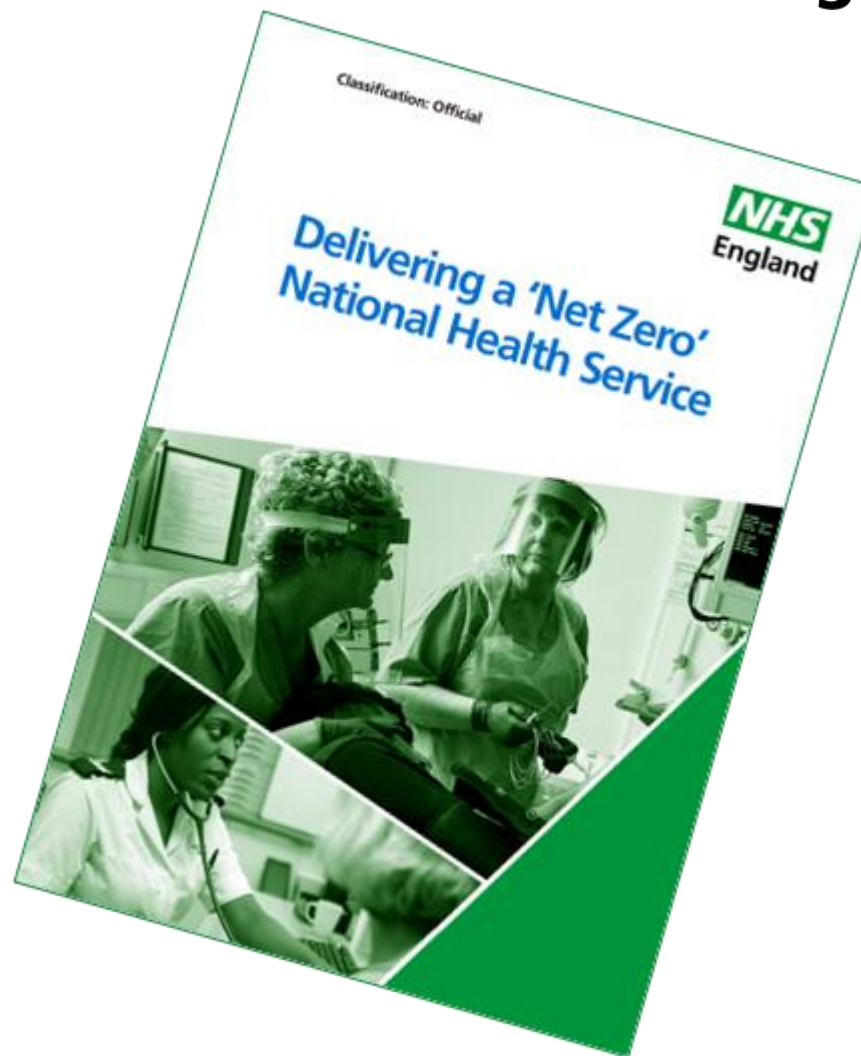


Figure 1: Sources of carbon emissions by proportion of NHS Carbon Footprint Plus

How are we going to reach our target?

- The [Delivering a Net Zero NHS report](#) (2020) sets out how we will reach our net zero ambition through action across the NHS.
- The **Health and Care Act 2022** placed new duties on NHS organisations to contribute towards statutory emissions targets, making the NHS the first health system to embed net zero in legislation.
- The NHS has already **reduced its emissions by 30% since 2010**, ahead of the UK Climate Change Act target.



Turning national ambition into local action

NHS England, trusts and integrated care boards (ICBs) have a legal responsibility to address the UK's net zero emissions target.

- Every Trust and ICB has developed a **green plan** to cover the next 3 years.
- They are also required to have a **board-level lead** for net zero

Nine in ten staff support the NHS net zero ambition.

- **Trusts** are NHS organisations that provide hospital, ambulance, community or mental health services.

- **ICBs** plan health services for the local population in each area of England



NHS

Every NHS Trust has a green plan

Together, these plans will reduce carbon emissions equivalent to taking half a million cars off the road.

#GreenerNHS

**HEALTHIER PLANET
HEALTHIER PEOPLE**

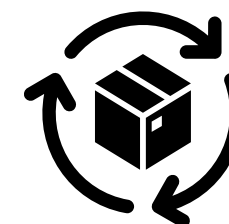
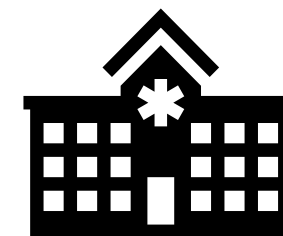
Areas of focus

The Greener NHS programme is structured around key areas for action.

Today we will be showing you work across **three** of these workstreams.

- **Medicines**
- **Supply chain**
- Estates and facilities
- Travel and transport
- Food and nutrition
- Research and innovation
- **Clinical Transformation**
- Digital
- Workforce engagement & training
- Adaptation

Underpinned by data collection, analytics and monitoring



Clinical Transformation: Transforming models of care

Every component of care has a carbon footprint. Reducing carbon across patient pathways means delivering high quality, evidence-based and low carbon care.



Keeping people
healthy over the
course of their life



When they are
unwell, providing
right care, right
time, right place



Reducing
embedded carbon
in care delivery,
e.g. greener
surgery

Clinical Transformation: Inhalers and anaesthetic gases



- In January this year, NHS England, with the support of the Royal College of Anaesthetists announced the **decommissioning of the anaesthetic gas desflurane by early 2024.**
- The NHS is working with patients to improve asthma care and reduce the carbon footprint of prescribed inhalers through **encouraging lifestyle changes (such as stopping smoking), optimising inhaler use, and when appropriate supporting a change to dry powder inhalers.**

Optimising inhaler use to improve patient outcome and reduce carbon emissions



Poor disease control for respiratory patients and avoidable deaths ¹

Inhalers are not used in an optimal way ²

Inhalers account for 3% of the total NHS carbon emissions

85% patients & carers think asthma patients should be encouraged to use more environmentally friendly inhalers (Asthma UK survey ³)

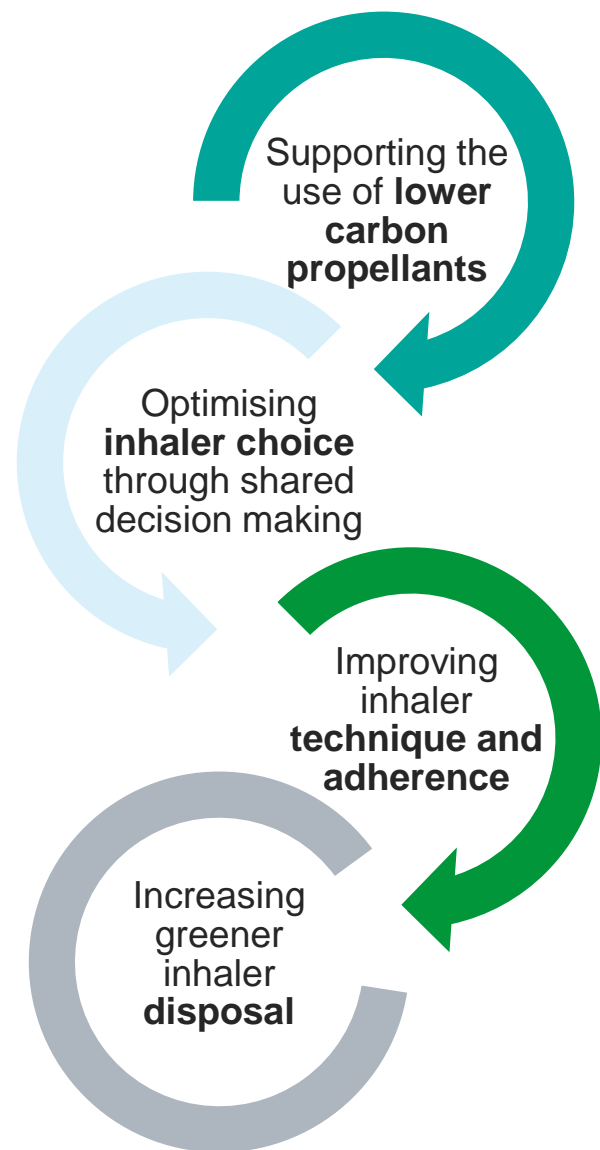
There is a need to optimise **selection, use** and **disposal** of inhalers

¹ National review of Asthma deaths: <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/why-asthma-still-kills>

² 2020 Asthma UK patient survey: https://www.asthma.org.uk/65fe870b/contentassets/927811d182034c45bebeb56824a023bf/aas-2020_2a-1.pdf

³ Survey of asthma patients and carers https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/58/suppl_65/PA3399

Optimising inhaler use to improve patient outcomes and reduce carbon emissions



Policy developed with the support of the
NHSEI Inhaler Working Group

*includes members of the British Thoracic Society (BTS),
the Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS),
Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation,
the International Pharmaceutical Aerosol Consortium*

Key references:

- BTS Position Statement: The Environment and Lung Health 2020
- PCRS Position Statement: Environmental issues in respiratory disease management
- NICE Patient decision aid: Inhalers for asthma
- UKIG Inhaler Standards and Competency Document

Action on Supply Chain: Supplier Roadmap

2022

From April 2022, all NHS procurements will include a minimum 10% net zero and social value weighting. The [net zero and social value guidance for NHS procurement teams](#) will help unlock health-specific outcomes (building on [PPN 06/20](#))

2023/24

From April 2023, for all contracts above £5 million, the NHS will require suppliers to publish a carbon reduction plan for their UK Scope 1 and 2 and a subset of scope 3 emissions (building on [PPN 06/21](#)). From April 2024, the NHS will extend this requirement to cover all procurements.

2027

From April 2027, all suppliers will be required to publicly report targets, emissions and publish a carbon reduction plan for global emissions aligned to the NHS net zero target, for all of their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

2028

New requirements will be introduced overseeing the provision of carbon foot printing for individual products supplied to the NHS. The NHS will work with suppliers and regulators to determine the scope and methodology.

Platform for international collaboration



Almost 60 countries have committed to develop low carbon health systems since COP26, as part of the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health ([ATACH](#)).

The WHO and NHS England are working together to support joint action across ATACH members and share learning, tools and resources.