

OUR 2021/2022 PLEDGE

To implement best practice for environmental management and climate adaptation

Why does this matter?



The UN has described climate change as the defining issue of our time.

It's an issue that is not only occurring now at a rapid rate but is, as stated by the IPCC, unequivocally the result of human influence.

The UK Government has an ambitious net zero carbon target set for 2050 and the NHS is striving for net zero carbon by 2040. The challenge for the NHS is in not only meeting these targets but that in doing so, being aware of the changes we need to make so that our buildings including hospitals, health centres, GP practices, can withstand the risks posed by climate change while exploiting the benefits it presents.

To do this, we believe that having the right systems in place, through the implementation of an effective Environmental Management System, is key. As we continue in our pursuit for environmental protection, we will also be focusing our efforts on the mitigation and adaptation of our buildings and operations against the effects climate change.

Our goals



Guarantee business readiness and resilience to the effects of climate change through the implementation of an effective adaptation management plan.



Determine and maintain conformity to relevant applicable compliance obligations.



Operate within the confines of a well-defined Environmental Management System (EMS).



Conserve, protect and enhance nature and the habitats within our estate.



What have we done in the past 12 months?



Determined the specific compliance obligations that apply to NHSPS and put in place systems to capture, communicate and implement any new or updated legal requirements.



Through various programs, we were able to recognise the exposure and vulnerability of our business operations and services to the effects of global warming.



Completed a gap analysis of our Environmental Management System, identifying key areas of improvement e.g. incident reporting, training.



Set up a team of dedicated environmental leads from various directorates to assist in the delivery of our environmental management initiatives.



Collaborated with key teams around NHSPS such as Procurement and Technical Services to ensure environmental considerations are taken into account during the delivery of key projects and functions.



Established a standard approach with regards to processes, procedures and guides.

Top Tips:

Here are some of the ways you can contribute to the delivery of this pledge:

- Report incidents that have caused or observations that have the potential to cause harm to the environment.
- Identify best practice and raise any opportunities for improvement on environmental initiatives.
- Engage with your local teams to identify potential sites for biodiversity projects.

What's next?



Establish a road map to climate adaptation and determine organisational readiness through vulnerability and risk assessments, making use of available frameworks and working in close partnership with the wider NHS community.



Carry out an evaluation of compliance audits on a selected number of sites as well as develop a business wide auditing platform that will, over time, allow us to benchmark compliance across the estate.



Develop a strategy to ensure actions identified during the gap analysis of our EMS are completed effectively and in a timely manner.



Develop and implement both our Energy and Environment policies.



Establish an effective and well managed environmental incident reporting platform.



Develop training aimed at increasing our colleagues' knowledge and awareness of energy and environment matters.



Undertake a biodiversity project led by our Environmental Leads to enhance the species and habitats at a selected site. We will then establish common methodology for all future biodiversity projects.



Put measures in place to influence our supply chain through sustainable procurement.



Establish processes for identifying and monitoring key performance indicators.