

Today, we've hit the 12 month milestone since the NHS's net zero commitment in October 2020, and in a few hours will be reporting on progress to the NHS Public Board. We needed an annualised reduction of approximately 1,260 ktCO₂e, and we'll excitedly report that we've hit that target. It's the equivalent reduction of 1.7 million flights from London to New York, or 1.1 million homes in the UK.

I wanted to write a really quick summary of everything that's happened over the last 12 months and hopefully make it clear that in the NHS, things have really started to move into the delivery phase of the response to climate change:

- **National and Regional Capacity:** We've transitioned into the Greener NHS team, and grown from 7 members of staff to over 150, setting up new net zero regional teams across the country, a clinical fellowship scheme, and national teams focused on medicines, estates, procurement, clinical engagement, innovation, and workforce.
- **System Planning:** Over 155 Hospital Trusts and Integrated Care Systems now have their own local net zero strategies, and every single one of them has committed to having one in place by the end of the financial year.
- **Models of Care:** In 2020, a large proportion of outpatient and primary care appointments shifted to being digital-first in response to COVID. In 2021, we've managed to maintain this beneficial change for a high proportion of cases, saving 176 ktCO₂e while increasing patient choice.
- **Medicines:** We have launched a new primary care incentive scheme to support the shift away from high-carbon inhalers, which will more or less eliminate these emissions over the next three years. We've also hit our anaesthetics reduction targets, with the average trust now using high-carbon anaesthetics less than 10% of the time by volume, allowing us to raise the bar to 5% and then 0% in subsequent years.
- **Capital Investments:** We've secured and almost finished delivering over £310 million net zero funding to decarbonise our estate. This is coupled with the Beta launch of our nation-wide Net Zero Hospital Standard, and every NHS Trust shifting to purchasing 100% renewable energy.
- **Travel and Transport:** We've agreed a new framework with our patient transport services with new contracts encouraging a shift to ultra-low emission and then zero emission vehicles within the next 10 years. We're also weeks away from having the first zero emission ambulances capable of meeting both our urban and rural demand.
- **Innovation:** We've launched the first of many new million-pound innovation competitions for net zero healthcare designed to widen the innovation pipeline and help us deal with the hard-to-decarbonise parts of our footprint.
- **Supply Chain:** Each year, the NHS purchases almost £60 billion worth of medicines, hospital consumables, and other items from over 80,000 suppliers. We've consulted widely with them over the last 12 months, and today are announcing a new regulatory framework: from 2023 onwards, all contracts over £5 million per year will need to align with our net zero trajectory as a qualifying criteria for winning the award, and from 2027 onwards all contracts will need to do so regardless of spend.

There is so, so much more that has happened over the last 12 months... from Trusts covering their roof in solar panels to some of our largest hospitals building net zero and sustainability into the job descriptions of hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals.. but writing all of that down would take too long!

Plenty to be proud of, plenty more to do.. but please do share this as widely as you can! We need all the help we can get, getting the word out.

Nick.