

# Greener NHS



## Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service

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# About the NHS in England



**Publicly funded** through taxation - free at the point of use



Employs **over 1.4m staff** – Europe's largest employer



**Comprehensive service**, including hospital, mental health, community & primary care



**229** healthcare provider organisations ('trusts') and **6,925** GP practices

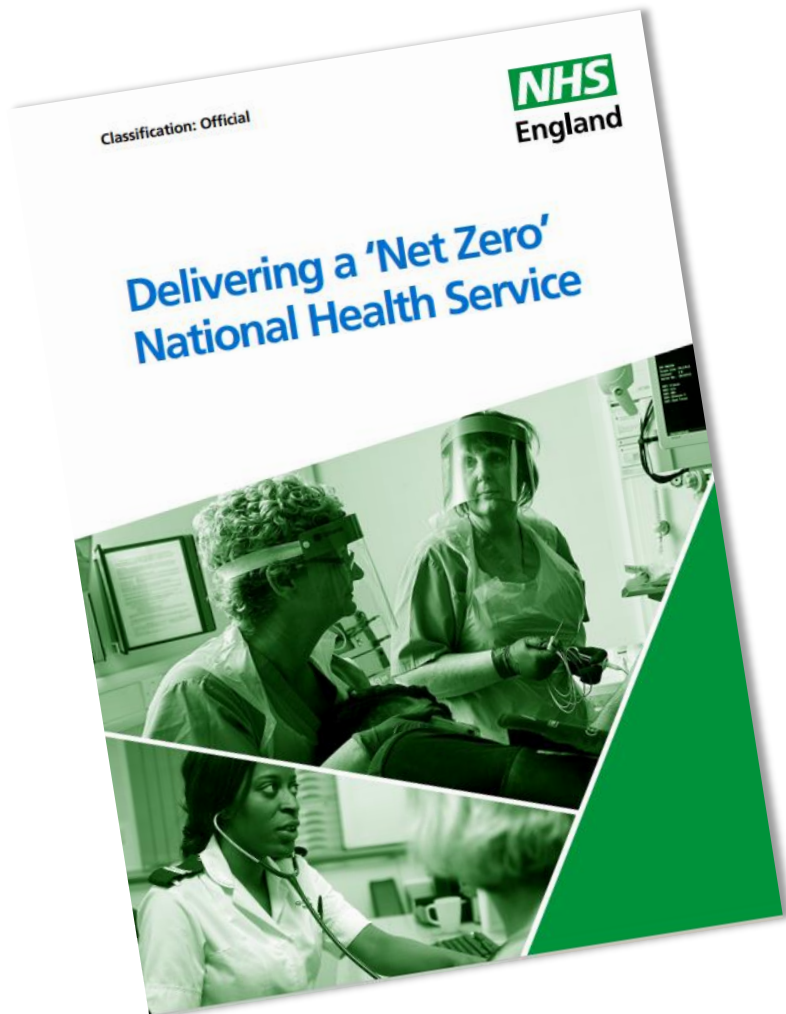


Sees over **1.3m people** every day



Managed through **1** national team, **7** regional teams and **42** local 'integrated care systems'

# Delivering a Net Zero NHS



**NHS** NHS England and NHS Improvement  @NHSEngland · Oct 1

The NHS has today adopted a multiyear plan to become the world's first carbon net zero national health system. Read the Net Zero report to find out more. [#GreenerNHS](#) [england.nhs.uk/2020/10/nhs-be...](#)

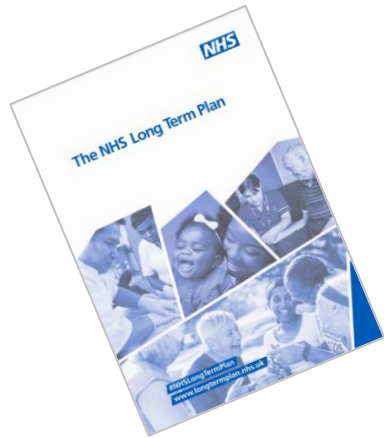
**NHS**

**'2020 has been dominated by COVID-19 and is the most pressing health emergency facing us. But undoubtedly climate change poses the most profound long-term threat to the health of the nation.'**

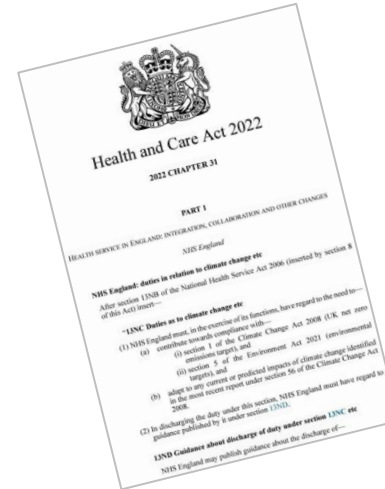
Sir Simon Stevens  
Chief Executive Officer,  
NHS England and NHS Improvement

394 405 336

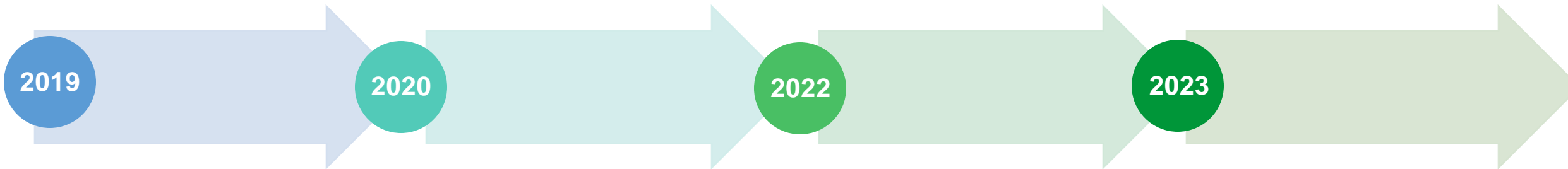
# Key Moments



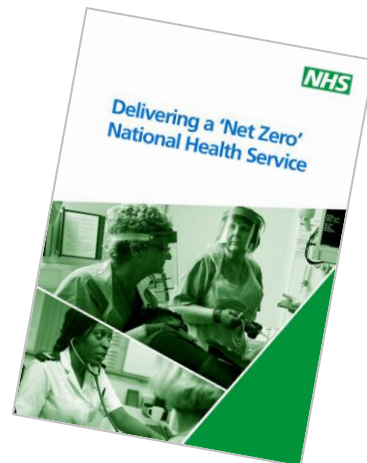
**January 2019:** NHS Long Term Plan set out clear ambition to reduce the environmental impact of the NHS



**July 2022:** NHS became the first health system to embed NZ into legislation, through the Health and Care Act



**October 2020:** *Delivering a Net Zero NHS* published



**June 2022:** Every NHS Trust and ICB has a Green Plan

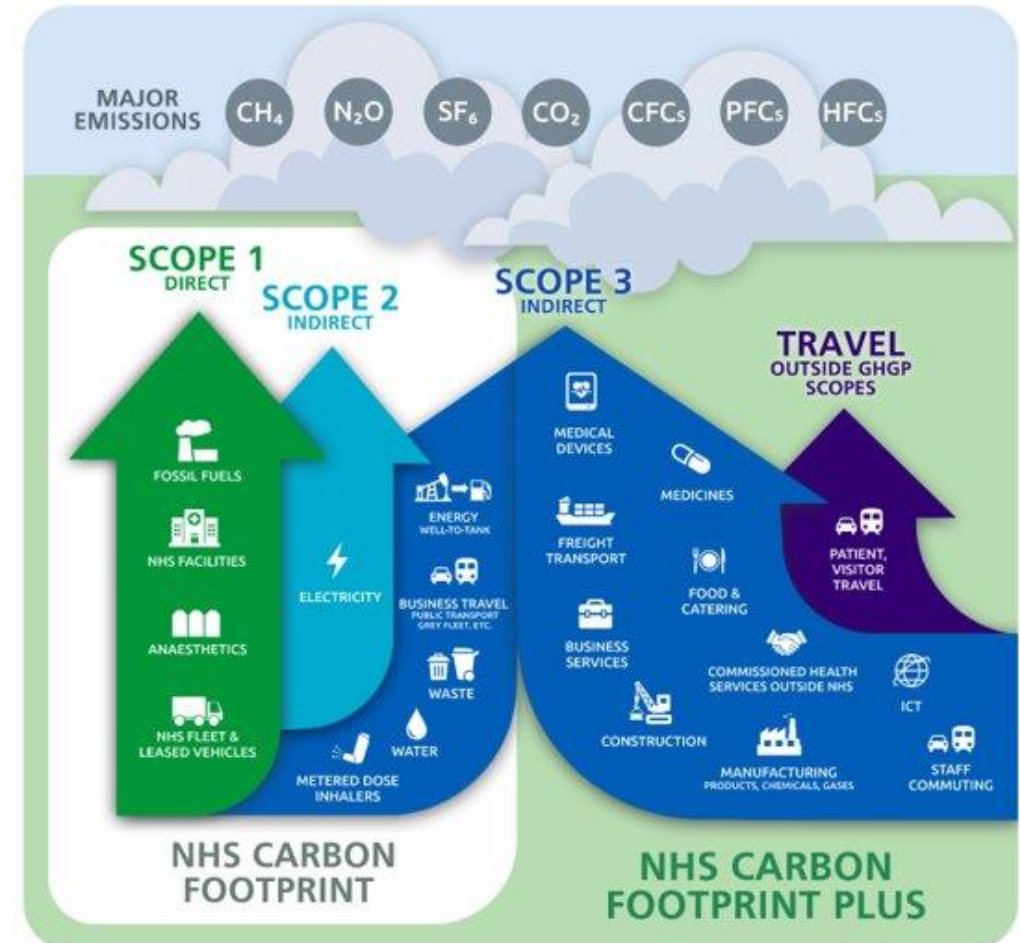


**October 2023:** Regulation to include sustainability under the “well-led” key question

# About Greener 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.





# STORM OF THE CENTURY



UK records hottest day on record as temperatures soar over 40C

**NHS**  
England

Warning ticks year-round risk due to climate change

## Climate Change Won't Spare Our Mental Health

— We need to prepare for longer-term effects beyond the physical

**Threat of exotic vector-borne diseases worsening with climate change, scientists say**

England recorded 2,800 excess deaths in over-65s during 2022 heatwaves

The impacts of climate change and our mental and physical health are intrinsically linked

# About Greener NHS

The NHS is responsible for around 5% of nation's carbon emissions, and as an organisation we are part of the challenge and the solution.



## About Greener NHS

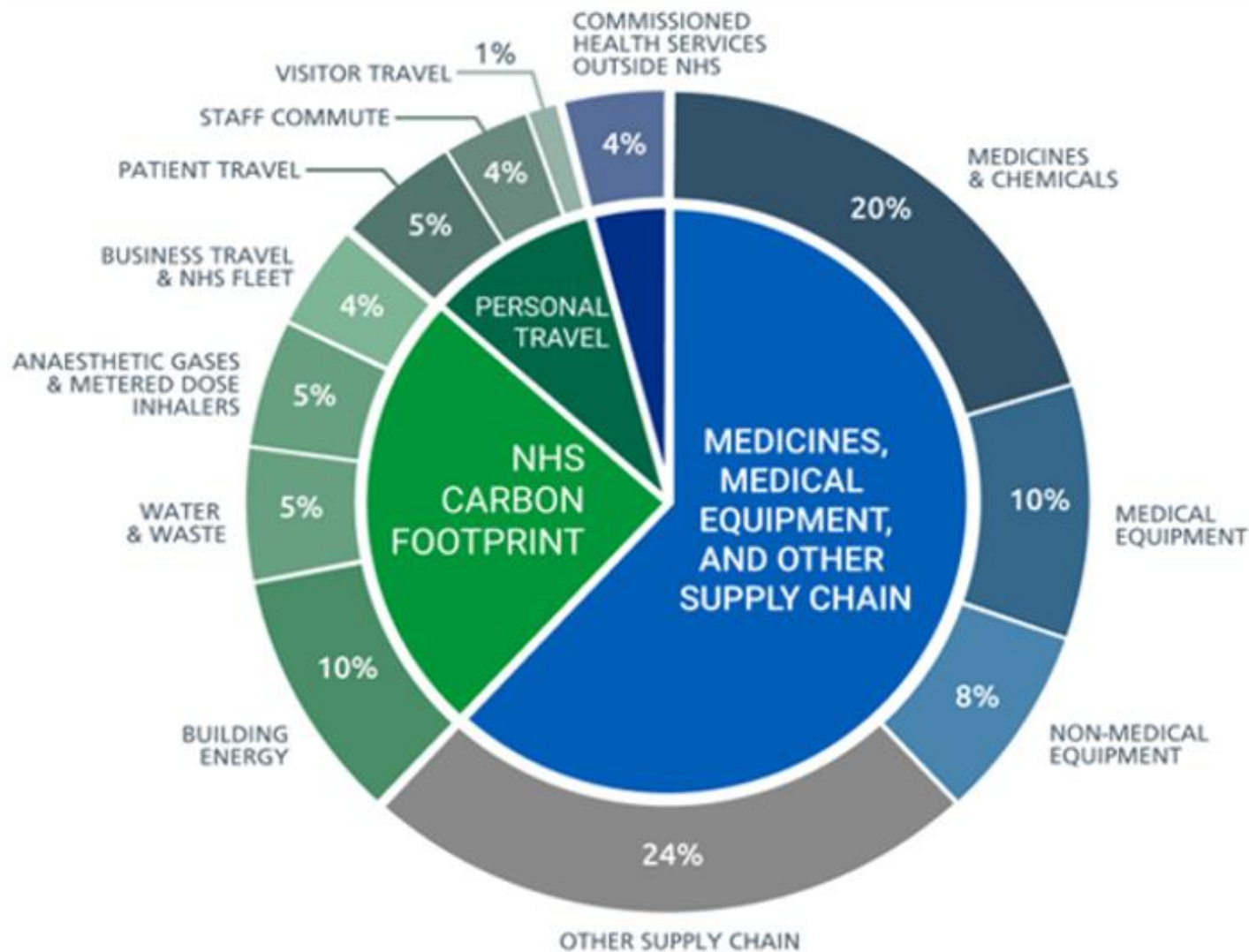
Climate change is a health emergency.

But climate action saves lives.





# Where do we need to act?



# Areas of focus



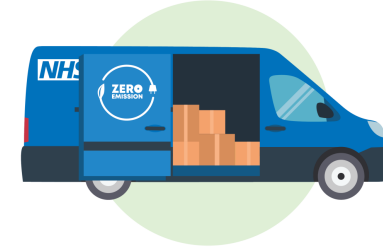
**Estates and facilities**



**Travel and transport**



**Medicines**



**Supply chain**



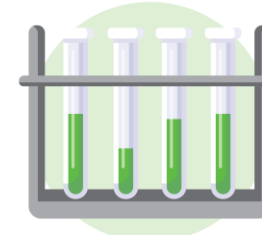
**Food and nutrition**



**Clinical transformation**



**Governance**



**Research and innovation**



**Workforce**



**Data and analytics**

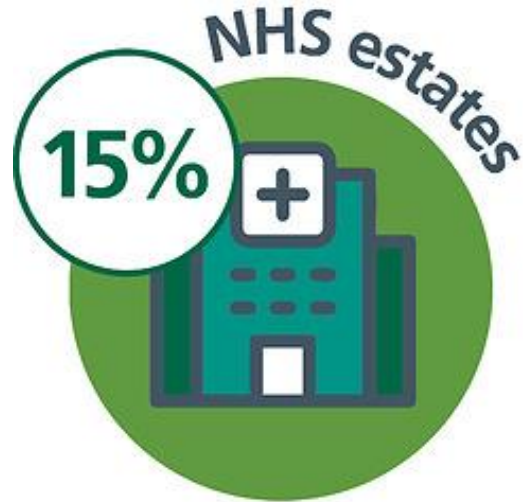


**Adaptation**



**International collaboration**

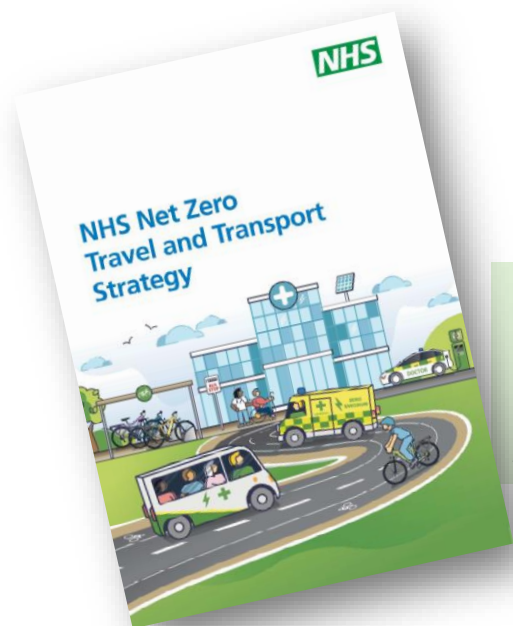
# Estates and Facilities



**Castle Hill Hospital's** 11,000 solar panels can generate enough power to meet the average daily energy needs of the hospital.

# Travel and transport

Approximately 3.5% (9.5 billion miles) of all road travel in England relates to patients, visitors, staff and suppliers to the NHS, contributing around **14%** of the health system's total emissions.



**Net Zero Travel and Transport Strategy 2023:** NHS will have fully decarbonised its fleet by 2035, with its ambulances following in 2040

# Medicines

Medicines account for **25%** of emissions within the NHS.

A small number of medicines account for a large portion of the emissions, and there is already a significant focus on two of these groups – anaesthetic gases (2% of emissions) and inhalers (3% of emissions) – where emissions occur at the point of use.





# Medicines



**“Of course I wanted to make changes. Greener healthcare is simply high-quality healthcare.**

**It works for our patients and the planet. ”**

**Amy, Anaesthetist**

## Supply chain and procurement

The NHS uses products from more than **80,000 suppliers**, encompassing medical and non-medical equipment, medicines and pharmaceuticals, commissioned healthcare services, food and all other procured goods and services.





## Net Zero Supplier Roadmap

From April  
**2022**

### Net Zero and Social Value

All NHS procurements include a minimum 10% net zero and social value weighting. The net zero and social value guidance for NHS procurement teams helps to unlock health-specific outcomes (building on PPN 06/20). Net Zero and Social Value will be applied via the Evergreen assessment for NHS England Medicines tenders.

From April  
**2023/24**

### Carbon Reduction Plan

For all new contracts above £5 million per annum, the NHS requires suppliers to publish a Carbon Reduction Plan for their UK Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a subset of scope 3 emissions as a minimum (aligning with PPN 06/21).

**From April 2024**, this requirement will be proportionately extended to cover all new procurements.

From April  
**2027**

### Carbon Reduction Plan for all emissions

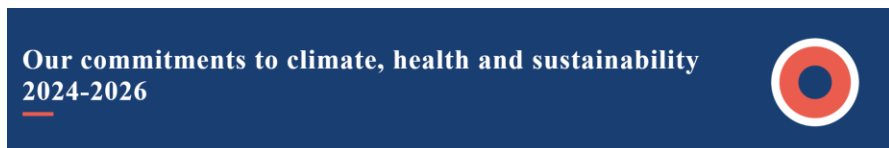
All suppliers will be required to publicly report targets, emissions and publish a Carbon Reduction Plan for global emissions aligned to the NHS net zero target, for all of their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

From April  
**2028**

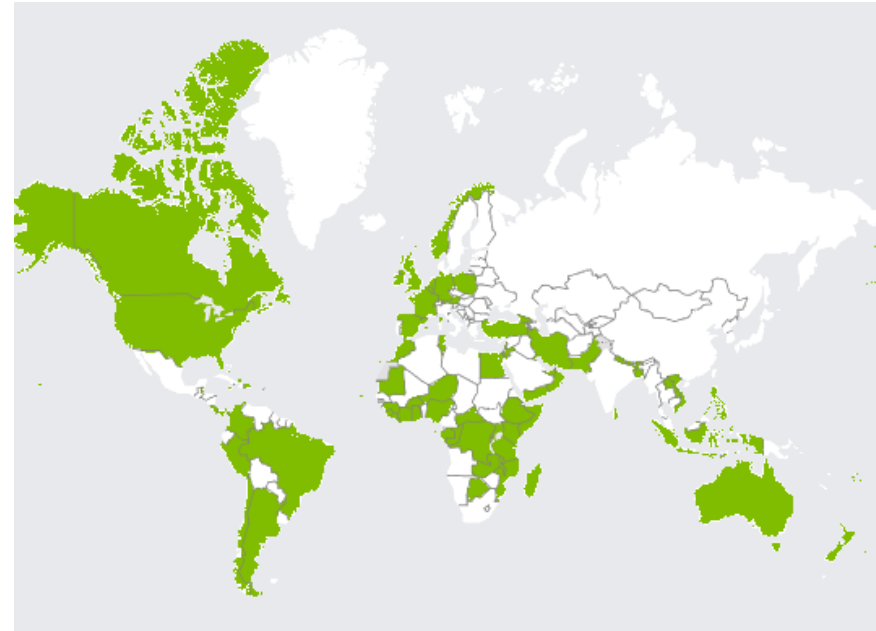
### Product-level requirements

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

# Research and innovation



# International collaboration





# Clinical transformation



The illustration depicts a sustainable NHS environment. It includes a modern hospital building with solar panels, wind turbines, a yellow NHS ambulance, a person on a bicycle, and a recycling bin. In the foreground, a smiling NHS staff member in a blue uniform and hijab is holding a young child in a red shirt. The NHS logo is visible in the top right corner of the illustration.

## Caring for our planet is caring for our patients

Climate change presents a profound and growing threat to our health. The NHS has already cut its carbon emissions by 30%, helping to protect health now and for future generations. The actions you and other staff take will continue to add up and help us achieve even more.

Discover how the NHS is becoming greener.  
[Search Greener NHS](#)

**HEALTHIER PLANET**  
**HEALTHIER PEOPLE**

# Clinical decisions are carbon decisions



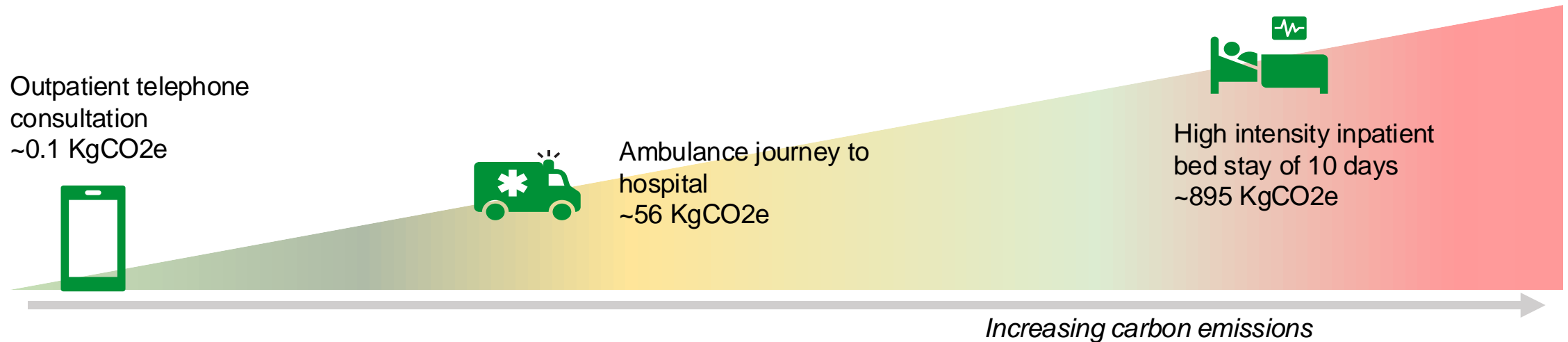
# Net Zero Clinical Transformation

## Our purpose

To engage the 84% of NHS staff working in clinical positions to transform their practice to align with our values, our net zero ambitions and to improve health.

## Our vision

An NHS whose clinical community is empowered to design and deliver high quality, low carbon care by default, with guidance and support.





**Clinical leadership, systems and workforce**

**Objective:** Ensure net zero is embedded as business as usual.

**Keeping people healthy**

**Objective:** Reduce care needs and the burden of disease.

**Low carbon care settings**

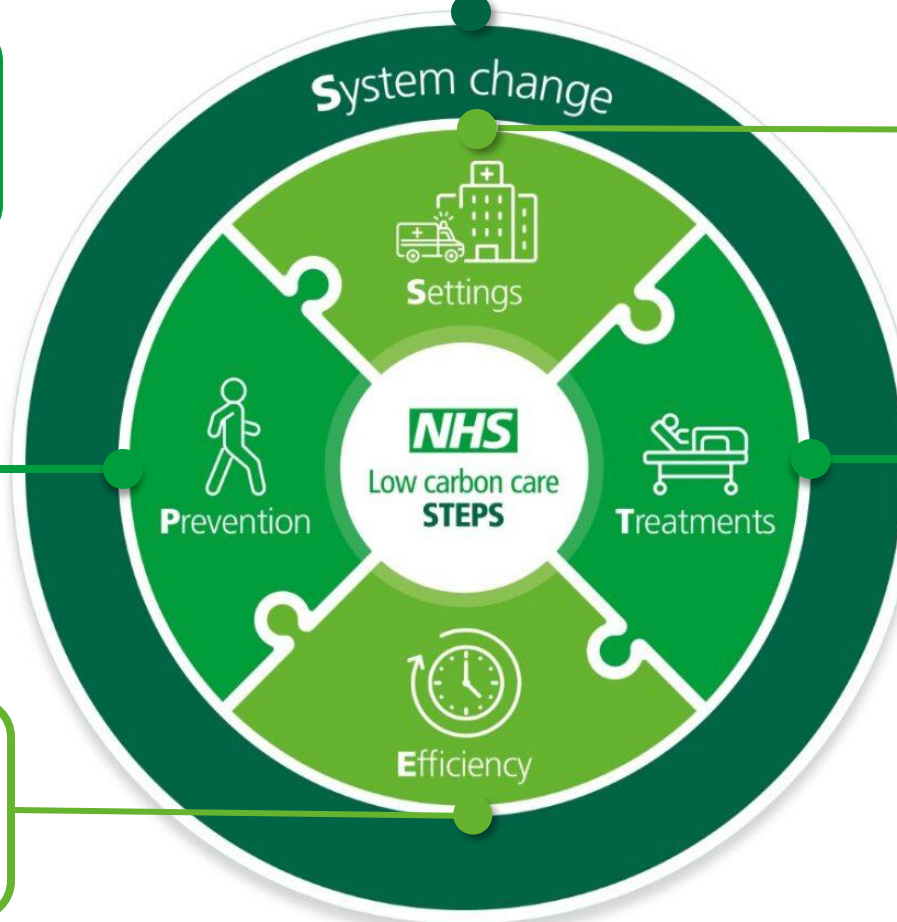
**Objective:** Reduce the carbon and resource intensity of care settings

**Right care, right place, right time**

**Objective:** Reduce inefficient and inappropriate care delivery

**Low carbon care treatments**

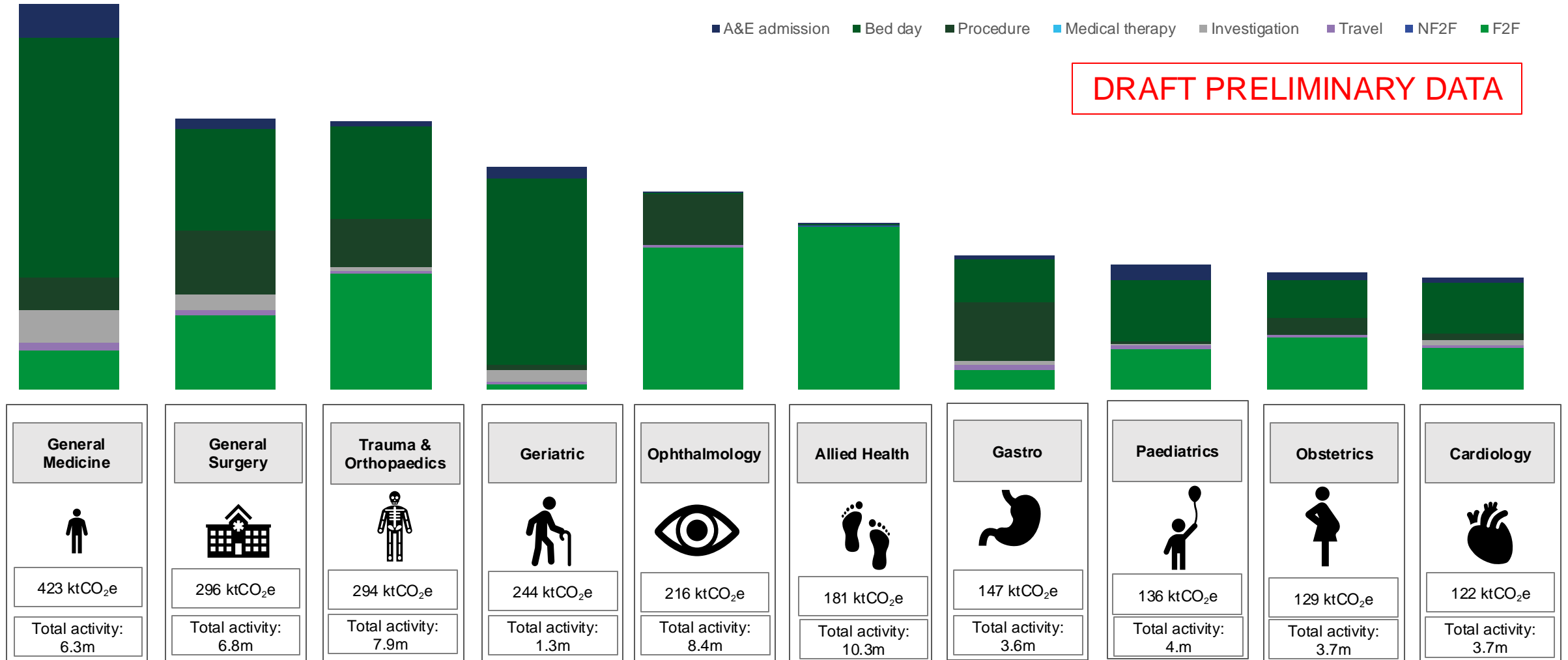
**Objective:** Reduce the carbon emissions from treatments and deliver high quality care



# Top 10 Carbon Emitting Medical Specialities

■ A&E admission ■ Bed day ■ Procedure ■ Medical therapy ■ Investigation ■ Travel ■ NF2F ■ F2F

**DRAFT PRELIMINARY DATA**



\*Rounded to the nearest 1ktCO<sub>2</sub>e  
 \*\*Rounded to the nearest 100k



# Engaging and equipping clinical community



Royal College of General Practitioners

Royal College of Emergency Medicine

**Clinical fellow spotlight on...**

“ I have been able to bring my clinical background to the role, working on projects related to reducing the environmental impact of anaesthetics and theatres, as well as projects that relate to reducing the environmental impact of models of care. ”

Dr Rebecca Taylor-Smith  
Chief Sustainability Officer's  
Clinical Fellow 2021/22

Royal College of Psychiatrists

**Green Surgery**  
Reducing the environmental impact of surgical care

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH | Royal College of Surgeons of England | ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

**Intercollegiate Green Theatre Checklist**  
Compendium of Evidence

Below are a list of recommendations to reduce the environmental impact of operating theatres. All the relevant guidance and published evidence has been included in the Compendium of evidence, accessed via the QR code:

Anaesthesia	
1 Consider local/regional anaesthesia where appropriate (with targeted O <sub>2</sub> delivery only if necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Use TIVA whenever possible with high fresh gas flows (5-6 l) and, if appropriate, a low O <sub>2</sub> concentration	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Limit Nitrous Oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O) to specific cases only and if using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ check N<sub>2</sub>O pipes for leaks or consider decommissioning the manifold and switching to cylinders at point of use;</li> <li>▶ introduce N<sub>2</sub>O scavengers for patient-controlled delivery.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 If using inhalational anaesthesia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ use desflurane or sevoflurane (desflurane halothane better than isoflurane halothane than desflurane)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

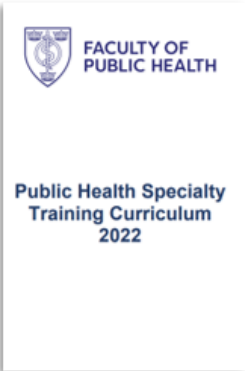
# Empowering our workforce



Miss Ciara O'Kane  
Care Quality Commission



Dr Vanisha Parekh  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency



## How can I find out more?

Find out more about the work of the Greener NHS team, and the progress towards the net zero goal:

- Visit [www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs](http://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs)
- Sign up to our newsletter – [www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/greener-nhs](http://www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/greener-nhs)
- Follow us on social media - [@GreenerNHS](https://twitter.com/GreenerNHS)