

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 8 September 2021

STATUS: ACTION

CATEGORY: POLICY

**Title: NHS Wales' contribution towards a net-zero Public Sector by 2030:
NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan**

Date of Review: March 2023

For Action by:

Chairs of NHS Trusts and Local Health Boards (LHBs)

Chief Executives of NHS Trusts and Health Boards

Chairs of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC and the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC)

Directors of Planning

Directors of Public Health

Medical Directors

Directors of Nursing

Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences

Chair of Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Chair of Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW)

For Information:

Directors of Finance

Chair of Shared Services Committee (NWSSP Committee)

Directors of Corporate Governance/Board Secretaries of NHS Trusts and LHBs Directors of Corporate Governance/Board Secretaries of HEIW and DHCW

Committee Secretaries of WHSSC, EASC AND NWSSP Committee

Directors of Workforce & OD

Action required by: Immediate

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- Approach to Healthcare (Education, Healthcare & Medicines and Waste):
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Enclosure(s): One

1. Context

In 2019, the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency supported by Members of the Senedd and have since set out an ambition for the public sector to be net zero by 2030.

2. Response to Challenge

As the largest public sector organisation in Wales, the NHS has an important role to play in contributing towards this ambition. The NHS Wales Carbon Footprint 2018/19 was estimated to be 1,001,378 tCO₂e which has informed the approach set out in the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) published on March 2021.

The plan contains 46 commitments for delivery by 2025 and is a clear and ambitious mandate for action across NHS Wales.

There are five main activity streams set out in the Strategic Delivery Plan. These are:

- Buildings (new and existing buildings)
- Transport
- Procurement
- Estate Planning and Land Use
- Approach to Healthcare (Education, Healthcare & Medicines and Waste)

3. Next steps

All NHS Organisations

- Should cascade the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) across their organisation.
- Action Plans should be developed, which will form the basis of how NHS Wales organisations will implement the Delivery Plan initiatives. These need to be developed two-yearly and committed to within Integrated Medium-Term Plans
- Share best practice initiatives that reduce carbon with Welsh Government policy leads.

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- A National Programme and National Programme Board have been established to provide a critical leadership role, providing strategic oversight across the Climate Change agenda and driving delivery against the Strategic Delivery Plan, to ensure that NHS Wales fully delivers its contribution against the ambition for a net zero public sector by 2030.
- Activity is underway to develop a similar strategic decarbonisation plan for Social Care.
- Policy makers are also investigating how to further strengthen the NHS's commitments across primary care and also on adaptation planning to ensure health and social care systems are ready to meet the challenges of a changing climate.

END