

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



**Issue Date:** 25 September 2023

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**STATUS: ACTION**

**CATEGORY: WORKFORCE**

**For Action by:**

Chief Executives, Health Boards/Trusts  
Medical Directors, Health Boards/Trusts  
Research and Development Directors & Leads, Health Boards/Trusts  
Nurse Executive Directors, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Planning, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Primary Care, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Public Health, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Workforce and Organisational Development, Health Boards/Trusts

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**Enclosure(s): Four Links**

**NHS Welsh Sustainability Awards:**

- [Categories and Guidance document.](#)
- [Apply Now poster.](#)
- [Save the Date poster.](#)

Dear Colleagues,

## Background

In 2019 the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency for Wales to help trigger more focus and greater action to meet the challenges presented by the climate crisis.

Wales has a legally binding target to deliver the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, alongside an ambition for the public sector in Wales to be collectively net zero carbon by 2030.

In 2018/19 the [NHS Wales Carbon Footprint](#) was estimated to be **1,001,378 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, and these 'health emissions' are approximately 2.6% of Wales' total emissions.

A recent Let's Talk Public Health panel survey conducted by Public Health Wales identified that:

- 81% of people are concerned (40% very) about climate change, and that,
- 72% of people agreed (21% strongly) that it is their responsibility to do something about climate change.

Therefore, although the Welsh Government Health and Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme has been established to enable the leadership and collaboration needed to deliver a net zero and climate resilient sector, it is recognised that **ALL NHS Wales Staff** are best placed to affect and support the delivery of sustainable change.

The experience and creativity of NHS Wales staff through their peer-to-peer learning and engagement can inspire, motivate and help achieve essential sustainable improvements required by the Health sector to collectively contribute to the public sector ambition, and wider Wales climate change targets.

## The Ask

Please can all colleagues copied into this Welsh Health Circular cascade and promote the **NHS Welsh Sustainability Conference and Awards** information below, through their staff networks and communications channels.

### [The NHS Welsh Sustainability Conference and Awards](#)

- Dedicated NHS colleagues have established and launched the **NHS Welsh Sustainability Conference and Awards** to promote the principles of sustainable healthcare and support the incorporation of sustainable practices into clinical care.
- The **NHS Welsh Sustainability Conference and Awards** event will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at The Vale Hotel, Cardiff.
- **The Conference** - You are invited to ['Save the Date'](#) and join an immersive day of exhibition and key-note speakers focussing on clinical care, carbon hotspots in your service and sustainable value.

- **The Awards** – Why not get involved? Submit a sustainability project to one of the nine awards categories before 31st January 2024 to have the opportunity to join this exclusive event. [Read the event guidance](#) and [register your entry here!](#)

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'I. Rees', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Irfon Rees  
Director of Health and Wellbeing  
Welsh Government