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COP26—What is it?

In November the UK will host COP26 in Glasgow. COP26 is the 2021 United Nations climate change conference. COP stands for ‘Conference of Parties’ and this year is the 26th annual summit—hence the name COP26.

World leaders will arrive in Scotland alongside negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for 12 days of talks., with the aim of reaching agreement on how to tackle climate change.

Most experts believe COP26 has a unique urgency, and is the worlds best chance to get runaway climate change under control.

Dame Jackie Daniel is one of the COP26 #OneStepGreener ambassadors . Watch this [3 minute video](#) to hear her thoughts about the climate emergency and the role of healthcare.

COP26—How can we get involved?

Greener NHS (part of NHS England & NHS Improvement) are launching a COP26 campaign at the beginning of October, and are setting up a Greener NHS Community of 'local leaders' throughout the UK to spread the word about the Greener NHS and Net Zero NHS work, and key events like COP26. The community members will help build anticipation, inspire action and raise ambition. They have also set up a community forum with links to training, resources and spaces for discussion.

If you are interested in becoming part of the community email nuth.environment@nhs.net for an information pack.

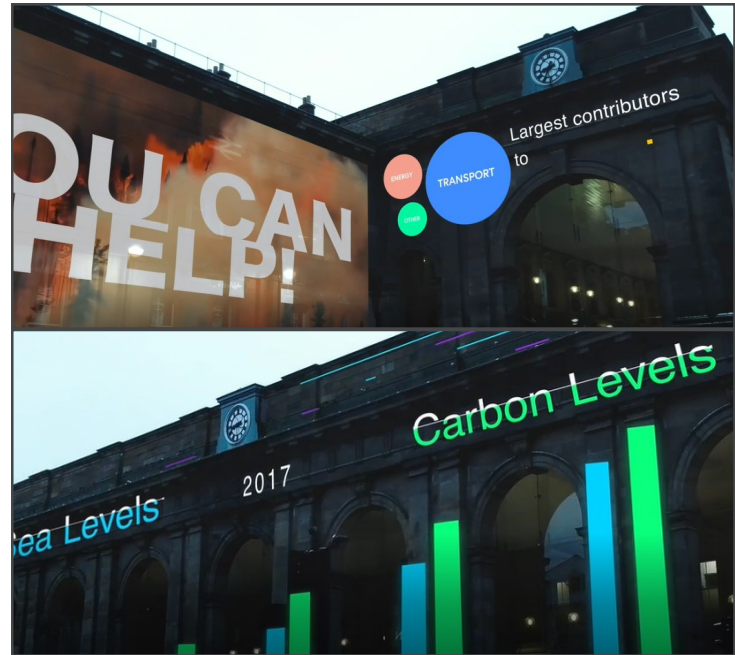
There will be plenty of other ways to get involved in the lead up to, and during, the conference. There will be a programme of events happening across Newcastle including youth and student climate change summits, the 'Race to Zero' Electric Battle Bus, Newcastle University Climate Debates, Northumbria University Climate Conference, Climate Projections—a climate change projection event to inform residents, and more.

As well as this 30 healthcare professionals will participate in 'Ride for their Lives'. These cyclists will undertake a 540 mile journey from Great Ormond Street Hospital to Glasgow, stopping at children's hospitals across the UK, to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on child health. The group will arrive in Glasgow as COP26 starts, where it will hand over a letter calling for action signed by 10,000 health practitioners. Anyone interested in cycling from the Great North Children's Hospital to Cumberland Infirmary should contact amanda.waterfall@nhs.net.

During this event 'pollution pods' will be installed at various locations along the ride, including the Great North Children's Hospital, which will emulate polluted environments in cities globally and will be open for members of the public to visit.

We will also be hosting two days of webinars and presentations covering topics like 'How are we going to decarbonise our estate?', 'What does Zero Waste look like?' and 'Climate Reality Check'

We will promote all of these events on twitter, follow us @SustainableNUTH to be kept up to date, and to Green Champions by email and the Teams group chat.



**FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER
@SustainableNUTH
TO BE KEPT UP TO
DATE**



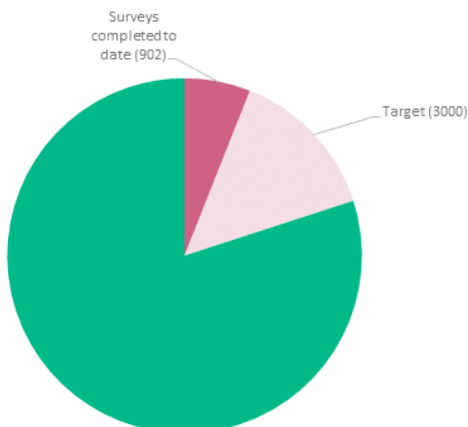
Have your say!

We would like to gather the thoughts and views of a wide range of staff about the Climate Emergency, and use them in some communications pieces to coincide with COP26.

We would love as many of you as possible to answer the following three questions:

1. How do you think the Climate Emergency will affect your patients and/or the service you provide in your department?
2. What do you think about Newcastle Hospitals' response to the Climate Emergency?
3. World leaders are meeting at COP26 to agree a plan to address the climate emergency. What message would you take to those leaders?

Either email us your answers to nuth.environment@nhs.net or take the following survey: <https://sustainablenuth.survey.fm/staff-views-of-climate-emergency-cop26>. Please forward to your colleagues too!



Staff Travel & Sustainability

Challenge the Champions! - Help us reach 20% of staff with our Travel & Sustainability Survey!

You can help us achieve this goal. Please email your colleagues and team mates with the following text and we will keep you up to date with our progress.

Annual Staff Travel and Sustainability Survey – Prize Draw! £500 in prizes available!

This year the Trust has combined the annual staff travel and sustainability surveys into one questionnaire. The results from this survey will help us measure our carbon footprint from travel, and support staff to travel more sustainably.

*It will also help understand staff attitudes towards sustainability and how important you feel it is for the Trust to work in a more sustainable way. If you wish to be entered into the **prize draw for the chance to win one of five Love2shop vouchers (£250, £100, and 3 x £50)** please enter your email address at the end of the survey.*

In my role as Green Champion I would like to encourage you to complete the survey and share your views!

<https://sustainablenuth.survey.fm/2021-staff-travel-sustainability-survey>

Recycle Week: 20th—26th September

Recycle Week is an annual event that is a celebration of recycling across the nation. Over the next couple of pages you will find some information to help you recycle more at work and at home.

We have produced a video to help you understand what can be recycled in our green bins and clear bags across the Trust.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLFmEnkaz8A> (don't forget to share with your colleagues!)

You can get posters to go above your recycling bins from the intranet: [Intranet > Support Services > Sustainability > Waste and Recycling > Posters](#)

New recycling bins can be ordered via non-stock requisition, find the order codes on the intranet: [WYBONE BINS](#)

Email the sustainability team to get new magnets for your recycling bins – nuth.environment@nhs.net—the most up to date version is shown below.



MIXED RECYCLING

YES



NO



Shine
Sustainable Healthcare in Newcastle

NHS

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

What can be recycled at home?

Different councils have different rules for what can be recycled and what goes into each bin so it is important to check what the guidance is for where you live.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-and-waste/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/what-goes-each-bin>

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/84/what-goes-my-bins>

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3145/Recycling-bin>

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/bluebin>

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/33355/Blue-bins-recycling->

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Recycling.aspx>

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere>

If in doubt, enter your postcode into Recycle Now's [Recycling Locator](#) to find out what you can put in your recycling bin at home, where your nearest recycling locations are and how to recycle specific items such as mobile phones and textiles.



Reuse and Upcycling Competition

Recently we had a Reuse and Upcycling competition on Shine Rewards where staff were challenged to submit photos of items they had repaired, improved or repurposed in some way. There were some amazing entries! From making shoe boxes to rescuing old jackets, you highlighted the creative ways we can reduce waste by making the most of what we already have.

If you would like to be rewarded for your sustainability and wellbeing actions sign up to Shine Rewards, visit <https://shinerewards.uk/> or download it from your app store (search Shine Rewards). There are monthly prizes, bonus competitions plus charity donations up for grabs.



1st - £50 voucher awarded to Clare C

'28 year old knotty pine shoe bench renewed & refreshed with chalk paint & wax!'



2nd - £30 voucher awarded to Ethel R

'This is a planter I made by dipping an old towel into wet concrete then letting it set. i then painted the planter in paint that was going to be thrown out.'












3rd - £10 voucher awarded to Michael B

'Rescued this jacket with a rip in it by sowing it up with a patch. New lease of life for a perfectly good jacket.'

Recycling and waste symbols explained

Packaging labels and recycling symbols are now appearing on lots of everyday items, and help us to identify how different types of packaging can be recycled. They will tell you whether the packaging is likely to be collected in your kerbside collections for recycling or if you can take it to your local recycling centre or stores.

Symbol	Meaning
	Recycle This label is applied to packaging that is collected by 75% or more local authorities across the UK, for example plastic bottles.
	Don't Recycle Remove Sleeve/Film You may see this request on packaging where film or liners can be easily removed via a perforated strip without needing to use a knife, pair of scissors or other tool. There should be clear instructions how to do so, e.g. Peel here.
	Recycle with bags at larger stores Certain types of plastics and films can be recycled along with supermarket carrier bags (this includes wraps found on newspapers, toilet rolls etc.). Recycling points for these are usually found at larger stores.
	The Green Dot The Green Dot does not necessarily mean that the packaging is recyclable, will be recycled or has been recycled. It is a symbol used on packaging in some European countries and signifies that the producer has made a financial contribution towards the recovery and recycling of packaging in Europe.
	Mobius Loop This indicates that an object is capable of being recycled, not that the object has been recycled or will be accepted in all recycling collection systems. Sometimes this symbol is used with a percentage figure in the middle to explain that the packaging contains x% of recycled material.
	Plastic resin codes This identifies the type of plastic resin used to make the item by providing a 'Resin Identification Code'. It is represented with a 'chasing arrows' symbol surrounding a number between 1 and 7 that defines the resin used.
	Tidyman This symbol from Keep Britain Tidy asks you not to litter. It doesn't relate to recycling but is a reminder to be a good citizen, disposing of the item in the most appropriate manner.
	Waste electricals This symbol explains that you should not place the electrical item in the general waste. Electrical items can be recycled through a number of channels.
	Compostable Products certified to be industrially compostable according to the European standard EN 13432/14955 may bear the 'seedling' logo. Never place compostable plastic into the recycling with other plastics; as it is designed to break down, it cannot be recycled and contaminates recyclable plastics. Plastics that carry this symbol can be recycled with your garden waste through your local authority.

Nutrition Product Packaging Recycling Project

Across the city, it is estimated that 455,382 units of medical nutrition products in plastic packaging are used per year, with approximately half used in primary care and half in secondary care. All this packaging is recyclable, however further work is needed to understand if recycling is taking place in practice. The Dietetic department proposed a sustainability project focussing on recycling of medical nutrition product packaging across the Trust which was approved as part of the Trust's Shine (Sustainable Healthcare in Newcastle) programme.

In January 2021, a subgroup of the Trust's Nutrition Steering Group (including Dietitians, Nurses, Waste Manager) joined representatives from the contracted enteral tube feed company to form a collaborative working group, to conduct baseline surveys to understand current levels of recycling and to measure the potential impact of future interventions.

When asked what would encourage more recycling (multiple answers could be given) the most popular answer was for more information on what packaging can be recycled.

Educational support on how to recycle medical nutrition product packaging is planned to coincide with National Recycle Week in September 2021, highlighting; the aim of the project, medical nutrition product packaging recyclability, and instructions on how to recycle it. This will be provided as information at managers meetings, articles in newsletters, posters, and leaflets and guidance provided by enteral tube feeding homecare nurses to HETF patients.

Further publications are planned to share findings as this project progresses and a checklist will be made available to support other Trusts interested in undertaking similar projects.

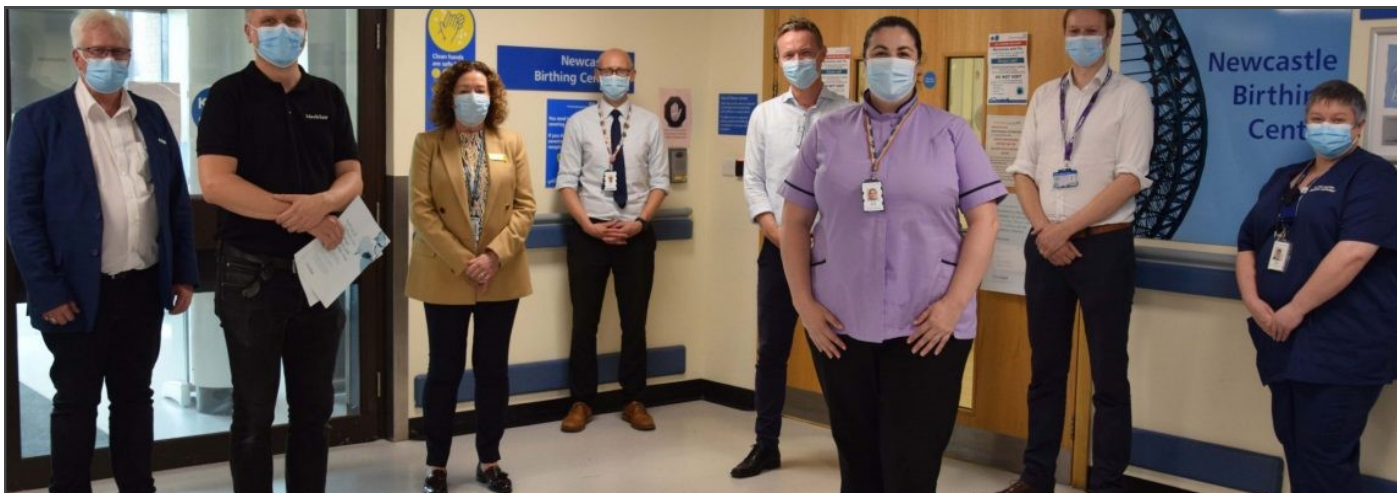
You can download the recycling poster [here](#).



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Climate-friendly pain relief—first in UK!



It was great to be able to announce that mum Kaja Gersinska became the first person in the UK to use climate-friendly pain relief during labour after giving birth at the Royal Victoria Infirmary on 9th September!

Entonox, also known as gas and air, is a mixture of nitrous oxide and oxygen. However, nitrous oxide is a powerful greenhouse gas which escapes into the atmosphere after being exhaled by a patient.

When Kaja gave birth she breathed the gas and air into a Mobile Destruction Unit (MDU) – a machine designed to collect and destroy residual nitrous oxide from exhaled gas and air.

“I feel very privileged and proud actually – I didn’t expect this when I came here today – I just came to have my baby – but I started on the traditional machine and then swapped over. It was quieter and much more comfortable to hold – it’s nice to make a little bit of history!”

The technology, developed by Medclair, is widely used in Sweden and collects the exhaled nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas, and ‘cracks’ it into nitrogen and oxygen which are harmless.

The MDU purifies 99.6% of the nitrous oxide entering the unit and as well having a huge benefit to the environment it also benefits staff by reducing the amount of nitrous oxide they are exposed to while they work.

Chris Allen, Sustainable Anaesthesia Fellow at Newcastle Hospitals said “This is a really exciting day for the whole team involved in developing this project at Newcastle Hospitals. It has been a huge team effort including staff from maternity services and our sustainability and estates teams.”

“Rolling this technology out across our maternity unit can help us to continue to support women to use gas and air during labour, whilst making it as environmentally friendly as possible.”

“WE HAVE AN AMBITIOUS PLAN TO BECOME A GLOBAL LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AND INTRODUCING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LIKE THIS CAN HELP US TO ACHIEVE THAT.”



To read the full story [click here](#)

Sustainability Training

Hannah Powell, Directorate Manager for Clinical Research Directorate, attended the first round of the Sustainability Ambassadors training in February and contributed this great article about the impact of this course to the newsletter of the NHS North East and Yorkshire Leadership Academy - click [here](#) to read the article.

We have recently become an approved IEMA accredited training provider, which means we will be able to provide a range of training from Sustainability Ambassadors through to Environmental Sustainability Skills for the Workforce and more in between.

We will promote these courses by emails to our green champions and on the green champions Teams group chat, as well as in In Brief . So watch this space!



£50,000 Climate Emergency Action Fund

£50,000 Climate Emergency Action Fund approved for 2021–2022!

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the £50,000 Climate Emergency Action Fund (CEAF) is once again available for applications – click [here](#) for all the information you will need.

Sometimes sustainability projects require a small amount of funding to get them off the ground. Applications are welcome from any member of staff with a sustainability idea that they would like to try in their area of work.

Last year projects were funded to provide **electric pool bikes** for community children’s physiotherapists, for new **bike maintenance stations** for the cycle compounds, for equipment to enable **steam cleaning of loan equipment** (reducing use of disposable wipes and detergents) and to support the roll out of a **reusable specimen transport box** (eliminating single use plastic waste)!

All of these projects were put forward and implemented by Green Champions and I’m sure you have many more brilliant ideas that can help us deliver Sustainable Healthcare in Newcastle (Shine).

Send us a case study of your completed project and it will be added to our [case studies](#) page of the intranet and assessed for a Shine Award.

We’re looking forward to receiving your applications!

