



ANNUAL SHINE REPORT

Our Newcastle Hospitals Annual Sustainability Report is available to read here : [Sustainability Report 2021-22.pdf](#)

This year's report is our 'Red Flag' issue. Despite more action than ever before our carbon footprint has continued to rise. We are using the report to raise the alarm that transformational change is needed if we are to meet our objectives.

This year for the first time, the staff voice has been woven throughout the report. Highlighting that this is an issue you care passionately about. Here are just a few examples:

"Staff need protected time to commit to projects, and be able to connect to facilitators to enable them"

"There should be more pressure on medical suppliers to provide more sustainable alternatives"

In this issue:

Annual Report

Energy Update

Regent Point Progress

Waste Update

and more!

“Why don’t we look at engaging clinical staff, such as specialist nurses into roles that will directly influence clinical practice?”

“More needs to be done about stores of equipment, and a tighter hold on having less waste due to poor ordering. It’s criminal the amount of waste that goes on in the NHS”

“Investment into a sustainable estate needs to be of prime importance. Funding is required to enable Estates to reduce the carbon footprint—this should be seen as a preventative measure not a reactive one”

“We use far too many consumables and throw away items”

As a result of the report we have taken notice of the red flags and committed to address the concerns with renewed urgency.

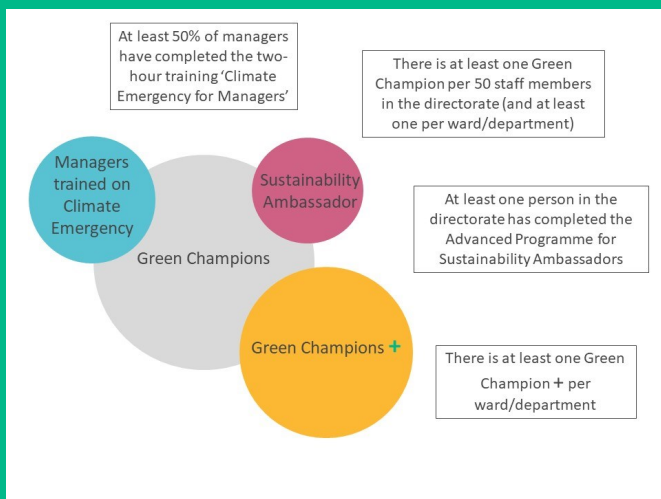
The red flags have been compiled into a Red Flag Register and the Executive Oversight Group for Climate Emergency has been given a new mandate to work to remove barriers and accelerate action.

One thing is clear, three years on from declaring a climate emergency we must move away urgently from business as usual and implement radical, transformational changes.

We will try and keep you informed with the latest developments through Green News and regular email updates.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



In order to embed sustainability throughout the Trust, there are a number of levels of involvement available to staff.

Green Champion

Most of you are already Green Champions. Please help us increase the number by sending our communications to your teams and colleagues. There is a poster we can send you to stick up in your department too.

Green Champion +

We would like to see one Green Champion + per ward/department. Receive Net Zero NHS training, regular bite size training sessions, and become part of a network supported by the sustainability team and each other to work on sustainability projects in your areas of expertise.

Climate Emergency for Managers

Complete the self directed or face to face training session to increase your understanding of the Climate Emergency, and more importantly, how you can take action within your role as a Manager whatever your specialty.

10-steps for directorates

We have developed a 10 step framework for directorates/departments to use to embed sustainability, supported by the sustainability team. Contact us to find out more, or encourage your Directorate/Department Manager to do so. We even have a template email ready for you to send them.

Sustainability Ambassadors

It is our ambition to have one Sustainability Ambassador in every Directorate. If you are interested in taking the five day course let us know.

ENERGY CRISIS

As we enter the winter season, domestic energy prices in the UK will be going up again for the third time in the last 12 months.

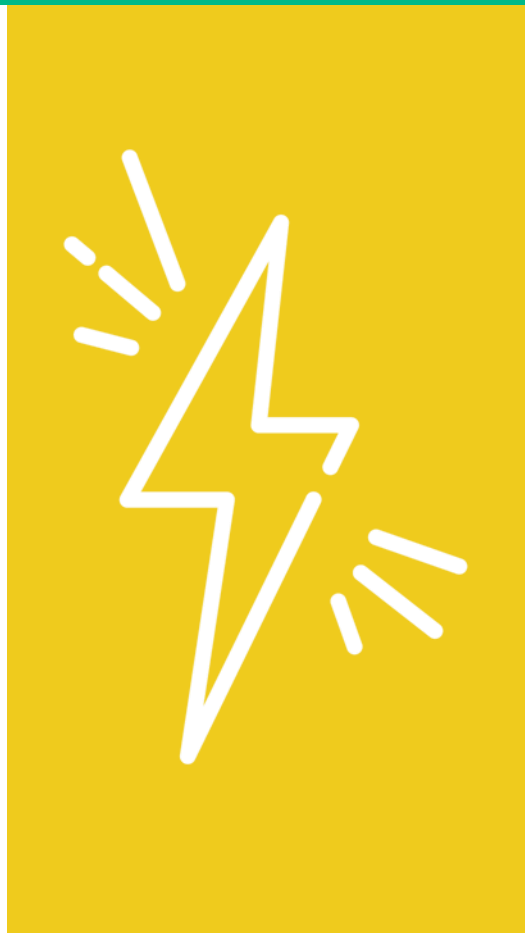
A colleague in another NHS Trust has shared this useful guide to energy bills and energy efficiency. We have uploaded it to our intranet page: [Intranet > Support Services > Sustainability > Resources](#)

Note: There is a problem downloading documents from the intranet. Click the three dots on the error message and then select 'keep'.

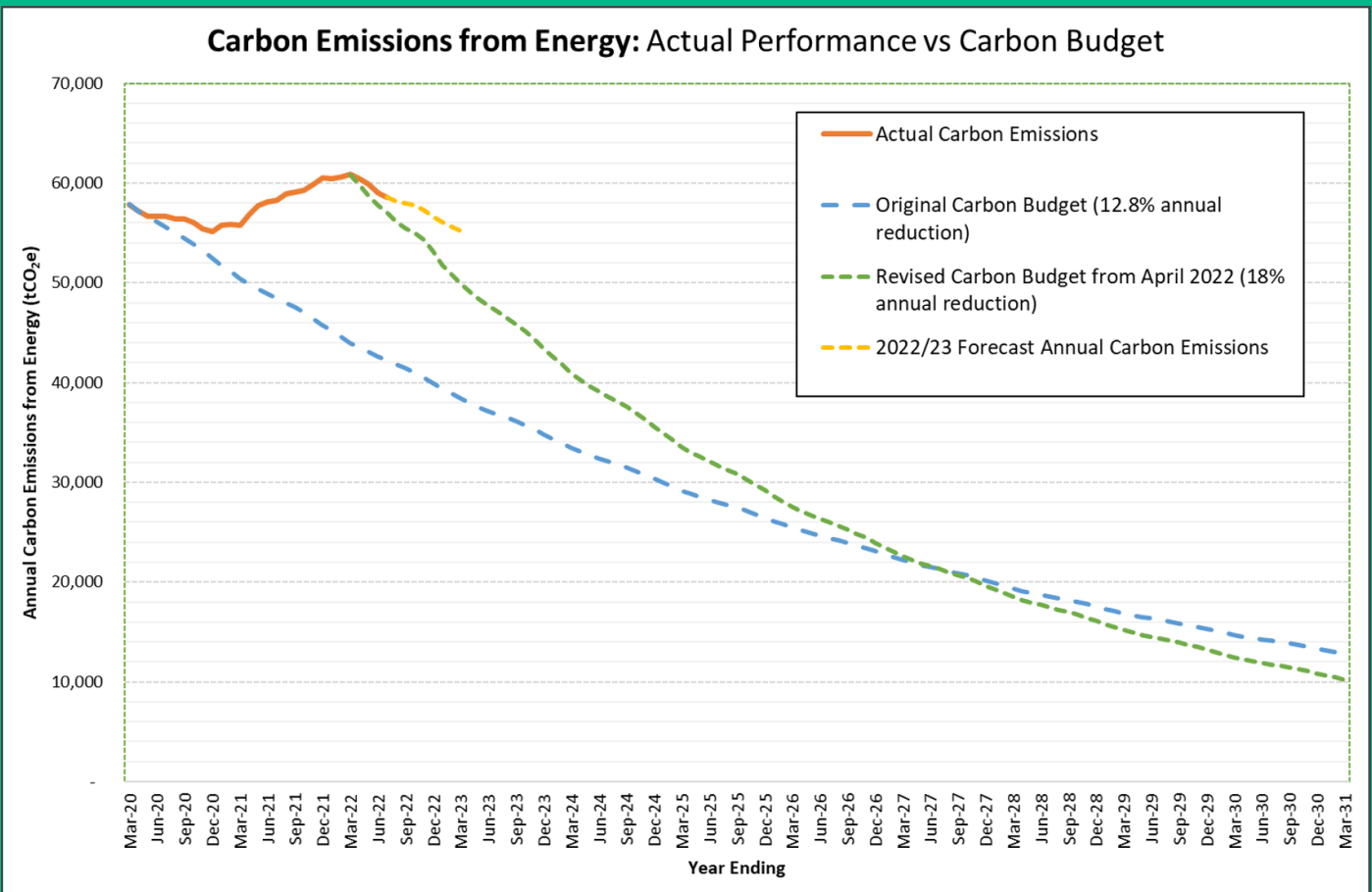
The guide includes information, advice and tips on how to manage your energy bill, where to get support, how to make your home more energy efficient and make small changes to your habits.

At the Trust, we have secured most of our energy up until March 2024. This means we are not as exposed to price increases as we could have been. However it is important to make investment now in order to protect ourselves from more than tripling the cost of energy from £15m annually to potential costs of £15m in 2024/25. The case for investment in energy efficiency and on site low carbon energy generation has never been stronger!

The graph below shows the current and forecasted performance compared to the original carbon budget, and the revised carbon budget required to achieve Net Zero Carbon.



CARBON EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY



REGENT POINT PROGRESS!

Project Green

Anyone who works in or visits Regent Point will have noticed the lovely installation of plants, selected for their hardiness, ability to improve air quality, and to regulate temperature. The plants were funded by the Climate Emergency Action Fund, provided by The Plant Workshop, and are being cared for by trained volunteers.

If you are interested in being part of 'Project Green' at Regent Point get in touch with Charlotte Tame or Rob Higgins.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) provides grants for public sector bodies to fund decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.

Phase 3 is expected to open in October, and we will be submitting a bid for Regent Point which would see the replacement of gas boilers with air source heat pumps, upgrading lighting to LED lighting, improving energy monitoring and metering, and introducing solar panels for the generation of electricity.

We would expect to find out if this bid has been successful in February, and work would start in the next financial year.



CLEANUP UK

Clean-up UK are all about litter-picking, connecting communities and taking pride in where you live. This benefits the environment, encourages healthy outdoor activity and enables people to get involved with others in their local area.

Clean-up UK have reached out to us to see if there is interest in becoming a litter-picking hub for Newcastle.

Clean-up litter picking hubs are spaces to store equipment for volunteer groups and individuals in the community to use. By hosting this equipment and loaning it out, we would champion volunteering in the community and promote litter picking.

If you work in an area that could store and host some equipment let us know and we can see if there is a local group that could use it.

If any of you are interested in forming a litter picking group they will work with us and take us through the stages of setting up a self-sustaining group.

If you know of areas that are heavily littered they will work with us to engage local community groups, individuals and businesses to get litter picking started and sustained.

WASTE UPDATE

Waste Awareness Week

Next month will see Waste Awareness Week taking place from the 17th—21st October, to coincide with National Recycling Week. The waste team will be sharing information focusing on a different aspect of waste management to help us improve safe handling of waste, ensure compliant segregation and save money on treatment and disposal costs.

Green Champions will receive daily communications—please read, understand and share.

Visit to Biffa

Jason and Amy (the Waste Manager and Assistant Waste Manager) visited the Biffa facility which receives all of our dry mixed recycling, to see first hand what happens to the waste we send there.

They were pleased to see that the waste goes through a number of mechanical and manual sorting processes to ensure that as much recyclable material as possible is extracted and recycled.

Of course, some non-recyclable material makes it into the clear bags they collect, such as paper towels, items contaminated with food and coffee cups. These items still do not go to landfill, and are used to generate energy. Meaning we can continue to confidently say are 100% zero waste to landfill, and have been since 2011.



CLEAN AIR PHD

We are excited to announce that Tunde Okeowo will be joining the team to complete a four year PhD on Sustainable Approaches to Reducing Air Pollution and Carbon Emissions in Urban Hospital Environments.

The project is a partnership between Newcastle Hospitals and Northumbria University, and the aim will be to study how an integrated net-zero carbon and clean air strategy can improve ambient and indoor air quality at major urban hospital sites, and to explore the potential for hospitals to contribute to air quality improvement in the wider area.

A key component of the work will be the application of the 'Clean Air Hospital Framework' - developed by Global Action Plan and Great Ormond Street Hospital—to influence changes in policy and practice in relation to energy use, procurement, transportation and estates management.

In our Climate Emergency Strategy, we have committed to achieving a rating of 'excellent' on the framework by 2025.

We look forward to welcoming Tunde to the team in October.



NATURE RECOVERY RANGER

Sally Johnson also joins the Trust, as Nature Recovery Ranger.

Sally's role has been funded by the Newcastle Hospitals Charity to improve green space (from a biodiversity and an accessibility perspective) and engage with staff and patients. She will work between the RVI and Freeman Hospitals and some of her primary goals are to bring new participants to the Green Gym, look at green social prescribing, and encourage everyone to appreciate and start using the green spaces that are already available to them.

Sally joins us from Northumberland Wildlife Trust, where she was a conservation assistant. Whilst at the Wildlife Trust she worked on the Restoring Ratty project about mink monitoring and water vole releases in Kielder, and was also part of Wildwood which was a broad leaf planting project also in Kielder.

I'm sure Sally will be in touch with all our Green Champions to let you know more about her projects as they progress!

AHSN INNOVATE AWARDS

Newcastle Hospitals was proud to receive the Net Zero Innovation of the Year award at the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) Innovate Awards!



This award is for the partnership work between the sustainability and procurement departments to engage our supply chain on the Net Zero agenda.

Over 70% of the Newcastle Hospitals Carbon Footprint Plus is related to the goods and services we procure from suppliers, so it is imperative we work together to reduce that to Net Zero by 2040.

The innovative five-step programme provides a way for suppliers to engage with us on their own journey to Net Zero, and get support to help them achieve it, no matter the size of the organisation or where they are on their journey.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Three very exciting projects are finalists in the Sustainable Healthcare in Newcastle (SHINE) category of the Newcastle Hospitals Celebrating Excellence Awards!

As we go to print the winner has not yet been announced—will it be.....

- Jason Gandhi—Fellow in environmentally sustainable anaesthesia
- Newcastle Green Nephrology
- Nutrition & dietetics therapy service

All the entries were very high quality—thank you to those that submitted entries.

We look forward to announcing the winner!



SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

Please submit your stories for Green News! These can be related to projects you are working on at home or work, sustainable suggestions or ideas you'd like to share, or anything you think your fellow Green Champions would be interested in. We know you really enjoy and value hearing from each other, and we are keen to facilitate that in any way we can.

Email nuth.environment@nhs.net

