

Context

Newcastle Hospitals has committed to reaching Net Zero for the carbon footprint plus by 2040. Crucially this includes the carbon footprint related to the goods and services provided to us by our suppliers.

We have been engaging with the supply chain, and provided this opportunity for them to share learning on their Net Zero journey.

Our SwiftCare Suite is a cloud-based Digital Transformation platform that contains a number of applications; MediLog, MediTrack, MediVue, MediConnect and MediWork. These apps collectively provide electronic medical records & workflows, remote patient monitoring, resource management and smart enablement of legacy clinical devices. The system can be accessible from anywhere in the world by clinicians and any healthcare staff.

Kinseed's SwiftCare solution makes working with any healthcare data easier, more secure, and more flexible. Hospitals around the UK and beyond are making better, faster, and more joined-up decisions based on their data through SwiftCare's platform; improving patient outcomes, operational efficiencies and collaboration.

What low carbon initiatives have you implemented?

We contribute towards lowering CO2 emissions by designing and deploying digital tools for clinical teams that are built with sustainability in mind. We are collaborating with Newcastle Hospital to understand the process of calculating our current carbon usage and to help us achieve a reachable goal.

In scope 3 of our report, we aim to focus on purchased goods and services, waste generated in operations (such as hardware recycling), business travels and employee commuting.

Our purchased goods and services involve mostly hardware (computers), telephones, printers, cartridges, tablets, and phones (MediVue/Connect), internet switches). To lower our carbon usage, we have rebuilt some of our computers in the office with new hard drives, and we also sometimes purchase refurbished hardware (e.g. laptop). To keep up to date with healthcare's sustainability goals, we work with NHS customers to collectively review the way we work and use the digital tools.

In terms of fuel and energy related activities, our office is a service building. The building management has implemented different initiatives to make sure that customers are being more energy efficient. The initiatives we follow are ensuring all heating, aircon, lights and devices are turned off whilst not in use. Our printers and copiers are kept switched off (not on standby). During the warmer, sunnier days, we ensure blinds are closed to reduce solar gain and keep the office room cooler.

To reduce paper based activities, Kinseed encourages other cloud-based solutions for its operations, for example, Xero to manage our accounting. In addition, Kinseed's cloud-based solution helps to reduce CO2 emissions and paper consumption through electronic health records. In terms of waste produced, any letters received are scanned and archived



online, then shredded for recycling. Any old Hardware no longer in use are disposed of for recycling. Our employee commuting also does not generate large carbon emissions as we work in a remote workspace. Many of our employees work from home (Hybrid Working), removing the “needless commute”. The travel arrangements involve car and walking, with some of our colleagues using hybrid cars with low CO2 emissions.

The majority of business events/conferences are held online, removing any travel related emissions. Any in-person events we encourage employees to travel using public transport.

Any challenges or barriers?

All the measuring tools we have come across have been very complex and we have struggled to find a tool that is suitable for a micro company.

Any opportunities or ideas?

We believe that using technology and digitisation of most paper based forms can help achieve sustainable goals. This will help reduce paper waste whilst also improving efficiency.

Next Steps:

In the future, Kinseed plans to further progress our in-company policies to completely eliminate business travel except for the most necessary cases, and to ensure when travel is undertaken that carbon offsetting through a reputable source is utilised to help assist with this impact. We’re also assessing our full supply chain to ensure our suppliers of services and materials are following a similar if not stricter Carbon Neutral process and chain of causality.

Step 1 Do you support Newcastle Hospitals' Net Zero ambitions, which includes reaching Net Zero Carbon across our footprint plus (including suppliers) by 2040?

Yes

Step 2. What support and guidance have you accessed?

Received an information pack with advice and guidance on carbon footprinting and Net Zero (including signpost links to further training)

Attended an online workshop, to learn more from the procurement and sustainability teams at Newcastle Hospitals

Step 3. Do you measure and report the carbon footprint of your organisation?

Yes

Step 4. Have you published a carbon reduction target or Net Zero target for your organisation?

Yes

Step 5. Have you published a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)?

Yes