



Driving digital net zero outcomes within the NHS

- An Advisory Services PoV





In response to the growing and profound threat to health posed by climate change, in October 2020 the NHS became the world's first health service to commit to reaching carbon net zero.

The NHS published a report, Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service, and launched a new national programme labelled For a Greener NHS, with a commitment that every NHS organisation has a board-level net zero lead.

The report highlighted two targets with interim milestones:

1

NHS Carbon Footprint for the emissions directly controlled, with a target of net zero by 2040.

2

NHS Carbon Footprint Plus for the emissions that can be influenced, with a target of net zero by 2045. This includes GHG protocol scope 3 emissions, such as supply chain, construction and staff commuting, but also considers patient and visitor travel.

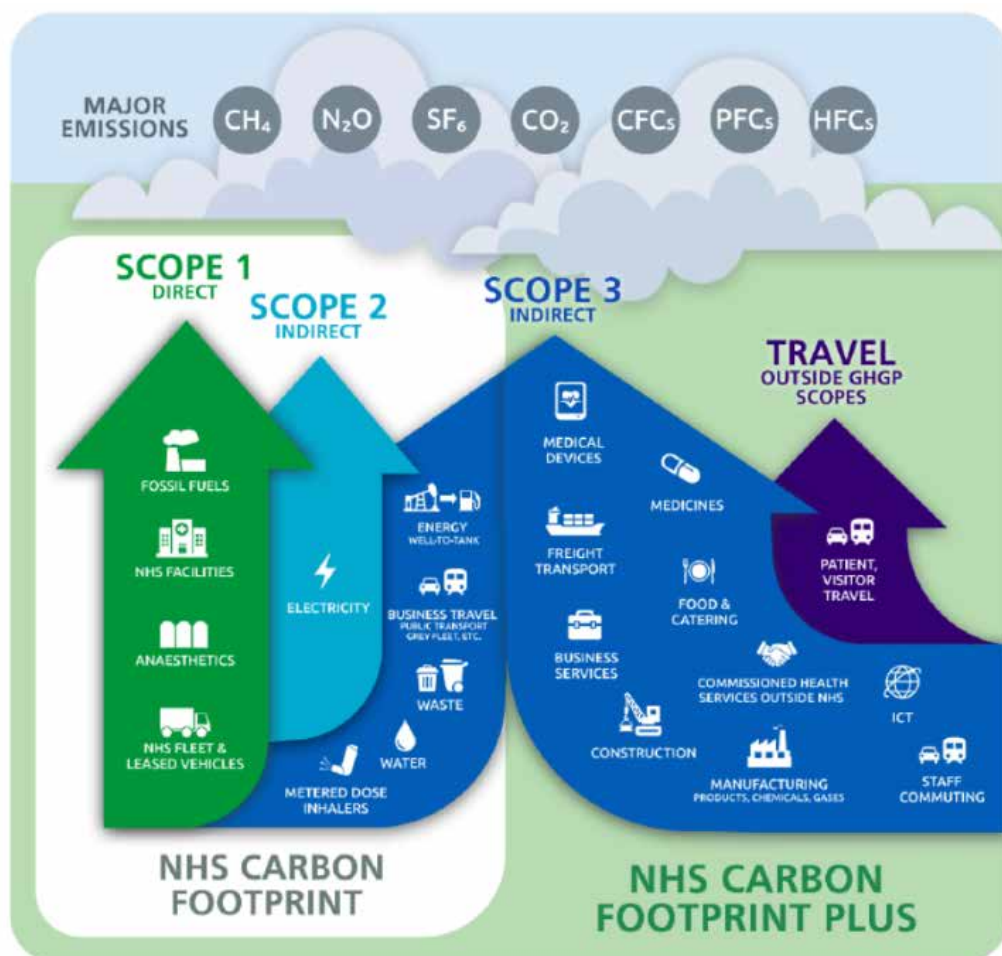


The report reinforces the NHS Long Term Plan in identifying the important role that digital transformation will play in the NHS delivering its net zero ambitions. It also correctly highlights the consideration that must be given to the impact on carbon inventory with this rapid growth in data demand and digital equipment. To put this in to context, 90% of the world's data has been created in the last two years.

It is critical therefore, that the NHS works with ICT partners that are aligned with your net zero ambitions. Globally, CGI has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 with respect to carbon emissions under its direct and indirect control. In the UK, CGI

has brought this target forward, setting science-based targets (SBTs) and committing to achieve net zero for our own operations by 2026.

Equally, it is important that the NHS' procurement of digital solutions increasingly focuses on driving sustainability outcomes. It is essential to challenge providers to demonstrate how their digital solutions will deliver value, quality, risk management, increased patient and visitor experience, whilst also ensuring that the outcomes align with and support your NHS net zero ambitions.



Reference: Greener NHS, Delivering a net zero NHS

Green plans

In June 2021, guidance was produced for every NHS Trust and ICS to develop a Green Plan to replace the Sustainable Development Management Plans (SDMP) from 2020. The plans, with a 3-year horizon, were aimed to strike an appropriate balance between immediate carbon reductions in some areas, alongside the strategic development of capability in other areas. All NHS Trusts were targeted with submitting their Green Plans to their ICS by 14 January 2022, and each ICS was then asked to develop a consolidated, system-wide Green Plan by 31 March 2022.

It is important to recognise that this does not represent the start of the sustainability journey, but is a health check of progress towards net zero. For many years, estates and energy professionals throughout the NHS have driven change and innovation, initially from a perspective of managing budgetary constraints between improving facilities, driving efficiencies and delivering front-line care to patients. These professionals are now being asked to embrace broader carbon and sustainability skills, both at a Trust level,



and within newly established ICS structures that draw in care provision from outside of the NHS, from organisations which may not share the same pathway to net zero.

CGI Advisory Services

How we can support the NHS' net zero ambitions

CGI's Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory team works with clients across the public and private sectors, supporting them on a journey to realise their net zero ambitions. From carbon accounting and net zero roadmaps, to designing behaviour change programmes and introducing the best of CGI IP and partner solutions, we help our clients to deliver sustainable outcomes. We also work with clients to reach into their scope 3 supply chain emissions and understand the carbon footprint of their data and digital.

We are working with NHS Trusts and ICSs across the UK to support their Green Plans and delivery of net zero pathways. By helping them understand the role that digital can play in increasing visibility, driving efficiency, reducing waste and increasing engagement, we can bring their Green Plans and net zero journeys to life.

Our digital solutions



CGI Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory

Helping organisations navigate a path to net zero.



Smart Building IoT Technology

Smart building sensors that measure heat, light and power, but also occupancy and air quality. Open architecture that integrates within existing systems and anticipates failure to enable proactive maintenance.



Smart Building Retrofit Decision Making

Thermal imaging technology and intelligent platform to prioritise retrofit investment



Electronic Medical Records

Improving clinical efficiency and outcomes.



Active Travel - Smart community platforms

Promoting healthy and sustainable travel, with the aim of making walking and cycling the preferred ways of getting around over shorter distances.



Door James - Enabling flexible working

A platform to simplify flexible workspace and resource booking.



e-Prescribing

Replacing time consuming, paper-based, manual prescription and medication administration processes.



CGI SensorInsights360 - Improving citizen wellbeing through IoT

A scalable, real-time data platform that delivers an end-to-end approach to IoT and asset management.

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About CGI

Insights you can act on

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. We are insights-driven and outcomes-based to help accelerate returns on your investments.

Across hundreds of locations worldwide, we provide comprehensive, scalable and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally.

Find out more about our experience in navigating to net zero at [Responsible Business](#)

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