



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The total Trust Carbon Footprint for the year 2018-19 has been calculated as over 190,000 tonnes CO₂e, including carbon attributed to our own building energy use, all travel including patients and visitor travel, and the carbon embodied in the products and services we buy and use during our activities.

The NHS Long Term Plan has also specifically highlighted the use of anaesthetic gases and certain types of inhalers as areas of concern for the carbon footprint of healthcare services.

We have calculated that anaesthetic gases make up around 3% of our total footprint and we will be calculating the impact of inhalers in time for our annual sustainability report this summer.

We are working with key people in the fields of anaesthesia and respiratory medicine to try and co-ordinate the work that is already taking place to reduce

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the impact of these areas of activity.

We are soon going to be able to make a Climate Emergency Project Suggestion Form available to all staff in order for us to collect ideas and suggestions, assess and prioritise, and act on them appropriately.

Following the Climate Emergency engagement workshops that were carried out in Estates we have already received some excellent suggestions of ways we can reduce the carbon attributed to building energy use.

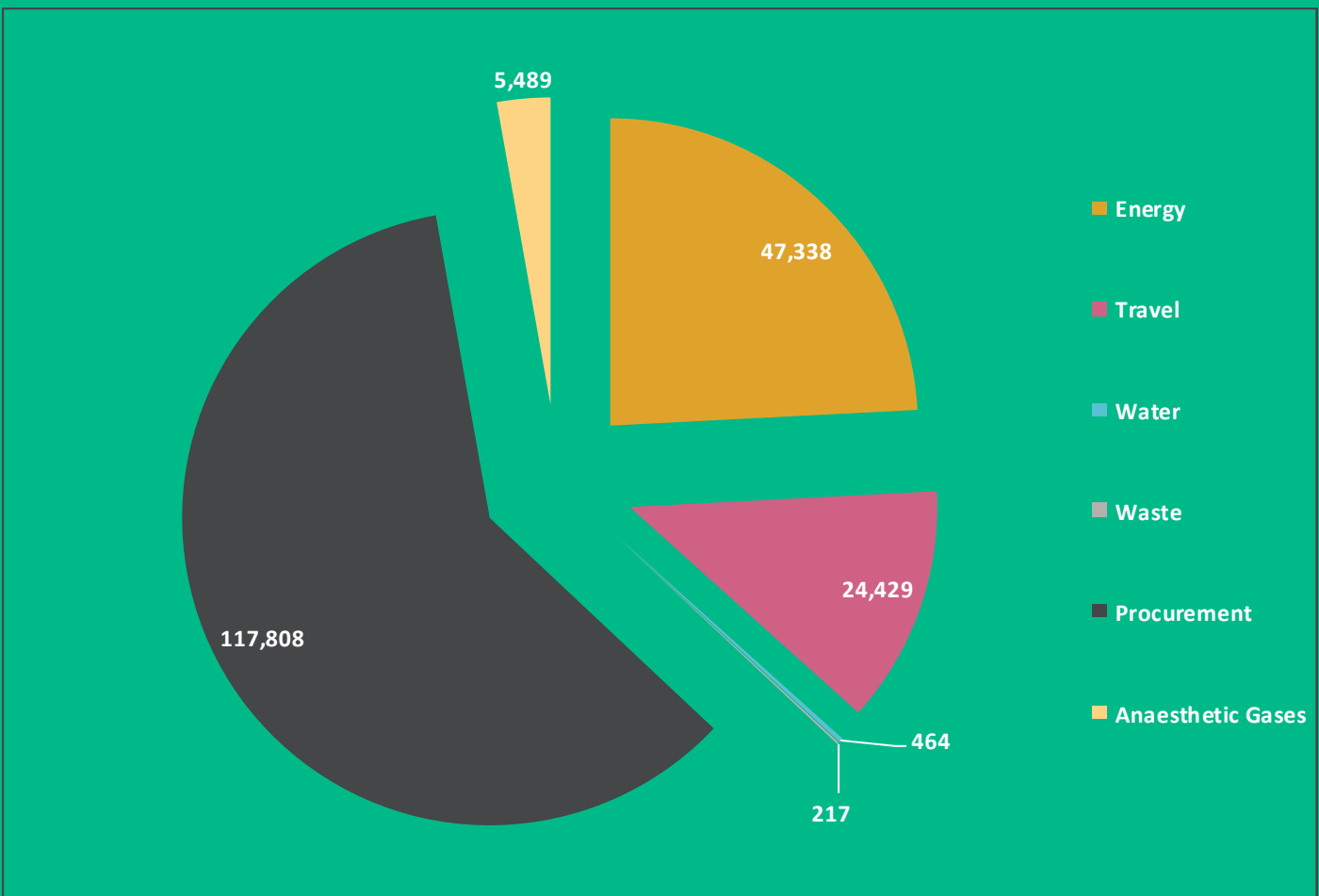
One such suggestion was received from Neil Stenhouse, a Specialist Engineering Supervisor within Estates. His idea has been taken forward and working with Energy Support Officer Tom Wright, a potential saving of 379 tonnes CO₂e per year has been identified.

379 tonnes CO₂e is 0.8% of the total carbon footprint related to building energy consumption, from just one project with no upfront costs or resources needed.

It is also interesting to note that 379 tonnes of CO₂e is more than the annual carbon footprint related to waste disposal, and also business travel by air and rail.



TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS (tonnes CO₂e) 2018-19



ENERGY UPDATE

Reducing carbon emissions from heat and power use within our buildings is a core part of our 2040 Net Zero Carbon target. 2019/20 carbon performance from energy use has been better than previously predicted, with emissions 1,015 tonnes (3%) lower between April and December compared to the same period last year. This has been largely achieved by efficiency improvements to reduce heat use (despite being 15% colder!) plus some benefit from the ongoing decarbonisation of grid electricity.

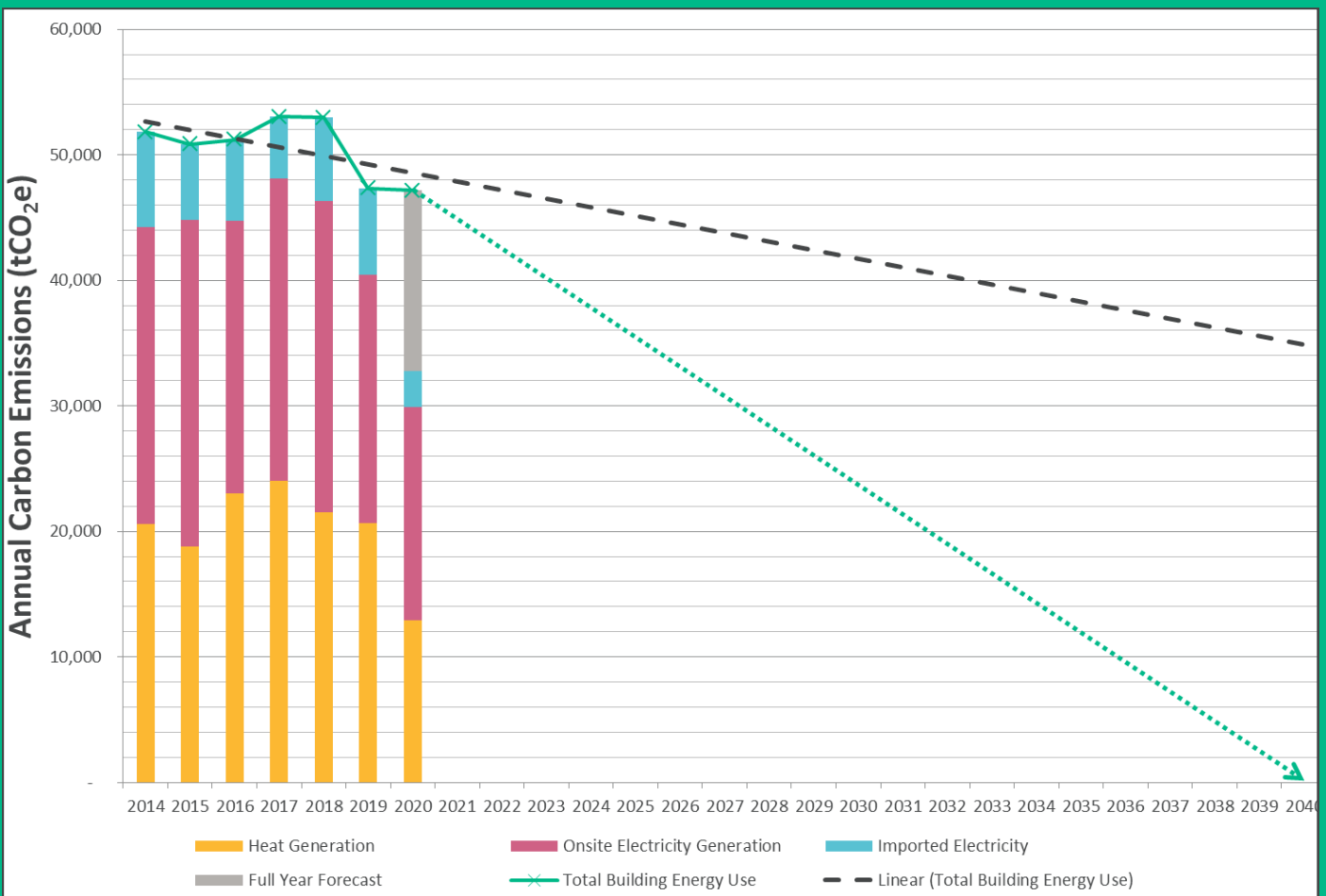
The graph below shows our performance since 2013/14 and the dotted black line shows our current trajectory based on 'business as usual'. Clearly there is lots to do to change our course to become net zero by 2040!

Some of the things we're working on...

- Net Zero engagement workshops with key teams in estates and ongoing working groups to identify and implement energy saving projects
- Strengthening our links with other city partners, (including the council, both universities and the college groups) to model carbon emission pathways, share best practice, keep up to date with innovations, and working together on a joint funding bid to accelerate carbon reduction efforts.
- Ongoing improvements to metering and data availability to shine a light on site energy use.



Carbon Emissions from Energy Use



WASTE UPDATE

Towards the end of last year, the Sustainability Team attended as many Sisters' meetings as possible to highlight a number of common concerns that had been noted during waste audits. The team also committed to provide each ward with a generic induction pack for use with new ward staff and also to act as a refresher for existing staff.

These induction packs have been delivered now along with a fresh suite of posters and waste segregation charts.

When waste audits for 2020 commence the sustainability team will be checking to ensure up to date waste segregation charts and posters are displayed. Additional copies are available on the waste pages of the intranet.

The audit process is changing and wards and departments will be notified in advance and a suitable time to visit will be arranged so a sister or department manager can accompany the team on the audit. Audits will also now be scored and rated against a pass criteria.

During the audit some members of staff will be asked questions in order for the team to ascertain how well waste segregation is understood. The information in the induction pack can be used as refresher training if needed. If you work on a ward and would like to see the pack please ask the Sister.



CAV CLEARANCE

On 25th February Building 12 at CAV was opened up to allow staff to come and reserve items of furniture that had been stored there for re-use within the Trust.

A large number of desks, pedestals, shelving units, filing cabinets and chairs have been redistributed in preparation for the building's demolition.

The remaining items of furniture have not gone to waste, and have been collected by CT Furniture to be re-sold from their site in Byker, benefiting people in the local community.

There will no longer be any storage facility for furniture, so please be aware that any furniture you are replacing will be disposed of and not recycled.

In the Sustainability Team we are aware that this is not the best outcome for usable furniture, and we are working on a solution to allow these types of items to be re-used which will be trialled soon.



Kidzmed Project

Yincent Tse, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, led a quality improvement project to teach children and young people on long term medication how to take their medicine in a tablet rather than a liquid form.

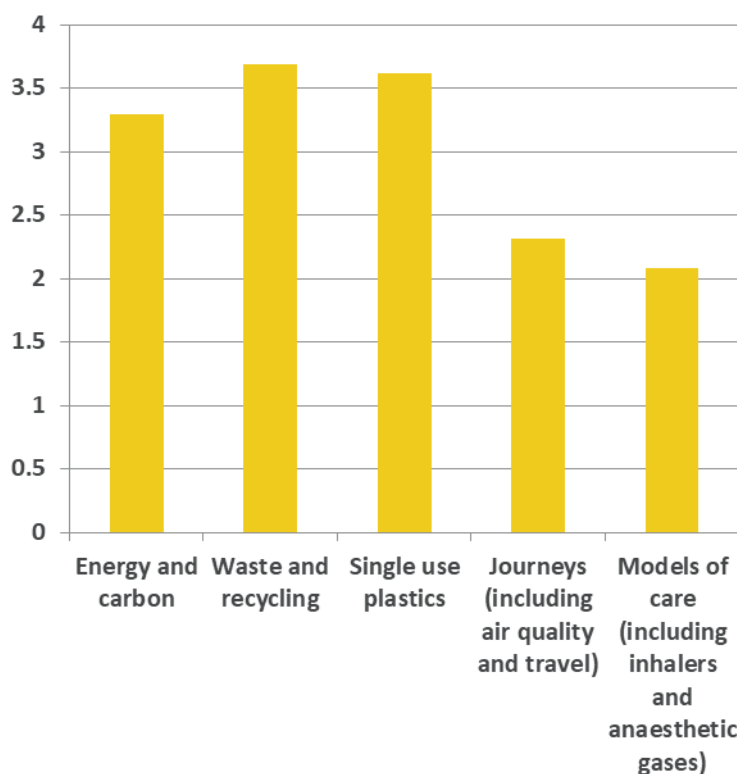
There were a number of reasons behind this project; tablets are safer, more convenient and considerably cheaper than liquid. Families had frustrations with the liquid medicines, they often have short expiry dates, need refrigeration and are difficult to obtain from local pharmacies, can cause dental decay and many are unpalatable. Liquid medications are difficult to dose and can vary in concentration, making dose errors common.

In addition to these, there are a number of sustainability benefits to a tablet rather than a liquid medication. Producing pharmaceuticals make up the greatest proportion of CO2 emission in healthcare systems and liquid medicines add an extra layer of production emissions, the need to transport bottles of much heavier liquids, and have increased waste due to short expiry duration.

This project has been shortlisted for an NHS Sustainability Day Award, and highlights the link between quality improvement and sustainability.



What should Newcastle Hospitals' sustainability priorities be?



STAFF SURVEY

Every year we carry out a survey to ascertain staff views about sustainability at Newcastle Hospitals.

The results are now in and we can let you know that almost 90% of the staff surveyed believe that it is very important for the Trust to work in a sustainable way.

Over 40% said that the Trust should act in a more sustainable way even where this costs a small amount, and almost 25% said even where this costs a significant amount.

This year we also asked staff what they thought the sustainability priorities should be from 2020 onwards.

Waste & recycling and single-use plastics were the most popular choices, followed by energy & carbon.

This is very useful information and will be used to feed in to our future sustainability strategy.

FOOD BANK

Community Oral Nutrition Support Service Dietitian, Siobhan Edwards, has organised a number of donation points for local Food Banks across the Trust which will be available all year round if staff would like to make a donation.

Leazes Wing Reception	Regent Point Reception
New Victoria Wing Reception	Regent Point Canteen
Freeman Main Reception	Freeman Restaurant
Freespirits Nursery Reception	RVI Bistro

Find out more about the collections here <http://nuth-intranet/CMS/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=4132>



AWARDS

Newcastle Hospitals work to declare a Climate Emergency has been shortlisted for an NHS Sustainability Day Award in the category of Public Engagement, and for a BMJ Award in the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Team category.

Our colleagues in anaesthesia have also been shortlisted for a BMJ Award in the same category for the Environmentally Sustainable Anaesthesia and Sustainable Operating Theatres Project.

The winners of the NHS Sustainability Day Awards will be announced on the 19th March, and the winners of the BMJ Awards will be announced on the 22nd April.

Watch this space and we will let you know the outcome for all involved!



PLASTIC TO CANS

Trust outlets (RVI Staff Bistro & Freeman Restaurant) have made the switch from plastic bottles to cans where the product is available. The issue of single use plastics is important to staff and we will continue to work to reduce the amount of plastic that we are disposing of.

Every year 6.6 billion drink cans are sold in the UK and each one can be recycled to make another drink can over and over again—this is called closed-loop recycling.

Collected cans are baled, broken up and shredded in to small pieces. Hot air (about 500°C) is blown through to remove printed decoration, and then the shreds are melted at 750°C.

The molten metal flows in to moulds and is cooled with water, forming an ingot. These are then rolled to the exact thickness required by the can maker.

