



St Barnabas

# Environmental *Strategy*

2025 - 2029



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# Introduction

In the face of the escalating threat of climate change, governments and organisations across the world should recognise their role in mitigating their environmental impact. Climate change poses a serious risk to the planet and the wellbeing of future generations. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and ecosystem disruptions are already evident, underscoring the urgent need for collective action. *(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, United Nations)*

The healthcare sector accounts for approximately 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. If the sector were a country, it would be the fifth largest contributor to climate change in the world and emissions are growing. By 2050, the healthcare sector's global emissions could be more than triple what they were 2014. *(World Health Organisation Foundation)*

The direct impacts of climate change on health are already being seen. Examples include heatwaves causing overheating, dehydration and air pollution causing lung issues and flooding damaging people's homes *(World Health Organisation, UK Health Security Agency)*. These effects are compounded for the most vulnerable in our communities *(European Environmental Agency)*. Without change, the problem will only get worse. It is up to hospices and other healthcare providers to start making a difference. With climate change and detrimental health impacts inextricably linked, the Climate Emergency must also be recognised as a health emergency *(World Health Organisation)*.

St Barnabas Hospice Trust acknowledges the imperative to contribute to the global effort in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing our carbon footprint, thereby lessening our impact on the environment. The Trust accepts the urgent need to address climate change

and is committed to implementing an environmental strategy that aligns with our key objectives.

This strategy aligns with St Barnabas Trust's organisational strategy objective three, "To remain sustainable and resilient for the people we care for", which includes a specific commitment to environmental sustainability.

This environmental strategy is guided by clear objectives aimed at minimising our carbon footprint, reducing waste generation, and adopting sustainable practices throughout our operations. Through this strategy, we will work towards reducing our carbon footprint.

We recognise we cannot achieve our objectives in isolation. Information gathering and working with the NHS, Hospice UK and other organisations will be key to our strategy. We intend to incorporate environmental sustainability into all key corporate decisions.

As part of our vision to provide compassionate and dignified care at the end of life, we recognise our responsibility to care for the Earth as our shared home. By adopting sustainable practices, we support both the lives we care for today and the future we hope to preserve.

Four objectives have been identified:

## 1. Understand and measure our carbon footprint

Why? Reducing our carbon footprint reflects our commitment to compassionate, responsible care by preserving a healthy world for future generations while ensuring a peaceful and safe environment for those in our care today.

## 2. Stakeholder engagement

Why? Involving patients, families, staff, and supporters in sustainability efforts strengthens our culture of compassion, connection, and shared legacy which remains core to our vision of holistic palliative care.

## 3. Education, quality improvement and research

Why? Providing environmental sustainability education and supporting a quality improvement agenda will support our values in action by "being courageous" and "working better together".

## 4. Ensure compliance with legislative reporting and contract expectations

Why? By meeting environmental regulations, we uphold the ethical and professional standards that define our hospice's integrity and commitment to best practice. "Doing it right" is one of our core values.





# Objectives

## Objective

# 1

Understand and measure our carbon footprint and thereafter set key targets to reduce the Trust's carbon footprint, planning towards Carbon Net Zero (NHS target 2045).

This will be achieved by considering where possible:

- Education for key staff on measuring our carbon footprint including scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Annual measurement and review of our carbon footprint
- Reviewing current and new estate projects and energy use
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Sustainable procurement
- Pollution prevention and aim to reduce transport impact
- Reviewing and developing sustainable clinical and non-clinical service models including digital technologies
- Reviewing the financial investment strategy in line with environmental sustainability

## Objective

# 2

Stakeholder engagement. This will be achieved by considering where possible:

- Develop links with local healthcare environmental sustainability leads within Lincolnshire
- Engage with information and activities available nationally e.g., Hospice UK and The PALLSUS network
- Collaborate with other hospices and healthcare providers to share developments and learning
- Engage with our service users and supporters to understand what is important
- Development of a marketing plan to support key sustainability events and initiatives

## Objective

# 3

Education, quality improvement and research

- Support all hospice employees and volunteers to access education about carbon literacy
- Train key staff to be carbon literacy educators
- Develop "sustainability champions" across the organisation
- Develop quality improvement (QI) initiatives across clinical and non-clinical teams and contribute to research where possible

## Objective

# 4

Ensure compliance with legislative reporting and contract expectations

- Monitor changes in legislative reporting
- Train key staff to be carbon literacy educators
- Review contracts to ensure environmental sustainability expectations are clear and adhered to

The development of the Trust's Environmental Sustainability Group in 2024 will support the development of targets, outcome measures and initiatives to deliver this strategy.





# Delivery Plan

## Objective

# 1

The Trust will measure its carbon footprint and implement measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the organisation's impact on climate change.

### Reviewing current and new estate projects and energy use

This will include reducing energy consumption by implementing energy-efficient technologies, optimising heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and promoting renewable energy sources.

#### Measurable Targets:

- Decrease overall energy consumption by 15% within three years through the implementation of energy-efficient technologies and operational improvements
- Transition 30% of our total energy consumption to renewable energy sources within five years through partnerships with renewable energy providers
- Ensure environmental sustainability is a key factor in any new build project, aiming for net zero or net negative outcomes.

### Waste reduction and recycling

The Trust will minimise waste generation and adopt recycling practices to reduce the environmental impact and promote sustainability. This will be achieved through the implementation of a waste management plan that emphasises waste reduction at the source. The plan will promote the use of reusable cups and bottles, reducing the use of single-use plastics and non-recyclable materials, and encouraging staff, patients, and visitors to adopt sustainable practices. The Trust will



ensure recycling stations throughout its facilities, ensuring the availability of well-labelled recycling bins for paper, plastics, and other recyclable materials.

Measurable Targets:

- Develop processes to measure waste generation and thereafter set annual targets to reduce
- Measure clinical and non clinical recycling rates
- Review recycling facilities throughout Trust buildings and improve access if needed.

### **Sustainable procurement**

By adopting responsible procurement practices, the Trust can ensure that the products and services it acquires align with its commitment to environmental sustainability. The Trust will prioritise suppliers with strong environmental records, promoting the use of environmentally friendly materials and products with lower carbon footprints. This approach not only minimises our overall environmental impact but also helps us support businesses that align with our values of sustainability and conservation. By engaging with environmentally conscious suppliers, we foster a marketplace that encourages the development and distribution of eco-friendly products and services.

Measurable Targets:

- Implement a sustainable procurement process for suppliers
- Increase procurement of office supplies and consumables from suppliers with recognised environmental certifications within five years.

### **Pollution prevention and aim to reduce transport impact**

The Trust is committed to minimising our impact on the environment and protecting the health and well-being of our patients, staff, and the surrounding community. By implementing pollution prevention measures, we aim to prevent or minimise the release of harmful substances and pollutants into the environment. We will work to minimise emissions from transportation by encouraging the use of public transport, carpooling, or adopting low-emission vehicles.

Measurable Targets:

- Develop a greater understanding and measure our Scope 3 emissions to set targets for reduction
- Review the business impact of a move to low-emission vehicles within five years
- Review the expenses policy to understand environmental impact of base and home contracts

- Where reasonably practical, reduce the use of hazardous materials and substances through substitution of eco-friendly alternatives.

### **Reviewing and developing sustainable clinical and non-clinical service models including digital technologies**

As service models are reviewed and renewed, environmental sustainability will be a key factor to consider.

Measurable Target:

- Include environmental sustainability in Trust business plans and service model redesign.

### **Considering the financial investment strategy in line with environmental sustainability**

The Trust is committed to considering environmental sustainability in all aspects of its core services and decisions. Financial investments will be reviewed with our investment manager to consider if and how changes may be made, and thereafter to risk assess the impact on the Trust.

Measurable Target:

- Annual review with our investment manager of the current environmental impact of our financial investments.

## Objective

## 2

Stakeholder engagement forms a fundamental pillar of our environmental strategy, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and collective action. We recognise that meaningful and inclusive engagement with our employees, volunteers, patients, families, and the broader community is essential to driving positive environmental change. Through open channels of communication, we aim to actively involve stakeholders in shaping and implementing our sustainability initiatives.

## Measurable Targets:

- Conduct quarterly environmental awareness features
- Establish a stakeholder feedback mechanism to gather suggestions and ideas for environmental improvements
- Develop a marketing plan that is reviewed annually.

## Objective

## 3

Education, quality improvement (QI) and research are critical components of advancing environmental sustainability in hospice care, because they directly shape behaviour, systems, and culture in ways that support both ecological responsibility and compassionate care. Raising awareness and understanding will empower informed decision making and help turn value into measurable actions.

## Measurable Targets:

- Ensure carbon literacy education is available to all staff and volunteers
- Develop in-house experts that can support training
- Each year increase the number of staff that have completed basic carbon literacy training
- Evidence local QI projects across our services that have a sustainability impact.

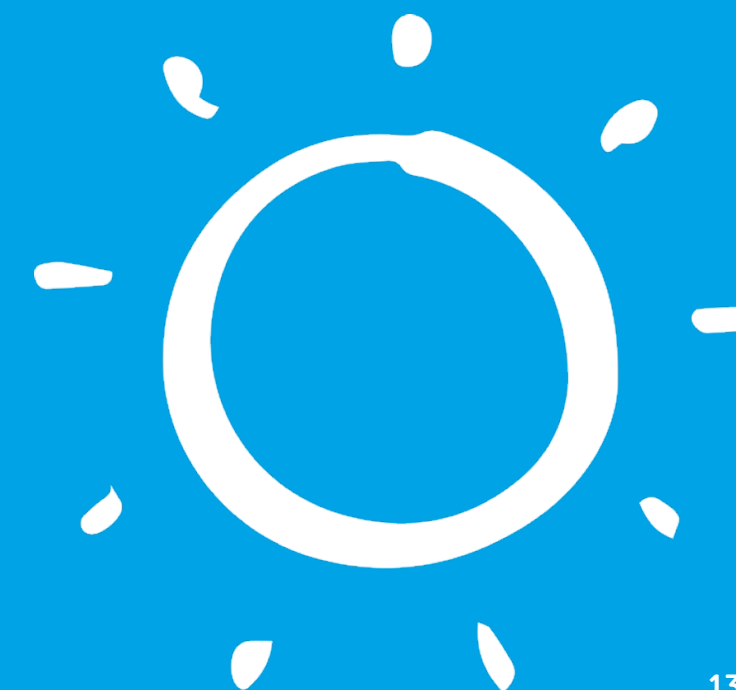
## Objective

## 4

Ensuring compliance with legislative reporting and contract expectations is critically important for hospices - not just to meet legal obligations, but also to protect their mission, reputation, and sustainability.

## Measurable Targets:

- By 2027, publish a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP): This plan should detail UK Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a subset of Scope 3 emissions, as per PPN 06/21 guidelines
- Attain Board-Level Approval of the CRP
- The CRP should be clearly signposted and published on our organisation's website
- The CRP should be updated at least annually to reflect progress and any changes in our emissions profile.





## Conclusion

This environmental strategy, with its key strategic objectives and corresponding measurable targets, marks a significant step towards our commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship. By prioritising the reduction of our carbon footprint, implementing waste reduction, and recycling initiatives, adopting sustainable procurement policies, preventing pollution, and engaging stakeholders through education and awareness, we actively contribute to global efforts to combat climate change and preserve our planet for future generations. Through diligent implementation of these objectives and continuous improvement, we can ensure that our hospice operates in an environmentally responsible manner, creating a greener and more sustainable future for all those we serve and the world we share.





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