

For a Greener NHS

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A large blue rectangular area containing the NHS logo. The logo is the letters 'NHS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box.



“While the NHS is already a world leader in sustainability, as the biggest employer in this country and comprising nearly a tenth of the UK economy, we’re both part of the problem and part of the solution.

“That’s why we are mobilising our 1.3 million staff to take action for a greener NHS, and it’s why we’ll be working with the world’s leading experts to help set a practical, evidence-based and ambitious route map and date for the NHS to reach net zero.”

Sir Simon Stevens, NHS Chief Executive.

- Climate change poses a major threat to our health as well as our planet
- The environment is changing, that change is accelerating, and this has direct and immediate consequences for our patients, the public and the NHS
- By tackling it we reduce causes of ill health – air pollution, heatwaves, extreme weather
- The NHS in England is responsible for an estimated 4-5% of the country's carbon footprint
- With 1.3 million staff we have a huge opportunity to make a difference
- We want to build on the great work being done across the country, sharing ideas on how to reduce the impact on public health and the environment, save money and – eventually – go net zero

The 'For a Greener NHS' programme launched in January 2020, setting out action to reduce the environmental impact of the NHS across three strands:

1. Developing the NHS net zero plan



Expert panel and reports

2. 'For a Greener NHS' staff campaign

Call for evidence, actions

3. Immediate action in 2020

Policies, priority areas

www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs



Improve Air Quality



Reduce carbon, waste and water



Reduce single use plastics

Targets

- Cut business mileage and fleet air pollutant emissions by 20% by 2023/24
- Ensure that at least 90% of the NHS fleet will use low-emissions engines (including 25% Ultra Low Emissions) by 2028

- Ensure trusts adhere to best practice efficiency standards and adopt new innovations
- Improve energy efficiency by implementing LED lighting and smart energy management
- Fully phase out coal and oil as a primary heating source in all NHS sites
- Reduce the carbon impact of inhalers
- Transform anaesthetic practices – most notably desflurane (in surgery) and nitrous oxide (in maternity, theatres and emergency medicine and ambulances)

- The plastics pledge aims by April 2021 to reduce the use of:
 - Plastic stirrers
 - Straws
 - Single-use plastic cutlery, plates or single-use cups made of expanded polystyrene or oxo-degradable plastics
 - Plastic food containers and other plastic cups for beverages – including covers and lids
- Next steps will include clinical plastics (e.g. Gloves Off Campaign with GOSH and RCN)

Enablers

- National procurement and supply chain
 - Innovation & Technology
 - Communications & Engagement
- Support data and analytics

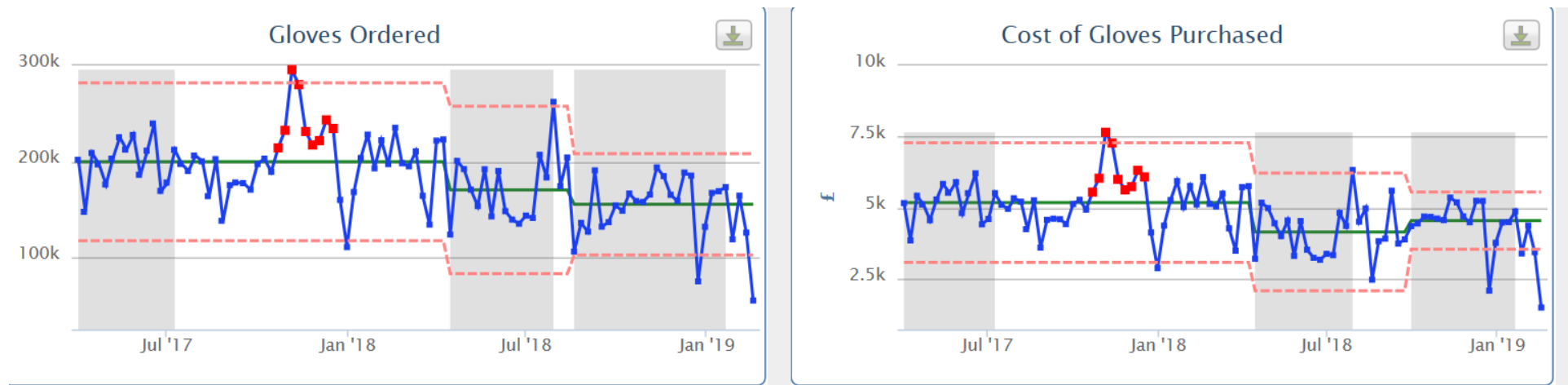
Catering plastics case study: Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals and staff and patient catering



- **Replaced a number of disposable items with reusable alternatives in patient catering**
 - Reusable plates, bowls and cutlery for breakfast time (washed by the ward)
 - Plastic straws only ordered if there was a clinical need
 - Letter sent to all wards explaining the changes and reasons for reducing plastic
 - Reusable melamine bowls with reusable lids soups and desserts on patient trays
- **Removed:**
 - 513,600 disposable bowls and 490,800 lids
 - 312,000 polystyrene bowls
 - 371,000 plastic spoons
 - 216,000 plastic knives
- **Initial outlay for reusable cutlery, bowls, lids and side plates for patient catering was £12k**
- **Savings will be £80k annually (2 month ROI)**

Other case studies are available on the SDU website

Clinical plastics case study: Great Ormond Street Hospital and single-use non-sterile gloves



A reduction of approximately 4.3 million gloves from one year to the next.



A single cataracts operation generates ~2kg of waste (of which 1.3kg is plastic)

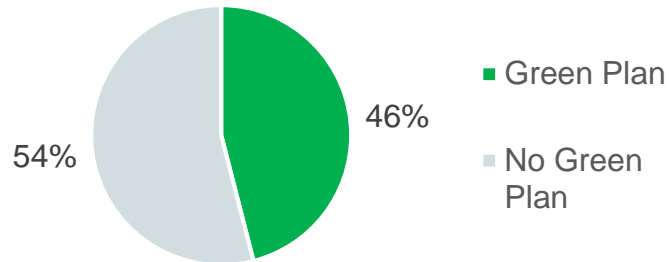


With thanks to Dr Caspar Gibbon & team at North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust

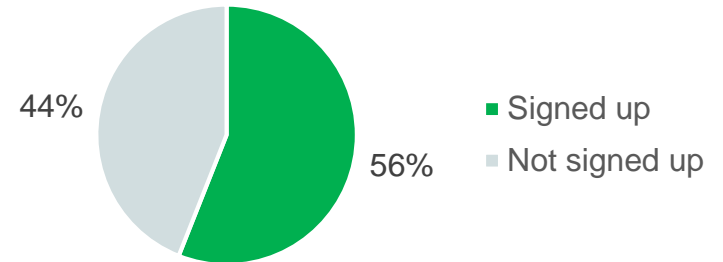
The London picture



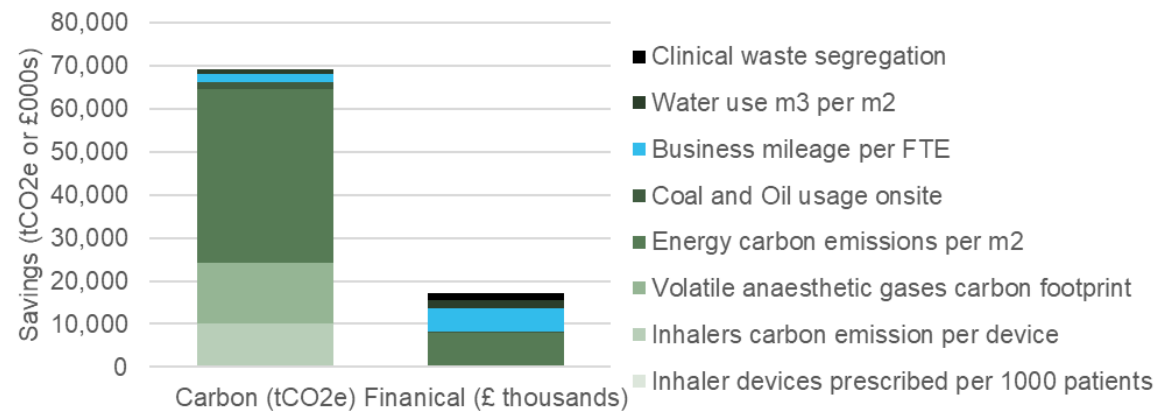
31 out of 68 CCGs and Providers have a Green Plan*



20 out of 36 trusts are signed up to the Plastics Pledge**



Policy area	Possible CO2e savings	Possible financial savings	Largest opportunities
Air quality	2,100 tonnes	£5,274,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing business mileage
Carbon, waste and water	67,000 tonnes	£11,836,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing energy usage Inhalers and anaesthetic gases



“...tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.”

“Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health” Watts et al, 2015, The Lancet