



**Swansea Bay University Health Board
Carbon Reduction Strategy**

2016

Introduction

This strategy sets out Swansea Bay University Health Board's long-term vision (Vision 2025) and response to addressing climate change, to promote healthy low-carbon lifestyles and creating a shared vision on future developments that will affect the health of our local communities. This is a commitment we must all make together.

Sustainability and the NHS

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of today without compromising the needs of tomorrow. In healthcare, this means working within the available environmental and social resources to protect and improve health now and for future generations. In practice this requires us to reduce our carbon footprint, minimise waste and pollution, make the best use of scarce resources and build resilience to a changing climate whilst nurturing community strengths and assets.

There is sound evidence that taking action to become more sustainable can achieve cost reductions and immediate health gains. More importantly, it ensures the development of a health system that is sustainable in the long term – reducing inappropriate demand, reducing waste, and promoting more effective use of services and products. The key drivers for this strategy are as follows:

Reducing carbon dioxide emissions is the law in the UK.

The Climate Change Act 2008 sets legally binding targets for the UK to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 and all public sector organisations in the UK have a responsibility to put in place plans to meet this target. Swansea Bay University Health Board is one of the largest public sector employers in this area and consequently has the potential to make a significant contribution to tackling climate change in the UK. Other legislation driving sustainability in Wales includes; Environmental (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

There is a strong business case for taking action to become more sustainable.

The business of caring for patients results in a host of environmental impacts that are becoming increasingly expensive to manage: fossil fuels are finite and costly to produce, landfill is subject to a tax escalator and CO₂ itself is currently subject to taxation in the UK. By reducing energy and water consumption, reducing waste and recycling more and finding alternatives to motorised travel, the Health Board can realise significant financial savings, which can be realigned to health care services.

The NHS must help to mitigate the negative impact of climate change on health.

According to leading general medical publication The Lancet, climate change is the “biggest global threat of the 21st Century”. Climate Change is already impacting on lives and human health through extreme periods of heat and cold, storms and deteriorating air quality. The World Health Organisation has estimated that 150,000 deaths are caused annually as a result of climate change. Action is needed to avoid both water shortages and flooding as the climate changes. As one of the World’s largest organisations the NHS has a national duty to act and to set an important example in its efforts towards reducing its negative impact.

The NHS must set an example as a leading public sector organisation.

The NHS has a duty to set an example in sustainable development and carbon reduction. To achieve this, all Health Board’s must operate both economically and ethically. It needs to deliver safe and cost effective healthcare whilst recognising the negative impact that it has on the environment. As an employer, service provider and procurer of goods and services, the Health Board can use its position and buying power to influence the public, partners and suppliers to adopt similar attitudes towards sustainability.

Swansea Bay University Health Board’s environmental impacts.

We use energy to heat and power our buildings, we travel great distances to deliver our services and we produce waste, which needs to be disposed of. All of these result in various environmental impacts and financial costs.

There are various methods of calculating the impact we have on the environment. Primarily we measure and manage our energy in kWh, water in cubic metres and waste in tonnes and of course by costs. Some of this data is also available as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), i.e. the amount of greenhouse gases produced, however effective measuring methods are not available for water or Health Board vehicles. Ideally we would like to measure all environmental impacts by the amount of greenhouse gases produced and expressed as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), this would enable us to display carbon footprint information.

Grey mileage refers to staff using their own vehicles for Health Board business, which is another area not currently measured and at present no targets have been set to reduce this significant impact on the environment

At Swansea Bay University Health Board we measure the volume of domestic and healthcare waste generated and have targets set to reduce these and to meet the Welsh Government’s objectives of achieving zero domestic waste to landfill by 2015, which Swansea Bay University Health Board has achieved.

Highlights of what we have already achieved.

Since 2010 we have:

- Diverted 100% of our domestic waste from landfill. Recovered 98% of clinical (orange bag) waste for use as fuel to generate electricity and recycled more than 1500 tonnes of cardboard. Making significant progress towards the Welsh Government Towards Zero Waste targets.
- Cut vehicle emissions by introducing cleaner commercial vehicles and promoting the capping of engine emissions through the lease car scheme, however quantitative data is not available to determine actual emissions reductions.
- Improved our energy efficiency, with better measuring and recording of energy data, including water leak detection monitoring. Introduced energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, including Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels and Combined Heat Power (CHP) units.
- Achieved the BREEAM Excellence Standard for all new developments and refurbishments, complying with the latest environmental building standards.

We are proud of what we have achieved so far, however, there is more to do.

Future plans include:

- Create a comprehensive Business Travel Plan aimed at reducing single car occupancy and promoting more sustainable and healthy travel modes. Introduction of electric vehicles into the fleet.
- Develop a team of enthusiastic Green Champions to help deliver sustainability and carbon reduction through staff engagement, with recognition at the Chairman's award for the most telling contribution.
- Initiate collaborative projects with our major suppliers to reduce the environmental impacts of our supply chain.
- Continue to reduce our impact on the environment by introducing further initiatives, including; anaerobic digestion facilities, LED lighting, additional Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels, and electric vehicle charging points.

Validating our achievements

ISO 14001

In 2012 all Swansea Bay University Health Board's hospitals were accredited with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management certificate. This demonstrates a commitment to managing environmental impacts resulting from our daily operational activities.

WHERE WE ARE GOING - VISION 2025 – (CARE WITHOUT CARBON)

The first stage of our sustainability journey has delivered positive results. We set out to demonstrate how investing in and taking action to become a more sustainable organisation can bring about tangible and measurable improvements in environmental performance as well as create financial and reputational co-benefits.

The challenge now is to set out a strategic longer-term vision for sustainability within Swansea Bay University Health Board and define the actions that we will take over the coming years to implement it. This will be our carbon reduction (Care without Carbon) strategy.

Care without carbon will assist in delivering a sustainable Health Board, a vision to delivering care with reduced environmental impacts, in particular greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing care quality, improving resource efficiency and maximising productivity, by mainstreaming sustainability into the Values of the organisation. Whilst we have been working towards this goal for some time, this discreet initiative must now be interwoven into the wider strategic and operational fabric of the Health Board and the way in which it delivers its services.

To achieve this, sustainability principles (Care without Carbon) needs to be fully aligned with the Health Board's values and strategies.

Swansea Bay University Health Board's top priority is to deliver the best quality of care within the resources available. A challenge that will continue to increase as cost pressures escalate and resources diminish. It is therefore important to consider the environmental and social impacts of how our services are delivered.

Embedding Sustainability

To ensure sustainability is embedded into Swansea Bay University Health Board's values, any strategies should directly support sustainable development by considering energy efficiency, waste reduction and support a move away from car travel to more sustainable and healthy transport alternatives. The Health Board should also consider these sustainability issues within its business cases and when developing its services.

VISION 2025 – CARE WITHOUT CARBON

To achieve our vision, we have identified 6 areas where we need to take action.

VISION 2025 – Step 1 - Buildings without Carbon

We aim to decarbonise our facilities in line with national targets; the Welsh Government will set interim emission targets for 2020, 2030 and 2040 which will be introduced by the end of 2018. These interim targets will assist in evaluating the progress made towards meeting the long-term 2050 target of 80% CO₂ reduction (baseline year 1990) with the ultimate aim of creating a carbon neutral healthcare estate for our staff and patients.

We will raise awareness of climate change and communicate progress with our own CO₂ reduction efforts to our Executive team, our staff and our patients.

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Drive further energy efficiency and CO₂ reductions through our Estates Strategy, setting challenging energy efficiency targets for all premises and achieving BREEAM Excellent standard for any new builds and refurbishments.
- ✿ Maintain comprehensive carbon measurement and reporting systems and publish the results on our intranet page.
- ✿ Require building contractors to propose cost-effective, low carbon solutions when undertaking projects and monitor the benefits.
- ✿ Research new and innovative ways to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from our estate and explore offsetting opportunities to achieve net zero CO₂ emissions.
- ✿ Continue to monitor water consumption to identify any possible leaks.
- ✿ Continue with our commitment to the environment and maintain our ISO 14001 environmental management certification at all hospitals.
- ✿ Ensure that any electricity we purchase from the National Grid is generated from 100% renewable energy sources.
- ✿ Embrace the natural biodiversity of green spaces across our estate to support health and well-being, by not using pesticides, eradicating Japanese Knotweed and introducing pollinator friendly plants.
- ✿ Reduce to the lowest level practicable the number of hazardous substances used by the Health Board.

VISION 2025 – Step 2 – Journey’s Without Carbon

CO₂ reduction from all travel and transport.

We will decarbonise our travel and transport operations and minimise the environmental and health impacts associated with the movement of staff and materials

We will contribute to staff and well-being by supporting a shift away from car dependency to more sustainable travel options that deliver additional environmental and health benefits.

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Deliver our business Travel Plan and continue to develop the support services offered by expanding our hybrid pool car fleet and purchasing low emission vehicles, improving travel and access information for staff, patients and visitors via our intranet and internet.
- ✿ Adapt our commercial fleet through the adoption of cleaner, lower emission technologies and electric vehicles and restrict the cap on emissions from our lease car fleet.
- ✿ Collaborate with our clinical services to ensure that all travel options and impacts are taken into consideration when planning new services and premises.

- ✿ Monitor all business mileage via the electronic business travel claim system and improve data and reporting of CO₂ from business travel.
- ✿ Operate an annual staff travel survey to improve engagement with staff and capture data on staff commuting.
- ✿ Strengthen our strategic relationship with local government partners to support implementation of our Business travel Plan, reducing traffic impacts and promoting the use of public transport and active travel.

VISION 2025 - Step 3 – Waste Without Carbon

Reduction Waste CO₂ emissions

We will reduce waste through our operational activities in line with the Welsh Government targets to recycle or recover 70% of waste by 2025 (baseline year 2007).

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Implement the Waste Hierarchy with the ambition of achieving zero waste to landfill across all our activities through recycling and turning residual waste into a resource opportunity wherever possible.
- ✿ Maintain comprehensive carbon measurement and reporting systems and publish the results on our intranet page.
- ✿ Drive further recycling and recovery of waste providing greater access to recycling facilities for staff and where possible capturing a clean product with resale value within a resource efficient circular economy.
- ✿ Develop food waste treatments, away from the current methods of disposal to sewer.

VISION 2025 – Step 4 – Procurement Without Carbon

Reduction in Scope 3 (Supply chain) CO₂ emissions

We will eliminate waste from our supply chain through the implementation of our procurement policies and tendering processes and through proactive collaboration with our major supply chain partners.

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Communicate wider our Sustainable Procurement Policy, ensuring that sustainability and social responsibility considerations are introduced as part of all procurement activities.
- ✿ Incorporate rigorous and measurable sustainability criteria into tendering processes and contracts, actively research sustainable goods and services.

- ✿ Motivate existing and potential suppliers to offer market leading products and services that achieve sustainability based on functional performance, innovation and best practice
- ✿ Develop a programme for managing suppliers and contracts using clear sustainability performance criteria and metrics and outcome-based evidence on sustainability initiatives, guided by the EU Consolidated Procurement Directive.
- ✿ Develop a procurement stock review programme to reduce waste generated by our services.
- ✿ Communicate effectively with the Department of Health, Sustainable Development Unit and other NHS organisations to share best practice and benchmark our performance and publicly report on our progress each year.
- ✿ Promote our sustainable procurement policy to all potential suppliers and train staff to ensure that anyone procuring for our Health Board understands what is required to procure in a sustainable way.

VISION 2025 – Step 5 – A Culture Without Carbon

100% of Health Board staff to receive carbon reduction and climate change training as appropriate to their role

We will inform, empower and motivate our workforce to take action to deliver high quality care today that does not compromise our ability to deliver care in the future and ensure this becomes part of the Health Board Values.

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Include sustainable development objectives into our staff induction, development and appraisal processes and encourages all staff to consider how to include sustainability as part of everyday activities.
- ✿ Operate an annual recognition programme (Chairman’s award) to recognise and reward those that encourage consideration of environmental impacts in day-to-day activities.
- ✿ Hold annual environmental awareness campaign in line with World Environment Day aimed at raising awareness, promoting sustainability and communicating core environmental messages.
- ✿ Conduct all environmental staff training in a low-carbon manner, utilising approaches that minimise travel and printing.

VISION 2025 – Step 6 – A Future Without Carbon

A commitment to a future without carbon.

We recognise the vital role our staff can play in helping us deliver this strategy as well as the power of partnership to accelerate progress and achieve success. We therefore invite all staff, patients and other individuals to engage with us and help us deliver our strategy.

We will be promoting our efforts on our intranet page with information on how you can get involved by becoming a Green champion and also to make an environmental pledge.

To achieve this we will:

- ✿ Track progress with the programme and its achievements
- ✿ Read the latest sustainability news
- ✿ Learn how to adopt more sustainable lifestyles outside of the workplace and the range of benefits this can bring.
- ✿ Find tips, advice and follow links to other information and support websites
- ✿ Access resources to use in the workplace to promote low carbon care and lifestyles
- ✿ Sign up to become a Green champion
- ✿ Network with other staff or visitors to share ideas and experiences