



Independent Healthcare  
Providers Network

# Clearing the air

How the independent healthcare sector  
is working to achieve “net zero” by 2035



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# Foreword

If the coronavirus pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we are very much living in "one world". Just as it proved impossible to escape from covid19 in a globalised world, we also cannot ignore what is undoubtedly the most profound long-term threat to the health of the planet – climate change.

Indeed, while we have known for some time the devastating effects of climate change on our natural environment, there is growing evidence of its impact on our health.

Healthcare providers take their responsibilities seriously on this issue – playing a role in both treating the problems caused by pollution and climate change, as well as tackling its root causes. And as a sector which employs over 160,000 people across over 1,500 locations and delivers care for millions of people every year, independent providers can make a real difference in the nation's efforts to tackle climate change.

November 2022 marks an important milestone in the independent healthcare sector's efforts to become net zero. It has been one year since the sector agreed a voluntary sector wide ambition to become net zero by 2035. This bold target reflects the sector's desire to move as fast as possible in recognition that small changes today can make huge differences over the long term.

Recognising the diversity of the independent healthcare sector – from large international corporations, to smaller independent local charities - we understand that providers will be at varying stages of their net zero journey. And in the past year, IHPN have brought members together to share best practice around net zero strategies - whether that be support and advice over baselining and measuring current carbon footprint, all the way to carbon reduction strategies that really work. We are also hugely thankful to Deloitte who have supported us in the past year, providing much needed subject matter expertise, and we are delighted that this continues during 2022.

We know how important this commitment is – to providers, to staff that work in the independent sector, to suppliers and of course to the patients that are treated by the sector every day. And with this commitment, the sector is proud to support the NHS in achieving its own ambitions in terms of its supply chain.

This report acts as a marker in the ground – reflecting the work achieved in the past year but also signalling that so much work still lies ahead. As the trade association that represents independent healthcare providers, we will continue to support our members to deliver both their own organisational net zero ambitions and our broader sector wide commitment.

We can only successfully respond to the global climate change threat when everyone achieves net zero. By working together and sharing best practice – we stand the best chance of succeeding.

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**David Hare**

Chief Executive, Independent Healthcare Providers Network



# Background

Climate change is not only a threat to our natural environment but is also a health emergency. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change and recently highlighted the threats again - extreme, damaging weather events, from flooding to heatwaves, are becoming increasingly frequent and intense.

## Linked to this is growing evidence of the health impacts of climate change and air pollution:



**Air pollution** is linked to conditions like heart disease, stroke and lung cancer, and academics have linked high pollution days with hundreds of extra out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and hospital admissions for stroke and asthma.

Almost **900 people were killed** by last summer's heatwaves while nearly 18 million patients go to a GP practice in an area that exceeds the World Health Organisation's air pollution limit.

900  
people



The **changing climate** is leading to more frequent heatwaves and extreme weather events such as flooding, including the potential spread of infectious diseases to the UK.

Scientists believe perhaps **a third of new asthma cases** might be avoided by cutting emissions, while Lyme Disease and encephalitis are among conditions expected to become more common as temperatures rise.

1/3  
new cases

In June 2019, the UK committed to a target that to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. In October 2021, the government's Net Zero Strategy set out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the net zero target by 2050. The Cabinet Office has issued PPN 06/21 which introduces a new selection criteria for major government contracts (contract value over £5m pa) to support the Government's commitment to net zero by 2050.

In October 2020, the NHS adopted a multiyear plan to become the world's first carbon net zero national health system. Based on the findings of the report, updated in July 2022, the NHS has formally adopted two targets:

- for the NHS Carbon Footprint (emissions under NHS direct control), net zero by 2040, with an ambition for an interim 80% reduction by 2028-2032, and;
- for the NHS Carbon Footprint Plus, (which includes their wider supply chain), net zero by 2045, with an ambition for an interim 80% reduction by 2036-2039. As part of their roadmap, the NHS is looking for suppliers to set robust targets aligned with NHS ambition for Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP) scope 1 and 2 by 2022 and scope 3 by 2024<sup>1</sup>.

The NHS is currently responsible for around 4% of the nation's carbon emissions. The report outlines their planned early steps that will be taken to decarbonise which include:

- new ways of delivering care at or closer to home, meaning fewer patient journeys to hospitals;
- greening the NHS fleet, including working towards road-testing a zero-emissions emergency ambulance by 2022;
- reducing waste of consumable products and switching to low-carbon alternatives where possible;
- making sure new hospitals and buildings are built to be net-zero emissions, and;
- building energy conservation into staff training and education programmes.



Given the need for all parts of UK industry to demonstrate their work towards net zero, IHPN began to develop a programme of work to not only capture the good work that independent healthcare providers were doing in carbon reduction, but also to support members in the delivery of their organisational net zero targets.

<sup>1</sup> GHGP scope 1: Direct emissions from owned or directly controlled sources, on site; GHGP scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, mostly electricity; GHGP scope 3: All other indirect emissions that occur in producing and transporting goods and services, including the full supply chain.

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# The road to net zero: what we did

While our members were already pursuing their own activities to reduce carbon footprint, in representing a sector which employs over 160,000 people across over 1,500 locations and delivers care for millions of people every year, IHPN wanted to develop a sector wide view of key net zero principles and ambitions, and produce a statement which outlined the independent healthcare sector's position.

During early 2021, IHPN therefore formed a working group of representatives from member organisations, which reflected the breadth of the membership in terms of size and provision type. The purpose of the group is to bring together the industry's efforts, provide subject matter expertise and enable providers to support and share learning with each other.

In addition, IHPN are part of the NHS England Sustainability Supplier Forum, where they are working with trade associations and other groups that represent suppliers, to support suppliers in achieving net zero by 2045. In support of this, the Greener NHS team facilitated a session with members on measuring and benchmarking carbon metrics.

IHPN have partnered with Deloitte to deliver a work programme that has included the following:

- the impact of climate change on business, and the external landscape
- exploration of practical guidance on decarbonisation, committing to and delivering net zero goals
- practical steps to explore industry commitments, actions, dates, and possible communications ahead of COP26
- understanding the broader Environment, Sustainability and Governance (ESG) agenda and best practice on decarbonisation in transport

"Deloitte have enjoyed supporting IHPN and its members to work towards net zero through our programme of work. We are particularly pleased that this resulted in the voluntary net zero commitment which was ambitious yet achievable for the whole range of independent healthcare providers – whatever their size and whatever services they deliver.

"It is important to take stock not only to appreciate what has been achieved but also the work that lies ahead. The case studies in this report highlight the good work that IHPN members are already doing in their own road to net zero. The work programme also shows the value of coming together as a sector to share subject matter expertise, best practice and resolve difficult problems together. We are looking forward to building on the good work so far and continuing sharing our expertise with IHPN members during the next year."

**Giles Dean**, Senior Manager, Deloitte LLP

As a sector, we wanted to be ambitious and support members to robustly move towards net zero. During 2021, IHPN worked with members in support of a voluntary industry wide net zero commitment. It was important that the commitment was as ambitious as possible but also reflected that individual organisations may be at varying stages of their own organisational net zero journey.

Ahead of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021, IHPN launched its commitment on behalf of its members - net zero for scope 1 and 2 by 2035, and net zero for scope 3 by 2045.

Almost 50 independent healthcare providers have felt able to sign up to this commitment with some going even further and committing to net zero for scope 1 and 2 by 2030. IHPN continues to support those members along their journey to net zero so that every member can feel able to sign up to the commitment.

**It's fantastic to see independent healthcare providers aligning with the Net Zero Supplier Roadmap and the NHS target to be net zero carbon by 2045 - we need to demonstrate that collective action and commitment will help to deliver net zero.**

**Dr Nick Watts**, Chief Sustainability Officer, NHS England

**It has been valuable to hear from net zero experts on carbon reduction measurement and carbon reduction policies. Being able to share best practice with other independent healthcare providers who are facing similar challenges as well as being able to discuss common problems has been very helpful.**

**Andy Collett**, Head of Business Development, Homelink Healthcare

**It's refreshing to speak with industry leaders, peers and other likeminded companies who are trying to do their best for the people they serve and the environment.**

**David Deitz**, Chief Financial Officer, HCRG Care Group

**IHPN's Net Zero activities should be praised. This includes focusing the UK independent healthcare sector's attention to address a common environmental goal; delivering access to expert speakers and encouraging the sharing of best practice.**

**Martin Alley**, Group Supply Chain and Procurement Director, Spire Healthcare

**It has been valuable to learn from other organisations about the challenges and opportunities that they have faced on their journey to Net Zero. The external expert support has also been helpful in guiding our planning and bias towards action.**

**Barry Nee**, Chief Information Officer, Practice Plus Group

**Connect Health fully supports the IHPN's industry-wide pledge to achieve net zero emissions by 2035 and a net zero supply chain by 2045. We developed our green plan last year and this year commissioned an external review of our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) requirements as a baselining exercise. We are now working through the resulting action plan, increasing our focus, resources, measurement and people across all aspects of ESG, looking for progress at our operational sites, for our staff and in our supply chain.**

**Simon Belfer**, CFO, Connect Health

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# The independent healthcare sector's road to net zero: progress in the past year

Independent healthcare providers have been focussing their decarbonisation efforts on a number of different areas. These include reducing emissions from estates and facilities, travel and transport, supply chain, and medicines. Here are just some of the ways our members are working to achieve their net zero ambitions.

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## InHealth Group

As part of a renewed Sustainability Strategy, InHealth's goal is to set a net zero pathway that drives their total greenhouse gas emissions to equal or less than the emissions that they remove from the environment.

As the UK's largest specialist provider of diagnostic and healthcare solutions, InHealth also fully support the NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap, which charts a route towards a net zero healthcare system. As a trusted NHS partner and in line with the roadmap, they will publicly report emissions and publish a carbon reduction plan aligned to the NHS' net zero target, for both their direct and indirect emissions.

In 2021, InHealth signed a new contract with their energy broker to use only renewable electricity at the sites where they have control over the energy provider. To ensure continued progress, one of the InHealth team has also been promoted in their role to coordinate sustainability activities across the InHealth Group. This includes working with key contacts throughout the business to set up carbon emission reporting, achieve ISO 14001/50001 and PAS 2060 certification and provide education and inspiration to all staff.

A dedicated Sustainability Steering Group has also been set up to ensure that continuous progress is made and that they remain accountable for their actions, supporting their suppliers and partners to do the same.

While their sustainability position is evolving, and they have lots more planned on their journey, other activities being assessed include:

- Investments in LED lighting and insulation where appropriate to individual locations
- Encouraging paperless processes and the use of 100% recycled paper, if printing is necessary
- The use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in generators and trucks instead of diesel
- Identifying old, inefficient equipment and vehicles and replacing with newer, efficient kit (i.e. Euro 6 compliant trucks)

A dedicated Sustainability Steering Group has also been set up to ensure that continuous progress is made and that they remain accountable for their actions, supporting their suppliers and partners to do the same.

As part of their reporting, Carbon KPIs will be set up to ensure visibility and accountability to the different areas of the organisation. This will incentivise teams to join in on carbon reduction and sustainability measures.

Alongside an ethos of continuous improvement and emissions reduction, InHealth will also utilise externally verified carbon credits to fund carbon reduction and removal projects in the community and around the world.

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## Spire Healthcare caring for the environment

Spire Healthcare firmly believe they have a duty of care not only to their patients, but to the environment as well.

In 2021, Spire were proud to be the first large UK independent healthcare provider to make an ambitious commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 31 December 2030, along with a clear roadmap and an investment of £16m to achieve this aim. They have been reporting their carbon footprint in line with their baseline since 2013, while monthly monitoring and quarterly performance reports chart their progress against their carbon reduction targets.



£16m  
investment

Spire continue to upgrade their estate and engineering infrastructure by replacing gas-powered steam boilers with more efficient electrically powered equipment; installing more efficient ventilation systems; investing in LED lighting and modern chillers with heat recovery systems. Installing photo-voltaic solar panels is generating 24kw of free electricity, with more installations to follow. They are also expanding the use of electric vehicles across their fleet, and installing charging points.

They have also made significant carbon reductions by removing all piped nitrous oxide services from their hospitals at the end of 2022, and Spire expect to reduce their carbon emissions by up to 3,000 tonnes a year.

Managing their waste effectively and responsibly, includes recycling as much as they can. Spire have significantly improved their recycling and food waste disposal, while having a system in place to return cardboard, polystyrene and plastic packaging for re-use. All offensive waste is incinerated at a special facility to generate renewable energy, while ensuring not to release harmful substances into the atmosphere. Less than 0.5% of their total waste now goes to landfill.

Engaging Spire's colleagues is key to their success and in 2021 they established a network of Carbon Champions across all Spire hospitals and administration sites. While their Carbon Champions establish and maintain a carbon reduction plan specifically tailored to their location, they also encourage team involvement in order to drive improvements and identify opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint even further.

Spire takes seriously its commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by end-2030 and we are proud to have been highly commended in the BusinessGreen Leaders Awards in the Net Zero Strategy of the Year category.

Installing photo-voltaic solar panels is generating 24kw of free electricity, with more installations to follow.





## Ramsay Health Care

Ramsay Health Care operates across 10 countries, running over 530 facilities and employing over 86,000 staff. In 2021, it launched its strategy, 'Ramsay Cares', which provides focus and structure for our efforts to deliver stronger communities, healthier people and a thriving planet across three sustainability pillars: "Caring for our people", "Caring for our planet", and "Caring for our community".

In June 2022, with support from the Ramsay Global Executive, the Ramsay Board approved the following targets.

- A near-term science-based target of a 42% reduction in emissions by 2030
- Engagement with suppliers making up 80% of Ramsay's spend by 2027 to encourage adoption of reducing emissions in line with science-based targets
- Long-term science-based target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain by 2040



In the UK, Ramsay has made significant inroads to achieving a net zero target. This includes maximising energy efficiency, with UK facilities reducing gas consumption by turning down boilers; implementing LED lighting as a low energy lighting alternative and opting for environmentally friendly heating and cooling upgrades. Ramsay are also working with landlords to achieve efficiency savings in leased assets.

In addition, all new vehicles from 1 July 2021 are electric with a replacement programme in place for older cars. Electric charging points are also being implemented across all Ramsay car parks benefitting staff, doctors and patients.

Ramsay are also focusing on waste management - reducing unnecessary use of single-use items, where safe to do so; improved recycling and waste reduction in facilities. Greener theatres are also being developed. Working with their Anaesthetists, Ramsay has removed the use of Desflurane in theatres to reduce anaesthetic gas emissions and choosing more environmentally friendly options.

At the end of June 2022, the actions taken within the UK had made a significant impact in Ramsay's carbon emissions with a reduction of 14,000 Co2 tonnes. This is a fantastic achievement, but more work is already underway to build upon this and continue to challenge ourselves to make decisions which have a positive impact on Ramsay's people, communities and the planet.

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## Bupa UK

Bupa serves over 31 million customers worldwide and its commitment to sustainability starts with its purpose: helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives and making a better world.

As well as sharing the IHPN's commitment to achieve net zero emissions in their operations by 2035, Bupa has also committed to becoming a fully net zero business, including their supply chain, by 2040. Its targets have been validated by the independent Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi). Bupa's sustainability strategy has three missions:

- **Mission Zero:** Bupa aims to be a net zero business by 2040 and is reducing its own environmental impact, transforming products to deliver healthcare sustainably and championing circularity to reduce waste. It has joined the UN-backed Race to Zero Campaign through Health Care Without Harm's 'Health Care Climate Challenge'.
- **Mission Accelerate:** Bupa is accelerating sustainable healthcare through research, collaboration, and innovation, launching the Climate and Health Coalition with partners to mobilise and equip the private sector to accelerate the transformation of health and climate systems. Its global innovation programme eco-Disruptive engages start-ups to accelerate solutions that improve people's health and that of the planet.
- **Mission Regenerate:** Bupa aims to improve people's health through the restoration and regeneration of nature. For example, Bupa in the UK supports Trees for Cities to plant healthy air in schools and has invested in a UN Climate Neutral now reforestation project in South America.



The Cromwell Hospital is working to provide medical scrubs made from waste plastic collected from the oceans

In the last 12 months, CO2 emissions have been reduced by c10% vs the previous year. Energy efficiency has been improved by optimising Building Management Systems, increasing heat recovery on air handling plants, and optimising temperature settings in offices, IT comms rooms and the wider estate.



39%  
reduction in  
energy

Bupa is committed to using circular solutions for non-hazardous waste. For example, the Cromwell Hospital is working with its 2021 eco-Disruptive programme winner to provide medical scrubs made from waste plastic collected from the oceans – saving 36% of CO2, 39% of energy and 34% of water per linear metre of the products. Food waste is recycled into renewable energy and clinical sustainability champions are working on further solutions to reduce PPE and pharmaceuticals waste.

Bupa has also created a Sustainability Academy and Green Team of environmental champions to improve sustainability knowledge and action, and also offers employees a salary sacrifice option for new electric vehicles, as well as active travel and car share schemes.

## Connect Health

Connect Health, a leading community services healthcare provider encompassing mental health, MSK/physiotherapy, chronic pain, long Covid, rheumatology and occupational health services, have developed a multi-pronged approach to achieving net zero, spanning travel, people, supply chain and service delivery.

Connect commissioned an external review on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) requirements, leading to a Green plan being developed in 2021 to recognise their impact on the environment, with a plan for all staff to make changes to their ways of working. Standard operating procedures also now take into account carbon emissions, and the organisation have recruited for a dedicated role for Health and Safety and Environmental management with a remit to achieve ISO14001.

Travel was a key area identified where real changes could be made. This includes encouraging all staff to travel via the most sustainable form of transport, with an online calculator provided for colleagues to determine the most efficient way of travelling on their business journeys.

Connect have also worked with local and national suppliers to reduce their carbon emissions. Local suppliers are used where possible, helping to support local sustainability and reduce carbon emissions, and all new suppliers are assessed for their environmental commitment during supplier onboarding process.

In Connect's healthcare sites all over the country, LED lights are installed where possible, with air conditioning systems turned off outside of core hours. Connect also use virtual servers instead of physical servers; low power PCs and laptops; phones are connected over ethernet and paper usage is monitored and reported.

For sites where Connect have control over waste disposal, they have recycling contracts set up to dispose of mixed recycling and battery recycling points. They also use suppliers who are dedicated to disposing of waste in a responsible and compliant manner, as well as carrying out a water risk assessment at all their managed sites to pick up any risks and carry out any works to change inefficient systems.

Connect's PhysioLine service is provided in many services, enabling patients to receive a telephone appointment rather than having to travel. They also recently stopped using their 5-part mobile clinic units in favour of static sites which means much less emissions ferrying these around the country.



An online calculator provided for colleagues to determine the most efficient way of travelling on their business journeys.



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## Nuffield Health

As a healthcare charity, Nuffield Health's sustainability pillars: healthy work, healthy community and healthy environment are at the core of everything they do. With ambitious plans to be carbon net zero for Scope 1 and 2 by 2030, and 2040 for Scope 3, Nuffield Health aims to also have reduced carbon emissions by 5% across the Charity by the end of 2022.

To do this they are focusing on behaviour change and engaging the Charity's 16,400 people through a series of internal campaigns. The #SwitchOff energy reduction campaign has provided every local site with guidance and key information to reduce energy usage including:

- Setting every local site an energy reduction target for 2022 - this will reduce its carbon emissions and feed into the Charity's overall 5% carbon reduction target
- A local site level dashboard, enabling every local site to monitor their energy consumption and carbon emissions, with local site visits for over energy-consuming sites



Nuffield Health's hospital teams across the UK are helping to fight climate change by switching from single-use products to reusables, improving clinical waste systems and changing to lower carbon alternatives in anaesthetic gas. Anaesthetic gases are commonly used as part of surgery and Desflurane is one of the most common anaesthetic gases used, both in the NHS and in independent sector hospitals. However, Desflurane is also one of the most harmful and has 20 times the environmental impact of other less harmful greenhouse gases, and using one bottle has the same global warming effect as burning 440 kg of coal.

The new leadership programme – the first of its kind for independent sector nurses - aims to elevate the importance of nursing influence across the independent sector and championing nurse-led environmental sustainability.

Nuffield Health is committed to stop using Desflurane across its 37 hospitals by January next year and they are focusing on using lower carbon alternatives, estimating they will save just under 1,000 tonnes of carbon over the course of a year.

Nuffield Health is also working with the Florence Nightingale Foundation on a new Green Leadership Programme which involves nurses from across the independent sector (including nurses from Nuffield Health) taking part in a blended learning programme that will be delivered over a 6-month period, starting in October 2022.

The new leadership programme – the first of its kind for independent sector nurses - aims to elevate the importance of nursing influence across the independent sector and championing nurse-led environmental sustainability. It requires nurses as part of the programme to implement a nurse-led quality improvement project to support environmental sustainability. Expert speakers and thought-leaders contribute towards programme delivery and will facilitate personal and professional development. The outcomes of the programme will be presented at the celebration event to a VIP audience.

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## HCRG Care Group

As a multi-site organisation employing around 5,000 people and providing health and care services to around half a million people and families each year, HCRG Care Group are committed to minimising and mitigating their impact on the environment through sustainable development.

Starting by aligning with the 'For a Greener NHS' programme and the changes in the NHS Standard Contract, HCRG Care Group have updated their Green Plan to reflect the changes they plan to make by 2025.

Overall the organisation are focusing on three key areas:

- **Reducing Waste** - having already taken steps to ensure compliance with Environmental Protection Regulations, HCRG Care Group are continuing the fight against paper waste by using procurement to reduce the use of paper across the business. This has been achieved by ongoing migration from franking to iMail, and a reduction in the print estate company-wide, backed by a cultural push. In addition, all paper waste is now 100% recycled on Euro 6 compliant trucks by a carbon neutral vendor, with all sites having the required facilities and optimised waste collections. Most importantly, HCRG will continue to educate their colleagues to increase awareness of pollution, and plan to expand the drive into areas such as removing single use plastics and replacing with environmentally friendly alternatives.
- **Assessing the Impact on Climate Change** – HCRG are undertaking a review of the risk associated with climate change to their services with the aim of devising a plan in each service area to implement the necessary changes. They are also minimising the use of gas and electricity in services where possible and are phasing out the use of oil and coal for primary heating in the only service left that uses this source of energy. They have also migrated to a new email provider to reduce carbon impact.
- **Reducing Air Pollution** - the steps HCRG are taking to reduce air pollution include encouraging cycling and car-sharing, introducing a new expenses policy to promote sustainable travel that's only needed when necessary, and continuously benchmarking ourselves against other organisations. Overall, they are looking at reducing miles expensed by 20% compared to the 2019/20 baseline by using technologies that allow for virtual team meetings and service user consultations.

David Deitz, Chief Financial Officer and the Net Zero Board Lead says "I firmly believe that all organisations should seek to be sustainable and that by implementing the actions presented within this Green Plan, alongside our day-to-day transformation work, we will make our organisation as environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable as possible".

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## Alliance Medical

Alliance Medical acknowledges that it has an important role to play in achieving a Net Zero emissions future and is committed to supporting the IHPN targets and those set by the NHS.

In 2022, they appointed a dedicated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) lead to ensure that there is a continued focus on the environment and the development

By deploying technological solutions and optimising supply chain, they are reducing carbon impact from paper waste and vehicle usage.



of our plans to reach Net Zero, as well as on Social and Governance matters.

To date, Alliance Medical has introduced several environmental initiatives that reduce the impact of its operations on the environment. Most recently, these include:

- the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles into our car fleet
- the implementation of greener initiatives when considering the design and construction of any new building developments
- the use of LED lighting in new buildings and as replacements at existing sites
- moving to 100% renewable energy for the energy that Alliance Medical purchases directly from suppliers

Alliance Medical is actively reviewing and developing measures that can be implemented within its business to reduce its carbon footprint, alongside working with its supply chain partners to review their approaches to carbon reduction and sustainability.

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## Practice Plus Group

Practice Plus Group are passionate about operating their services in an environmentally responsible way, and are committed to supporting the NHS in its ambition to become the world's first Net Zero health service.

Recognising the important role they play in reducing the supply chain emissions associated with the NHS, Practice Plus Group have introduced their own company-wide initiatives to reduce their operational carbon footprint, as well as working to reduce the emissions generated from the travel involved in their essential business activities.

With the support of Agiito, they aligned their travel policies and procedures with their company CSR goals. Within three months, they launched the Agiito Travel Carbon compensate proposition as a way for both the company and individual employees to be incentivised to reduce their carbon footprint. The carbon compensate proposition is a comprehensive, affordable, and tangible way to compensate essential emissions by planting trees through sustainability technology provider Trees4Travel. Each tree planted compensates 164.1Kg CO<sub>2</sub>e within the first 10 years, which then continues to capture carbon for 140+ years, and comes with a share of investment into renewable energy projects, creating a climate-positive carbon compensate option. By working with Trees4Travel, who only plant indigenous trees with the highest environmental impact, it supports the UN's trillion tree campaign and the welfare of local planting communities. In the first nine months of Practice Plus Group's scheme over 17,000 trees have been planted, with almost 3,000 CO<sub>2</sub>e compensated.

Not content with just compensating their current and future travel, Practice Plus Group worked to compensate their historic emissions too. Considering the significant CO<sub>2</sub>e volumes to be compensated, they took part in Agiito's 'Legacy Forest' reforestation project located in Haiti. This location was ideal for the maximum environmental and social impact, providing food security in poverty-stricken communities.

An 'Employee personal carbon compensate scheme' has also been created - launched alongside the company scheme in September 2021. Through a company branded URL, Practice Plus Group's 8000- strong workforce can sign up individually to compensate and reduce their own carbon footprint at a discounted cost.

In the first nine months of Practice Plus Group's scheme over 17,000 trees have been planted, with almost 3,000 CO<sub>2</sub>e compensated.

over  
**17,000**  
trees planted

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# IHPN's own journey to net zero

IHPN is a small organisation, and it took the decision during the course of 2021 to become net zero as soon as possible.

This was achieved recently, and we will continue to keep our carbon emissions to the minimum with a focus on reducing printing and paper use, using the most carbon efficient forms of transport, recycling, green energy and working closely with our suppliers particularly the company that manages our office. The majority of meetings that we facilitate are now virtual to keep carbon emissions low and when we do hold meetings in person, we ensure that they bring added value in the form of networking. We are keeping our offsetting to the minimum but where we need to, we are supporting community-based carbon reduction projects.

## Next steps

IHPN will continue to support its members to deliver against their own organisational net zero ambitions through providing subject matter expertise and information, and the sharing of best practice.

Over the next year, this will include work around sustainable medicines, supporting members with their carbon reduction plans (particularly in relation to the NHS), understanding net zero and social value, and problem solving the knotty issues that all providers will be dealing with. In addition, we will be pulling together a suite of resources that captures all the work completed to date to support providers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the work IHPN and the independent healthcare sector are doing to become net zero then please contact [danielle.henry@ihpn.org.uk](mailto:danielle.henry@ihpn.org.uk).



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