

The NHS - Living Within A Carbon Budget?

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Introduction

- Health impacts of climate change
- NHS impact on climate and the environment
- The 'political' context
- Carbon budgets and the NHS

Health Impacts Of Climate Change

- Direct effects of heat and cold
- Changes in patterns of infectious disease
- Extreme weather/natural disasters
- Drought/famine
- Rising sea levels
- War/migration
- Psychological impacts

Each year the NHS in England and Wales:

- Produces 3.5million tonnes of carbon dioxide
- Uses nearly 1% of all of the energy consumed in the the two countries
- Consumes nearly 55,000 tonnes of food
- Consumes 1.3 million tonnes of other products
- Is responsible for 25 billion passenger kilometres by staff, visitors and patients, 83% of which is by car.
- Consumes 50 billion litres of water, and produces around 44 billion litres of sewage
- generates nearly 400,000 tonnes of waste

As an organisation whose purpose is to protect and promote good health, the NHS should be in the vanguard of efforts to behave in a sustainable way.

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Andrew Lansley - Shadow Health Secretary

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David Milliband - Secretary of State, DeFRA

"The truth is that, despite an impressive array of official guidance [on promoting sustainable development], incentives in the NHS run in the opposite direction. "Efficiency" is what matters most, and it is still defined as what works best for the financial bottom line. "Value for money" is a limited concept that does not yet recognise virtue in farsightedness. NHS targets are geared towards improving clinical performance and cutting waiting times. No one gets fired for failing to reduce the carbon footprint of a hospital or clinic.

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Anna Coote, Lead Commissioner for Health at the SDC

Two NHS Targets on NHS Energy Use:

- 'new build' and 'existing estate' energy efficiency targets, and
- reduction in carbon emissions of 15% between 2000 and 2010

Recent announcement of £100million over 3 years to help achieve these targets

DeFRA Consultation on 'measures to reduce carbon emissions in the large non-energy intensive business and public sectors'

Proposes

- a mandatory system of 'cap and trade' for carbon
- and/or
- a system of voluntary benchmarking and reporting

Making It Happen

NHS Carbon Management Programme
(The Carbon Trust)

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- Mobilise the organisation
- Set baseline forecasts and targets
- Identify and quantify options
- Finalise strategy and implementation plan
- Implement the plan

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- Ensure new buildings, refurbishments, and other capital purchases are energy efficient.
- Increase the use of 'renewables' in the energy mix.
- Promote local food procurement (food miles).
- Develop and implement sustainable travel plans for patients, visitors and staff.
- Minimise waste/promote recycling to save the energy costs of both production and disposal.

Nottingham & The East Midlands

Leaders or followers??

Comments and questions