

## Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust – Statement on Environmental Sustainability

Our Trust recognises that climate change is a risk to health at both the national and global level. As a provider of healthcare and as publicly-funded organisation, we are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the natural environment in order to deliver sustainable healthcare and to safeguard human health.

In 2020, NHS England published a report entitled *Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service*, which outlines the organisation's commitment to respond to the health emergency that arises from climate change. NHS England has defined two clear targets, which Torbay & South Devon are aligned to, which are;

- For the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032
- For the emissions we can influence (the NHS Carbon Footprint Plus)), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039

It is through working towards achieving these goals that the Trust will have its most significant impact towards mitigating the climate emergency. The Trust's energy consumption and therefore carbon impact is affected by multiple factors including floor area, number of staff, patient numbers, type of healthcare being delivered, local climate and efficacy of estate management. Data is not easily available to assess the impact of each of these and so we typically track carbon impact through our emissions averaged across occupied floorspace. This normalises for any significant changes to the Trust estate and allows benchmarking against similar acute Trusts. Historically data availability has not been optimal and thus a recent baseline year has been selected to track Trust emissions. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of developing an ongoing basis for tracking emissions which are extraneous to our built environment including; business travel, anaesthetic and refrigerant gas fugitive emissions and emissions associated with waste and water use.

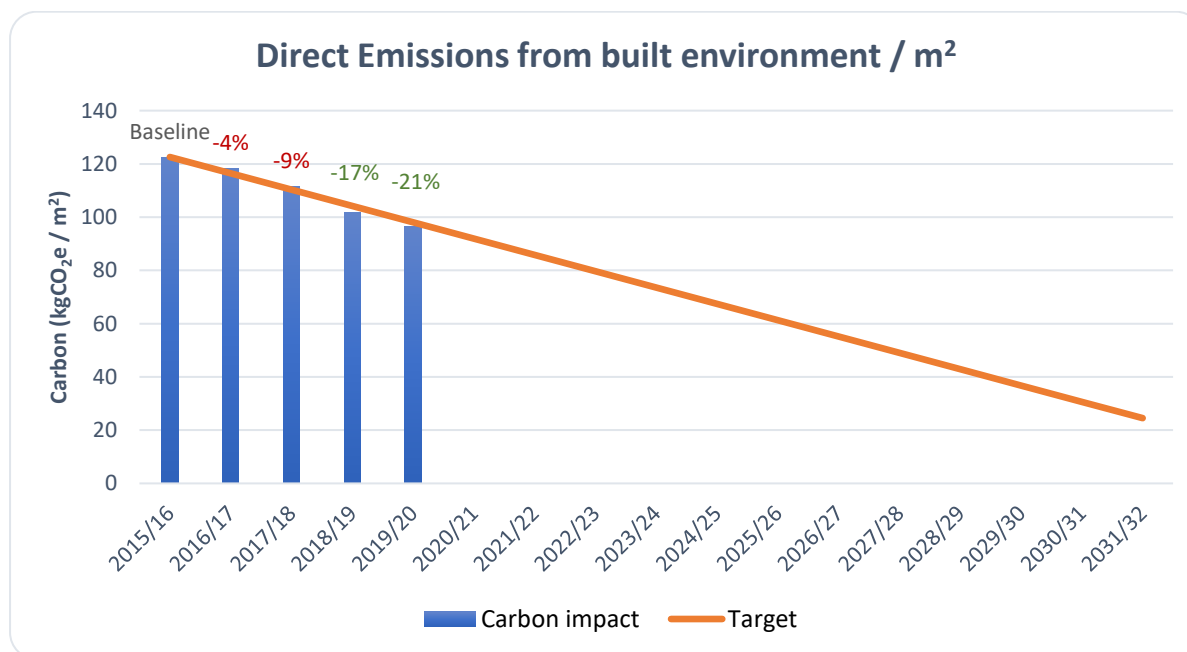


Figure 1: Annual carbon impact of TSD built environment

01/02/2021

Figure 1 shows the Trust's progress with regards to reducing our carbon impact. The orange line represents the trajectory the Trust needs to adhere to in order to achieve an 80% reduction by 2032 as per NHS England's wider goal. The Trust is currently meeting its target for the Trust's built environment although it is appreciated that maintaining the current rate of reduction will become more challenging as time goes on. Furthermore, as previously stated, it is imperative that we build our peripheral direct emissions (transport and fugitive gas releases) into our trending.

There are several areas of focus which the Trust expects to contribute towards a continued decrease of overall emissions. In the short-term, the Estates & Facilities team have scoped out a number of investment opportunities to decarbonise the estate and have applied for central government funding to support the delivery of these. Opportunities include LED lighting and Air Handling Unit fan upgrades at Torbay Hospital, lighting and Building Management System upgrades at community sites and implementation of heat pumps for the generation of Domestic Hot Water at community sites. The decision on funding award is currently pending but the Trust expects to take one or more of these schemes forward in the near-future with priority being designated to LED lighting schemes which are expected to save 125 tCO<sub>2</sub>e p.a.

Longer-term the Trust is considering a number of initiatives to focus on. We are currently in early-stage discussions with the Torbay Development Agency to support the development of a large solar PV array adjacent to the Torbay Hospital site through a private Power Purchase Agreement for the supply of renewable electricity. This offers an excellent potential for the Trust to secure locally-generated green electricity for a long-term.

As part of the national Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP2) the Trust has been identified to receive funding to redevelop the estate and to provide more digitally enabled clinical services. Any new hospital buildings built under HIP2 will embed net zero carbon design and energy generation strategy into the redevelopment of the estate.

Detailed strategies are currently being developed, however the overarching objective will be to ensure new digitally enabled services are provided within new building stock of net zero carbon design and where building stock is retained the existing buildings will be improved and modified to enable transition to low carbon heat generation. As part of the HIP2 programme we will also aspire to electrify our transport fleet.