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Dear Clare

ANNUAL NHS SCOTLAND CLIMATE EMERGENCY & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

I am writing now to let you know that the Scottish Government has published the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency & Sustainability Report 2025. It can be found via the following link: [NHS Scotland - climate emergency and sustainability: annual report 2025 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/nhs-scotland-climate-emergency-and-sustainability-annual-report-2025)

This year's report shows how NHS Scotland is working to reduce its environmental impact and adapting its infrastructure and services to address the risks presented by climate change. It also illustrates some of the wider benefits which work in this area offers.

Over the past year, NHS Scotland has made progress in reducing emissions in fleet, medical gases, inhaler emissions and building energy. Progress has been achieved in the following areas:

Building Energy

The highest direct sources of greenhouse gas emissions for NHS Scotland come from energy used for heat and power in NHS buildings, and this year's report shows NHS Scotland continuing to make sustained progress in reducing its building energy emissions. There has been an 11% reduction between 2019/20 and 2024/25.

Fleet

Over half of all NHS fleet cars are now electric vehicles (EVs) and some health boards have achieved almost 100% EV fleets.

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Medical gases

Emissions from N₂O and Entonox in NHS Scotland fell by 29% between the baseline year of 2018/19 and 2024/25, and 13% between 2023/24 and 2024/25. Emissions from the volatile anaesthetic gases, desflurane, sevoflurane and isoflurane, were 1,129 tCO₂e in 2024/25, dramatically down from over 10,170 tCO₂e in the baseline year of 2017/18.

Emissions from inhalers

Inhalers are a significant contributor to medical climate change emissions gases, mainly because of the propellant gases they use, and are the second biggest source of NHS Scotland emissions covered by the 2040 net-zero target, after building energy. Emissions from this source have fallen by 18% since 2022/23.

Climate Change Adaptation

NHS Scotland faces a broad range of climate related risks affecting the delivery of healthcare, challenging the reliability of infrastructure and operations, and posing risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of both patients and staff. The Report shows that as of March 2025, all health boards had developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment.

However, significant challenges remain. The reduction in building energy emissions has owed much to the decarbonisation of the grid and a reduction in electricity consumption, neither of which are expected to proceed at the same rate going forward. NHS Boards must find innovative solutions to reduce their energy emissions and the Scottish Government is contributing funding to support innovative projects, especially to help decarbonise those sites with the biggest energy emissions.

In addition it is estimated that approximately 60% of emissions generated by NHS Scotland come from the use of goods and materials, including medicines. NHS Scotland aims to reduce supply chain emissions across the health service to net zero by 2045 through effective, environmentally informed procurement, efficient use of goods and materials and minimisation of waste. Moving to a circular economy is a key tenet of Scotland's sustainability and net zero policies, and can support supply chain resilience, helping to reduce price increases caused by material scarcity, critical raw material concerns and access risks.

Just over half of the total NHS Scotland estate is greenspace and this presents an invaluable opportunity to improve outdoor environments and healthcare experience by staff and visitors,

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Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

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