



9. Sustainability Report

9.1 Environment, sustainability and carbon reduction

Over the last year, we have continued to look at options to reduce carbon and bring sustainable practices into our day-to-day activities.

In the last two years we have installed renewable energy generation and energy efficiency technologies to reduce our carbon footprint, contributing to Welsh Government's 2030 net zero public sector target, including:



Solar panels at Hafan Derwen, in Carmarthen, South Pembrokeshire Hospital in Pembroke Dock and Brynmair Clinic in Llanelli



Battery storage at Hafan Derwen in Carmarthen



Upgraded building management controls at Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth, Amman Valley Hospital in Glanamman, Brynmair and Elizabeth Williams clinics in Llanelli



LPG heating fuel supply to displace a proportion of the oil usage at Glangwili Hospital in Carmarthen



LED lighting where old fittings have been replaced with full site replacements being planned across multiple sites

Contractors have checked the heating systems at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli, Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth and Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest. They are creating reports to see how we can make these systems more efficient, using money from the UK Government's Heat Network Efficiency Scheme.

Our 'Switch It Off' campaign launched in October 2024, encouraging staff to switch off electrical items not in use. The campaign has been showcased by Climate Action Wales as an example of good practice.

We have kept our performance and systems up to the standards of ISO14001, and set goals that we regularly check and review.

Our approach to agile working is robust and we have an approved agile working plan and toolkit to help our staff work from the most appropriate location for their role. We're also streamlining our properties to make sure they're fully used and performing well.

We're working to cut emissions from our fleet vehicles and have a plan to switch to electric ones (EVs). We've also applied for a grant to install EV charging stations for our fleet at Hywel Dda sites to support this transition.

Cutting waste and increasing recycling are top priorities for us. We're expanding our programme to recycle absorbent hygiene products to lower carbon emissions and improve recycling rates. Recently, we won a Medi Wales award for this project, and it was highlighted in Climate Action Wales and Life Stories magazine as an example of good practice in health and life sciences.

We're focusing on using sustainable products, creating green health frameworks, cutting waste, and reducing single-use items and plastics. Here are some other projects we've been working on to cut waste and make Hywel Dda more eco-friendly.

- Laundering and reusing or recycling staff uniforms
- 'Gloves Off' campaign to reduce overuse of single-use plastic gloves
- Testing reusable tourniquets instead of disposable ones
- Switching from paper to digital prescriptions
- Switching to recyclable/reusable items, such as curtains, plastic bags, medicine pots, nappies/incontinence products, nutritional supplement bottles, medication blister packets and speculums
- Piloting the re-use of specimen bags
- Using our online Warp-It system to recycle and reuse equipment
- Changing from meter dose inhalers to eco-friendly dry powder inhalers to reduce harmful gas emissions
- Implementing the Greener Emergency Department framework to achieve bronze award status
- Supporting critical care and primary care teams to implement the Greener Critical Care Framework



To meet the requirements of the Workplace Recycling Regulations and improve our recycling rate, we separate different types of waste including paper, card, plastics, tins, food and glass on most of our sites.

Even though our utility costs are still high, they've gone down mainly because of changes in energy market prices. Our contract with Centrica, which ends on 31 March 2025 has guaranteed annual savings and reduced carbon emissions. From April 2015 to December 2024, this contract cut CO₂e emissions by 30,795 tonnes.

We have a new energy performance contract lined up with Vital Energi Ltd through the Re:Fit 4 Wales Framework. Vital Energi has assessed energy-saving measures at six sites: Prince Philip Hospital, Bronglais Hospital, Hafan Derwen, Glangwili Hospital, Withybush Hospital and Elizabeth Williams Clinic. Planned measures include improving LED lighting, heating systems, insulation, building management systems, rooftop solar panels, air handling units and chillers.

Vital Energi is now working with us on a detailed proposal for a large investment bid (around £10 million) from the Welsh Government's Invest-to-Save programme for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

We're making plans to keep the savings and carbon reductions from our Centrica contract as it ends. Starting in April 2025, we'll have new 8 year maintenance contracts for the combined heat and power units at Withybush and Prince Philip hospitals, and an (up to) 5 year contract for the biomass boiler at Glangwili Hospital. These units were installed at the start of the Centrica contract and are about 10 years old, with expected lifespans of 15-20 years.

Our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan outlines how we aim to meet national net zero targets in areas like carbon management, buildings, transport, procurement, estate planning, land use, and clinical sustainability.

9.1.1 *Training and Development*

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) offers Climate Smart Community training, and Hywel Dda staff are encouraged to join. The VAULT sustainability pages highlight efficiency opportunities and best practices within NHS Wales. Staff can access e-learning modules on the electronic staff record (ESR) system on topics like climate change, environmental sustainability, and achieving net zero.

For more detail, our full Sustainability Report for 2024/25 will be available on our [website](#) in June 2025.

9.2 Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

9.2.1 *Compliance Statement*

Hywel Dda University Health Board confirms that this Climate-Related Financial Disclosure has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.41 of the Welsh Government Manual for Accounts and is aligned with the four core themes of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD): Governance, Strategy, Risk Management, and Metrics and Targets.

This disclosure reflects the Health Board's ongoing commitment and compliance to environmental sustainability, transparent financial reporting, and alignment with both Welsh Government policy and NHS Wales strategic objectives for net-zero emissions.

We are committed to environmental sustainability and reducing carbon emissions, complying with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and The Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021. We continue to make positive progress towards net zero targets and climate adaptation planning, aligning to the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Plan and the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales.

9.2.2 Our governance around climate-related issues

The Health Board has established clear governance structures to oversee climate-related risks and opportunities. Oversight rests with the Strategy and Planning Committee which is a formal sub-committee of the Board. The committee reviews progress and status reporting on decarbonisation and our ability to meet the net zero targets set by Welsh Government.

Leadership is provided by both the Executive Director of Strategy and Planning and the Director of Public Health, who are responsible for embedding the Health Board's climate response into service planning and design, capital development, public health protection and business continuity.

Our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan includes 46 initiatives to meet Welsh Government's net zero targets.

We track and report our climate mitigation efforts through:

- Monthly Strategic Property and Environment Taskforce Groups
 - Sustainable Transport Group
 - Sustainable Healthcare (Green) Group
 - Annual Qualitative Report to Welsh Government
 - Integrated Quality Planning and Delivery review meetings (as requested)
 - The Health Board's annual reporting process, including governance and well-being objectives
 - Annual quantitative net zero emissions reporting to Welsh Government
 - Annual Public Services Board report (as requested)
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9.2.3 Our Board's oversight of climate-related issues

The Strategic Property and Environment Taskforce Group oversees delivery of the 46 initiatives in our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan. Progress is documented within the bi-annual Decarbonisation Qualitative Report which is submitted to the A Healthier Mid and West Wales Infrastructure Group for approval prior to Welsh Government submission. The Annual Net Zero Report is overseen by the Health Board's Corporate Performance Team and a robust process in place for completion and verification. This report is approved by the Strategy and Planning Committee prior to Welsh Government submission. Both reports include risks and issues related to climate change and our route to net zero, including the mitigation activity.

9.2.4 Management's role in assessing and managing climate-related issues

We support the ambition of NHS Wales to become a net-zero health service by 2030. Climate-related issues are integrated into short, medium and long-term strategies through our

Decarbonisation Delivery Plan and upcoming Climate Adaptation Plan, aligning with Welsh Government priorities and national policy.

Climate change is a cross-departmental priority affecting all parts of the organisation. Managers across several directorates contribute to net zero and environmental sustainability activities, as well as supporting the Environment Team to maintain the ISO14001 standard.

We are finalising our integrated impact assessment which has a dedicated section on environmental sustainability, including climate and net zero impacts, with a scoring system. This will help managers assess the risks and impacts of their activities on our route to net zero so to improve decision-making, ensuring legal compliance, consideration of equality/human rights, and socioeconomic factors.

9.2.5 Metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant climate-related issues

Emission Reduction Targets: 16% reduction by 2025; 34% reduction by 2030 (from 2020 baseline). The Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Target Carbon Report tracks our data outputs and performance towards the 2030 and interim net zero targets. This is linked to the operational risk on the Health Board’s risk register and updated as per our Risk Management Framework.

Our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan summarises the impact of the Health Board's climate actions, aligning with the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan. It focuses on reducing carbon emissions from buildings, transport, procurement, and clinical areas like anaesthetic gases.

9.2.6 Emissions and the related risks

The table below shows our position in 2023/24 (measured in kgCO²e) and how it compares to 2022/23 and the trend.

Categories	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Buildings, fleet and other assets			
Buildings	21,612,846	20,052,328	↓
Streetlighting	1,117	622	↓
Fleet and equipment	584,295	676,043	↑
F-gases and anaesthetic gases	3,496,282	1,877,545	↓
Business travel, commuting and homeworking			
Business travel	1,957,769	2,200,851	↑
Commuting	16,492,157	16,282,868	↓
Homeworking	1,068,819	954,588	↓
Waste			
Organisational waste	493,384	501,733	↑

Supply chain - Tier 1 and Tier 2 combined			
Supply chain	48,226,966	111,192,247 (Tier 1 method) 96,075,696 (Tier 2 method)	↑
Land based emissions			
Total land-based emissions	-	-	n/a
Total emissions			
Total emissions	93,933,636	153,738,825 (Tier 1 method) 138,622,274 (Tier 2 method)	↑
Onsite renewables - heat	2,999,720	6,836,205	↑
Onsite renewables - electricity	438,440	440,088	↑
Purchased renewables - electricity	22,114,823	10,194,208	↓

The table shows the Health Board's Net Zero Public Sector performance for 2023/24. Carbon emissions increased from 93,940,000 kgCO₂e in 2022/23 to 138,622,274 kgCO₂e (using Tier 2 procurement) or 153,738,825 kgCO₂e (using Tier 1 procurement). This increase is due to supply chain data issues, adding primary care (managed practice) data, and a change in methodology.

On the positive side, we've reduced our use of F-Gases/Anaesthetic Gases and cut emissions from commuting and buildings.

The risk 'impacts from climate change' is on the Health Board's corporate risk register, and the risk 'ability to meet the net zero targets and deliver the decarbonisation plan' is included on the operational risk register. Risk management reports are reviewed by the Board and mitigation activities are updated regularly.

We are currently developing our Climate Adaptation Plan, which will help us adapt to climate risks and impacts.

9.2.7 Our performance against targets to manage climate-related risks and opportunities

Performance against net zero targets is set out in our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan and monitored via the related reporting documents. We aim to update our plan in 2025/26 to align with the Welsh Government's strategic plan refresh.

Climate-related risks are identified via the Datix risk management system and assessed alongside strategic, financial, clinical, and operational risks. The Risk Management Team and the relevant

risk owners regularly review and update these risks and provide updates to the Executive Directors and Committees. Any impacts to performance are reported back to Welsh Government via existing reporting structures. Scenario analysis is used to assess the potential impact of climate-related threats such as extreme weather, energy price volatility, and supply chain disruptions. Further details on our climate emergency risks and response will be included in the Health Board's Climate Adaptation Plan which is currently in development to meet the December 2025 deadline.

9.3 Biodiversity – Our Compliance Statement

9.3.1 *What is the Biodiversity Duty?*

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The S6 duty requires that public authorities (including all health boards and trusts) must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

9.3.2 *What do NHS Wales organisations have to do?*

To comply with the S6 duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day-to-day activities. To comply with the S6 duty, most public authorities must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. This plan can and should be an integral part of any planning document as part of the organisation's business or corporate planning processes. A standalone plan is not necessarily required.

As a public body in Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board recognises its legal duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems, in the exercise of our functions.

We fully acknowledge the interdependencies between the natural environment, the health and well-being of our population, and our obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In line with the sustainable development principle, we aim to ensure that our decisions and operations meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

9.3.3 *Our approach and achievements*

In 2024–25, we have continued to build on our commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through a range of activities that align with our environmental and health objectives. These actions contribute directly to the following national well-being goals:

- A Resilient Wales – by supporting healthy, functioning ecosystems and managing our estate with nature in mind.
- A Healthier Wales – by creating greener spaces that support physical and mental well-being.

- A Globally Responsible Wales – by minimising ecological harm and fostering sustainable practices across our services and infrastructure.

Key actions include:

- Sustainable estate management: We have continued to implement nature-positive practices across our sites where opportunities arise, including habitat conservation, native tree and wildflower planting, and active development of green spaces.
- Green space enhancements: Projects such as biodiversity corridors, pollinator-friendly planting, and wildlife-friendly landscaping have been expanded across several community and hospital locations.
- Capital schemes and design standards: We increasingly factor biodiversity and climate resilience into capital developments and infrastructure upgrades where opportunities arise.

Staff and community engagement: We have partnered with organisations to improve green spaces and raise the profile of biodiversity.

9.3.4 *Maintaining our commitments and moving forward*

To further embed our statutory duties under the Environment Act and Future Generations Act, we will:

- develop and publish a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan aligned with both Acts, setting clear priorities;
- work with Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, and Public Health Wales to ensure co-ordinated approaches to nature recovery at a regional level;
- enhance green infrastructure across our estate to support biodiversity net gain, carbon reduction, and better patient environments where opportunities arise;
- incorporate biodiversity principles into our climate response planning (adaptation), recognising the link between environmental quality and health outcomes;
- monitor and report our biodiversity actions through our climate response activity aligning with our broader climate response and adaptation ambitions.

By taking these actions, the Health Board contributes meaningfully to Wales nature recovery agenda, while ensuring that our operational activities support the long-term well-being of the communities we serve.