

Health & Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme – NHS Wales Climate Response Plans Qualitative Report

In completing the qualitative review document and providing any additional evidence of your organisation’s progress and delivery of your Decarbonisation Action Plan (DAP) and Adaptation Plan the Climate Emergency National Programme Team will be able to make an accurate assessment of your organisations progress and delivery in 2024-25.

The Programme Team reports its assessment to the Climate Emergency Programme Board and shares this with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and WG HSC Executive Directors Team. The assessment also feeds into the end of year WG HSC Joint Executive Team meetings held with every organisation and the Programme Team’s individual feedback to organisations.

1. General information

Organisation	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Date of Report	March 2025	Report Prepared By Name, job title and email	Sharon Hughes, Principal Programme Lead. Sharon.hughes66@wales.nhs.uk
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Senior Sponsor (previous title DAP Senior Sponsor) Name, job title and email	Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy & Planning. Lee.davies3@wales.nhs.uk	Finance Allocated to Support Delivery (£s) Total figure of all funding allocated to support the delivery of your Decarbonisation Action Plan and development of your Adaptation Plan during 2024-25.	£46,500 for the development of the HDd Adaptation Plan.	FTE Resource allocated to support delivery Resource specifically allocated to delivery of Decarbonisation Action Plan and development of your Adaptation Plan during 2024-25.	0.33 FTE Programme Management 0.2 FTE Sustainable Nursing Lead
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Qualitative review agreed by/ to be agreed by Include name (of Board or individual), job title or Board title	Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy & Planning	Date agreed	26/03/2025
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Executive Summary of Progress to date (This section is optional . If you wish to add a comment, please limit your words to 250 maximum).
We continue efforts to enable and achieve our route to net zero and delivery of our Decarbonisation Delivery Plan. We have begun planning and preparations for our climate adaptation activity/reporting with a plan in development and appropriate governance established.

Reporting schedule and requirements:

Progress is to be reported annually at end of year. This form is to be submitted **on 15 April 2025** (covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). Please provide an update for the reporting period which should focus on providing evidence of your progress and key achievements.

Please attach a copy of or a link to your organisation’s climate plans for this review period e.g. Decarbonisation Action Plan, Adaptation Plan. **See link >>>**
[Decarbonisation Delivery Plan](#)

Completed form to be returned to: hss.performance@gov.wales

2. Decarbonisation

2.1 Decarbonisation Delivery Progress RAG

RAG Rating: The Programme Team in assessing your qualitative review will use the following RAG descriptors to measure and score the organisation’s delivery progress against their Decarbonisation Action Plan.

Delivery Progress RAG Rating Guidance: Please use the following measures to assess the delivery progress of your Organisation’s Decarbonisation Action Plan (DAP).

Red	Majority of the DAP activity/actions have stalled and are not being delivered. High level risks and issues need to be mitigated to restart progress.
Amber	Majority of the DAP activity/actions are being delivered in part. Progress is slow, and/or delays due to existing low-level issues that need to be mitigated.
Green	DAP activity/actions are being delivered in full, are on track and progressing well within set timescales, budget, and scope.

Provide the RAG status of delivery against Decarbonisation Action Plan.				
Current RAG Status		Previous RAG Status		<p>Reason for current RAG delivery progress</p> <p>We are limited as to how much we can reduce our emissions from building/estates due to significantly aged estate and being unable to cost effectively retrofit where we have sub-standard infrastructure and building fabrics for example. We also remain restricted by the national grid on several sites and are being strictly guided by them on our electrification ambitions.</p> <p>Reducing emissions within Procurement and Approach to Healthcare initiatives is slow progress, often ‘green/sustainable’ products are not on NHS frameworks/catalogues and therefore sourcing suppliers/products and onboarding them, so they are compliant with purchasing laws is a lengthy process. Implementing ‘Green’ frameworks (Greener ED, Greener Critical Care) is extremely challenging due to the parameters that have been set at a national level in relation to the data collection and evidence required – what is being asked for doesn’t align to how HDd (and other health boards) collect the data.</p> <p>Transport/Sustainable Travel – Electric vehicle replacement is a longer -term journey and EV is already being sidelined for Hydrogen options. We are also restricted by contractual agreements and can only transition fleet vehicles to EV when vehicle leases come to an end. EV charging is also restricted by the afore mentioned aged site electrical infrastructure and capacity of the national grid. In general, adopting lower or zero emission products and ways of working must be funded appropriately and the priority level set should be appropriate considering all other HB priorities. It is also essential/critical that all relevant Welsh Government departments are supporting Decarbonisation ambitions and it is extremely unhelpful when we submit business cases and we are asked by the reviewers/decision makers to remove decarbonisation initiatives because they are deemed ‘unaffordable’.</p>

2.2. Decarbonisation Delivery Confidence RAG

Confidence Progress RAG Rating Guidance: Please use the following measures to assess your organisation’s overall confidence of contributing towards the NHS collective minimum 16% reduction in emissions by 2025.

Red	Successful delivery of the initiatives/actions appears to be unachievable. There are major issues which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable.
Amber	Successful delivery appears feasible but significant risks and issues already exist requiring management attention. These appear resolvable at this stage if addressed promptly.

Green Successful delivery of the initiatives/actions to cost/quality appears highly likely and there are no major outstanding issues that at this stage that appear to threaten delivery.

Provide the RAG status of the organisations overall confidence of delivering a minimum of 16% reduction in emissions by 2025.

Current RAG Status		Previous RAG Status		Reason for current RAG delivery confidence	
					2025 is upon us and the target date is unachievable. Having made every effort to achieve a 16% reduction, Decarbonising is a journey which requires a longer plan of investment and improvement. Regardless of what funding is available across the system it does not negate the fact that retrofitting aged estate is not good value and not the best use of public funds. There must be recognition at government level that transforming the estate and transportation will enable decarbonisation by investing in improvement schemes and ensuring that these improvement schemes include low carbon/net zero initiatives that are fully supported at business case level. We have reduced our emissions across many areas evidenced via our net zero reporting, however we have also seen a significant increase in emissions from Procurement which we do not have control over or the ability to directly influence and therefore we recommend that Procurement reporting be removed from health board reporting for improved data integrity by passing this responsibility over to NWSSP Procurement to input, verify, approve and submit - local health boards cannot offer the assurance required over the data being submitted and we don't fully support the current methodology being used.

2.3. Decarbonisation Summary of Key Achievements

Summarise your key achievements	
<p>The NWSSP Decarbonisation Co-ordination Reporting (DCR) Team will provide the Programme Team with your Organisation's Q4 Progress Report. These reports will be considered as part of the annual review on each organisation's progress and delivery of their Decarbonisation Action Plan. Please provide any additional information below not submitted in Q4 report.</p>	
Procurement	<p>**See NWSSP Procurement submission for more information**</p> <p>Locally: Local Procurement colleagues' activity has been largely supporting the Approach to Healthcare workstream group to identify suitable suppliers and products in the healthcare marketplace that will enable delivery of green/sustainable products and provisions. Note that this activity can be slow and challenging due to; 1. Most suppliers/products are not on NHS frameworks/catalogues and therefore we must unpick complexities and identify green product suppliers and how we can work with them, which also requires the full support and input of NWSSP Procurement. 2. Products are more costly – being early adopters of green products/suppliers often means we are faced with higher costs which is not something we can move forward with until we can negotiate lower prices and/or encourage NWSSP to support and onboard at a national level so we can take advantage of bulk prices. We do explore & exploit 'spend to save' or 'Value-Based' options for more costly products, however this means scoping and delivering a pilot over at least a period of 9-12 months so to evidence success and provide a cost-benefit analysis.</p>
Buildings, estates, land use and planning	<p>Energy Performance Contract (EPC) – Vital Energy have been selected as a new partner from the refit framework to support the Health Board to develop and deliver on Phase I decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects via spend to save funding and alternative financing (where approved) to a value of £5m - £7m over a two-year programme.</p> <p>Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) - Heat Efficiency Optimisation Study – An optimisation study was completed and output report developed to set out a 4-stage approach to improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon from the Boiler house. The adjustments being undertaken will allow for energy cost savings and a CO2 reduction of approx. 58 tonnes. Further grant applications to deliver further optimisation studies have been submitted for both Glangwili General Hospital and Bronglais General Hospital sites.</p> <p>Private Solar Farm for PPH – c.8 MW solar farm development near PPH. The proposal is to provide a c. 2MW electrical supply to the PPH site at an agreed level below market rates by the end of 2026.</p>
Transport	<p>HDUHB have formally signed up to the Regional Healthy Travel Charter (PHW initiative) which supports alternative travel/commuting options and reducing carbon whilst choosing healthier travel options</p> <p>The Central Transport Unit (CTU) have been working in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) on regional travel/transport plans and several active travel routes have been prioritized as part of the new masterplan which will serve the new Corporate Headquarters in Carmarthen, Carmarthen Hwb and Glangwili General Hospital.</p> <p>A new bicycle shelter funded by CCC has been installed in PPH</p> <p>We have been a joint [partner in conducting a Travel/Parking Economic Study via the Shared Prosperity Fund in partnership with CCC that will provide recommendations for maximising sustainable travel/transport opportunities across Carmarthen Town and immediate vicinity.</p> <p>Fleet vehicle transitions to EV's continue as when our vehicle lease agreements come to an end and are renewed with the relevant supplier.</p> <p>A new HDd Sustainable Transport/Travel Strategy is complete which fully supports our route to net zero and our transition to EV/Hydrogen fleet.</p>
Approach to health care	<p>We have several projects in the pipeline, being piloted and/or fully rolled out across Hywel Dda UHB. The below list provides a snapshot of the different initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recyclable Ward Curtains – to replace the non-recyclable versions currently in use. • Uniform Return and Re-use Scheme – repurposing old uniforms into other useable items e.g. surgical caps. • Warp-It Recycle & Re-use Platform to promote the recycle/re-use/repurposing of office furniture, stationary items and various walking aids so to avoid buying new.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusable Tourniquets (instead of single use plastic version) – this has been a successful pilot across Pathology and has been rolled out across laboratories – we are now progressing to roll out across other suitable services. • Removal of Plastic Medicine Pots, replacing with a recyclable option diverting millions of these away from landfill. • Removal of Patient Plastic Bags – replacing with a recyclable version • Nappicycle – diverting all disposable nappy and incontinence products away from landfill and are now recycled into Cellulose and Asphalt • Oral Nutritional Supplements – to identify a replacement product and supplier that can offer all recyclable packaging – current supply is non-recyclable bottling and packaging. • Inhaler Replacement Project – progress continues in prescribing DPI’s as opposed to MDI’s where appropriate. • Greener ED Framework – enabling/supporting our Emergency Departments to prepare an evidence base to gain their bronze award for a Greener ED in 2025/26. • Blister Pack Medicine Packets – identifying a process and a supplier to separate the materials and recycle these items • Piloting the use of a Bioplastic Speculum - current product used in HBs is plastic single use item, we have identified a bioplastic option which our sexual health service is piloting. • Re-using Specimen Bags (Phlebotomy Pilot) – reusing the outer specimen bags sent to our Pathology laboratories.
Additional information	<p>The Hywel Dda Annual Report has a dedicated section on Environmental Sustainability that includes our decarbonisation and net zero progress as well as setting out our climate-related financial disclosure information.</p> <p>HDd have developed an Integrated Impact Assessment which has a robust section on climate change adaptation, net zero and environmental sustainability. Both the HDd ‘Strategy Refresh’ and ‘Clinical Services Planning’ will include the themes of climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>

2.4. Decarbonisation Risks

The NWSSP Decarbonisation Co-ordination Reporting (DCR) Team will provide the Programme Team with your Organisation’s high-level risks and mitigation measures, reported alongside Q4 progress report so decarbonisation risks information no longer needs to be submitted within this qualitative reporting template.

3. Adaptation (new for 2024-25)

This is a new section for 2024/25 and reflects the need for organisations to undertake adaptation planning that identifies and responds to the risks and opportunities to health, and health service delivery, from more extreme weather and in particular heat, storms and flooding. The Programme Team appreciate that this work is likely to be at an early stage across all organisations.

Welsh Government’s [Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales 2024](#) contains a specific chapter focused on health and well-being. The [Health and Social Care Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#) supports organisations undertake climate risk and opportunity assessments and initiate adaptation planning.


3.1. Adaptation Delivery Progress RAG

RAG Rating: The Programme Team in assessing your qualitative review will use the following RAG descriptors to measure and score the organisation’s progress on the development of your Adaptation Plan in readiness for your Board’s approval and implementation and monitoring from 1 January 2026.

Delivery Progress RAG Rating Guidance: Please use the following measures to assess the progress on the development of your Adaptation Plan.

Red	Work has not commenced and/or the organisation has not agreed the timescales, budget, and scope to deliver the Adaptation Plan by the end of December 2025.
Amber	Development of the Adaptation Plan has commenced but progress is slow. Low-level issues that need to be mitigated to deliver the Plan by December 2025.
Green	Development of the Adaptation Plan is on track and progressing well within set timescales (by December 2025), budget, and scope.

Provide the RAG status on the development, delivery and implementation of your Adaptation Plan.

Current RAG Status		Reason for current RAG delivery progress	Work on adaptation planning has commenced, appropriate governance has been established and we are on track to have an approved Climate Adaptation Plan by Summer 2025.
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3.2. Summary of Progress on Adaptation Planning

A contract has been awarded to Local Partnerships to support Hywel Dda in developing our Climate Adaptation Delivery Plan. Mobilisation has taken place and delivery is underway.

4. Background information

The [Health and Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme](#) web page sets out the background and key information on how the programme will help the health and social care sector respond to the climate emergency.

Relevant Strategies and Guidance

- [Net Zero Wales](#) sets out the actions needed to meet Wales's second carbon budget (2021-2025).
- [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) sets out initiatives to reduce emissions in the NHS
- [Adaptation Strategy for Wales](#) sets out the actions being taken now and in the future to respond to climate change.
- The requirement for NHS organisations to ensure that the role as Anchor Institutions is fully exploited, demonstrating their contributions to the climate change agenda and the partnership and collaboration opportunities across sectors that comes with this responsibility is referenced in the [NHS Wales Planning Framework 2024-2027](#).
- Details of how NHS Wales will measure and report performance in health care are referenced in the [NHS Wales performance framework 2024 - 2025](#).
- Best practice and case studies from NHS Organisations can be found on the [NHS Confederation website](#).