

Trust Board Meeting – Cover Sheet

Subject:	Proposal to Declare a Climate Emergency	Date: 2 nd December 2021		
Prepared By:	Kimberley Cannon, Sustainability Service Lead			
Approved By:	Dr Helena Clements, Clinical Lead for Climate Action			
Presented By:	Paul Robinson			
Purpose				
The purpose of this paper is to propose that Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust declare a 'Climate Emergency' .			Approval	X
			Assurance	
			Update	
			Consider	
Strategic Objectives				
To provide outstanding care	To promote and support health and wellbeing	To maximise the potential of our workforce	To continuously learn and improve	To achieve better value
X	X			
Overall Level of Assurance				
	Significant	Sufficient	Limited	None
Indicate the overall level of assurance provided by the report.		X		
Risks/Issues				
Financial	The Climate Emergency has the potential to impact negatively on Trust finances. No investment required to make the decision to declare a Climate Emergency however it should be acknowledged that investment will be required for retrofit measures to estates, likely through a capital bid process.			
Patient Impact	The Climate Emergency has the potential to impact negatively on the quality of care provided. Research shows that 92% of the public believe it is important for health systems to work in a more sustainably. Over a third of people agreed, even if it cost more, and a quarter felt it should be a top priority. ⁽¹⁾			
Staff Impact	The Climate Emergency has the potential to impact negatively on the experience of our colleagues. NHS staff overwhelmingly back action, with 98% of staff asked believing that it is important for the health and care system to support the environment. ⁽²⁾			
Services	The Climate Emergency has the potential to impact negatively on the quality and reputation of our service. There may also be additional and/or frequently changing regulation and challenges from a procurement and service provision point of view from resource scarcity. Distribution and logistical issues could be faced due to			

	<p>increased supply chain vulnerability and pressures. Most importantly, there are significant impacts expected on the general population who will be affected by rising temperatures, air pollution and flooding. These include risk of disease, food shortages, displacement and disruption to property.⁽³⁾</p>
Reputational	<p>By declaring a Climate Emergency we are demonstrating an awareness of the severity of the global situation we face and the impact it will have on health.</p>
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before	
<p>Trust Management Team – unanimously supported 24/11/21</p>	
Executive Summary	
<p>1. <u>Overview</u></p> <p>1.1. Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SFH) have developed a comprehensive Green Plan⁽⁴⁾, which sets out the organisation’s ambition over the next five years to become more sustainable and reduce its impact on the environment as a result of its daily operations. The development of the Green Plan is part of a wider NHS strategy as outlined in the Greener NHS Programme, which aims to make the NHS ‘net zero carbon’ by 2040.</p> <p>1.2. A Climate Emergency can be defined as: <i>a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.</i> (Oxford Dictionary, 2019)⁽⁶⁾</p> <p>1.3. A ‘Climate Emergency’ declaration sends a clear message that the Trust recognises the threat posed to public health by climate change and that we are fully committed to our carbon reduction plans, ensuring that we improve and protect the health of those who use and provide our services. Sitting alongside the core values of the NHS to ‘do no harm’ and reduce health inequality, we must be bold in our ambitions to do things differently and commit to investigating new, innovative practices and service delivery models that offer solutions which are fit for purpose in light of the changing climate.</p> <p>1.4. By declaring a Climate Emergency, we would be following in the footsteps of many other NHS Trusts who are prominent in their Climate Change efforts ⁽⁵⁾:</p> <p>Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – June 2019 North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol NHS FT - October 2019 Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – November 2019 Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – December 2019 NHS Trusts in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – October 2020 Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust – March 2021 University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – August 2021</p> <p>2. <u>Proposed Process</u></p> <p>2.1. If the Board agrees with this proposal, Sherwood Forest Hospitals would declare a Climate Emergency, and share our Green Plan 2021-26 ambitions further publicly:⁽⁴⁾</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeding the current NHS commitments towards sustainability, we will: Reduce carbon emissions from energy consumption by 80% by 2025 (from our 2013/14 baseline). • Aim to cut patient transport service mileage by 25% by 2025 to improve local air quality. • Reduce fossil fuel use on our estates over the next 5 years, with the long-term goal of phasing out their use before 2040. 	

- Reduce our overall waste volume by 7% per year to 2025, from our 2017/18 baseline, thus improving our 20% recycling rate and continuing our zero to landfill achievement.
- Cease purchase of single-use plastic stirrers and straws, single-use plastic cutlery, plates or single use cups made of polystyrene or oxo-degradable plastics by April 2022.
- Continue in our achievement of limiting our water consumption to 1.2 m³/m² and remain within the lower quartile value of our peers, as determined by the Model Hospital.

This will place us favourably on the path towards net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

2.2. In addition to our Green Plan (4) commitments, we propose to:

- Agree to work collaboratively with neighbouring organisations, NHS Trusts, partners, providers and other public bodies to agree individual and collective actions to deliver this ambition.
- Include climate change as a risk on the Trust Risk Register.

2.3. The TMT unanimously supported the proposal on 24/11/21 recognising that by Declaring a Climate Emergency we will be making a clear statement to our staff, our patients and the wider community of our intention to address this urgently alongside our other priorities.

2.4. We would welcome the Board's thoughts on communicating this both internally and externally. This should be viewed as a positive step forward in the Trust's work towards mitigating Climate Change, especially soon after COP26 when there has been a significant amount of media attention on the subject.

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Trust Board are asked to approve this proposal;. This will support SFH in its ambition to achieve its organisational Green Plan objectives, to become a 'greener' anchor organisation and align with our ICS counterparts in terms of sustainable business practices.

4. Next Steps

4.1. Should Board approve this proposal, the following next steps will be taken:

- a. Declare a Climate Emergency
- b. Communication of the process both internally and externally would be driven by recommendations of the Board, TMT and Climate Action team.
- c. Review and update the Trusts carbon emissions, to better reflect our current position.

5. References & Further Reading

1. [Sustainability-and-the-NHS-Public-opinion-survey-2015.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
2. [Sustainability-and-the-NHS-Staff-survey-2017.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)



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- 3.
4. <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/media/11897/sfh-green-plan-2021-2026.pdf>
5. [NHS | Declare a Climate Emergency](#)
6. [Oxford Word of the Year 2019 | Oxford Languages \(oup.com\)NHS | Declare a Climate Emergency](#)