

CASE STUDY

Helping University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust attain a more sustainable future.



CGI helped University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust to better understand its data in order to create a strategic, actionable roadmap to net zero.

The NHS push for sustainability

Despite healthcare provision being largely dominated by COVID-19 in 2020, climate change continued to be a focus with long-term implications for the country. In October 2020, the NHS reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability and became the world's first health service to set carbon net zero targets.

This national programme, 'For a Greener NHS' involves two key goals:

1. Net zero for directly controlled (scope 1,2 and 3) emissions by 2040.
2. Net zero for additional scope 3 emissions such as supply chain emissions, construction, staff commuting and patient travel by 2045.

Better understanding the data

To demonstrate progress towards these goals, all NHS trusts have created and submitted green plans. University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust (the Trust) is the largest hospital in the South West peninsula, providing secondary treatment for patients from all over the region with a total catchment of two million. Like many trusts around the country, the Trust found that dealing with resource shortages, conflicting advice and cumbersome data sets made sustainability initiatives a challenge.

The Trust therefore turned to us for assistance in developing a workable and effective baseline to underpin their sustainability strategy. Alongside navigating NHS sustainability requirements, the Trust was particularly focused on:

- Developing a confident understanding of its sustainability to assess how it was performing compared to other Trusts within the local area
- Generating stakeholder engagement with a workshop in its baseline carbon footprint was presented.



Key benefits

- Improved governance of sustainability data
- Improved data quality
- Greater confidence in GHG assertions
- Implementation of processes around GHG reporting
- Better understanding of scope 3 emissions
- Confidence in addressing the right areas sustainability
- Better understanding of performance against peer group organisations



Partnering with the Trust

Without accurate measurements, it was impossible to manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or to assess the success of any sustainability initiatives. We therefore began our partnership with the Trust by helping them gather appropriate data sets and emission factors.

From here, we helped the Trust to establish a roadmap to net zero for both the directly controlled emissions and additional relevant scope 3 emissions. This process not only helped the Trust to benchmark its starting point, but also helped the Trust to plan initiatives that would help the Trust achieve net zero.

To create strong internal governance and a strategic approach to sustainability, we guided the Trust through our 'Assess. Plan. Perform. Sustain' framework, including tasks such as:

- Reviewing and making improvements to the Trust's data sets
- Performing a gap analysis of the existing data management processes
- Undertaking a GHG discovery exercise
- Augmenting how the Trust presented its emissions
- Creating a robust data management plan to help the Trust monitor its emissions
- Peer reviewing the Trust against other trusts in the local area to provide a comparative analysis.

Generating stakeholder engagement

Once on better footing and with a clearer understanding of its data, we then set up a workshop with the Trust to present the baseline carbon footprint and to assess their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. The Trust now has a better understanding of its sources of emissions as well as a clear roadmap to net zero. The Trust is now on track to reach its sustainability targets.



“CGI worked closely alongside University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust to help us understand the sustainability data we had and how best to use this to progress towards our ‘For a Greener NHS’ targets. We now have a clear plan of action and, thanks to the forum, everyone’s aware of the hospital’s baseline carbon footprint, as well as both our short and long-term goals.”

Kirsty Wavish

Green Plan Programme Manager
University Hospitals Plymouth

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