



# **AWTTC**

## **Sustainability strategy**

### **2023**

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## Introduction

The NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan, published in March 2021, sets out the ways in which we will address the climate emergency. The Plan has 46 initiatives and targets for the decarbonisation of NHS Wales. The targets are ambitious and may require a drastic change in our approach to healthcare, but we must act immediately if we are to reduce our impact on the climate. The NHS Wales decarbonisation targets are to reduce carbon emissions by 16% by 2025, and by 34% by 2030.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) places a duty on the NHS in Wales to consider sustainability throughout its work. Therefore, it provides a purposeful driver for NHS Wales to make real changes in the carbon emissions associated with its services. Public bodies in Wales must work towards achieving all of the act's 7 wellbeing goals to make a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, and globally responsible Wales, of cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

The All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) support NHS Wales to implement the initiatives and ensure the targets are achieved. AWTTC is hosted by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and is involved in sustainability strategies and groups at a local level. On a national level AWTTC contributes to the sustainability initiatives of NHS Wales, including the national strategy for Wales on 'Decarbonisation – inhaler prescribing use and disposal'. AWTTC plays a key role in liaising with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry in Wales about their sustainability initiatives.

This document sets out AWTTC's plan of local and national actions to help us reduce the NHS carbon footprint, work more sustainably and make Wales a better place to live for current and future generations.

## What will we do?

AWTTC will engage and support its staff to make sure that our staff and visitors know about AWTTC's commitment to sustainability, and that staff feel valued in their contribution.

AWTTC will promote environmental monitoring as part of project management. We will build staff capacity to help support the "green" agenda, locally in the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (C&V UHB) and nationally in Wales.

### AWTTC will support sustainability by:

- Considering the environmental impacts arising from our activities and setting objectives and targets for activities having the most significant impact.
- Considering all relevant environmental legislation, and other environmental requirements or commitments.
- Engaging with colleagues, stakeholders, patients and the public to ensure that our work is relevant and sustainable for NHS Wales.
- Reviewing our policies to take account of changes in Welsh Government targets as well as internal and external factors.
- Considering the environmental impact of projects undertaken by AWTTC, to ensure the environmental effect is reduced as much as possible in agreement with interested parties and periodically monitoring and measuring their outcome. As part of sustainable quality improvement, the value of healthcare outcomes will be considered against the triple bottom line of environmental, social and financial impact.

### Our focus will be to:

- Enable AWTTC staff to follow the "green" agenda at work and:
  - reduce our use of materials and energy;
  - use recycling initiatives;
  - reduce medicines waste; and
  - reduce the environmental impact of our business travel by using environmentally friendly transport, and alternative mechanisms to deliver our work effectively.
- Explore how to measure the impact of AWTTC's sustainability actions on the environment.

- Explore how we can evaluate the environmental impact of new medicines in AWMSG's health technology assessment process.
- Embed sustainability in our medicines optimisation process by supporting initiatives to:
  - reduce pollution;
  - recycle medicines;
  - reduce medicines waste;
  - promote best practice for medical conditions caused by pollution; and
  - support social prescribing initiatives.
- Use data to monitor the use of medicines with a high carbon footprint in Wales and report on the progress of initiatives to improve sustainability.
- Engage and support staff to promote environmental monitoring as part of project management and build staff capacity to help deliver a “green” medicine agenda in Wales.
- Use an equality and health inequality impact assessment (EqHIA) to try to make sure all members of society in Wales are informed, involved and benefit from the outcomes of our projects, medicines optimisation work and medicines appraisals, and policies.

## Action plan

AWTTC will support the decarbonisation agenda and make changes to improve our environment for future generations.

Proposed national actions	Stakeholders
<p><b>Respiratory inhalers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote awareness of its dashboard to enable stakeholders to monitor the use of high and low carbon inhalers in Wales.</li> <li>Encourage discussion and develop mechanisms to reduce the detrimental environmental impact of respiratory inhalers on future generations.</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to develop ways to encourage patients to dispose of their inhalers appropriately.</li> </ul>	<p>AWMSG AWPAG AWTTC Community Pharmacy Wales Public Health Wales Respiratory Health Implementation Group Welsh Government</p>
<p><b>Reduce medicines waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Bangor University on a systematic review of the ways to improve medicines adherence.</li> <li>Report on the progress of initiatives to improve sustainability, such as medicines recycling and waste.</li> <li>Monitor medicines prescribing in Wales.</li> <li>Report on the progress of initiatives to reduce inappropriate polypharmacy.</li> </ul>	<p>AWMSG AWPAG AWTTC Bangor University Bevan Commission Welsh Government</p>
<p><b>Treatment guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop guidelines to support high value treatments for illnesses that can be affected by pollution such as heart disease, asthma and COPD.</li> <li>Consider and promote through PAPIG social prescribing initiatives to reduce the use of medicines, for example, diet and exercise for type 2 diabetes.</li> </ul>	<p>AWMSG AWPAG AWTTC AWTTC's Patient and Public Involvement Group Public Health Wales Respiratory Health Implementation Group Welsh Government</p>
<p><b>Carbon footprint of medicines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the use of medicines with a high carbon footprint.</li> <li>Encourage discussion and develop mechanisms to reduce the detrimental environmental impact of medicines on future generations.</li> </ul>	<p>AWMSG AWPAG Welsh Government</p>

Proposed national actions	Stakeholders
<p><b>Medicines access</b></p> <p>Consider how the carbon footprint of medicines may be evaluated in assessments. This may include considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raw material used</li> <li>• manufacturing processes</li> <li>• transport required</li> <li>• distribution</li> <li>• use (training, administration, general practice and hospital visits)</li> <li>• indirect results of treatment outcomes on patients' needs for other treatments and services that may generate their own environmental impact</li> <li>• disposal (incineration, waste type)</li> <li>• effect on environment</li> <li>• water pollution</li> </ul>	<p>AWMSG  AWTTC  Association of British  Pharmaceutical Industry  Ethical Medicines Industry Group  (EMIG)  New Medicines Group (NMG)  Pharmaceutical companies</p>

Proposed local actions	Stakeholders
<p><b>Energy</b> Reduce energy consumption and use energy appropriately by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• switching lights off when leaving the office or room;</li> <li>• using extra heating appropriately.</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff
<p><b>Food and waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle food waste.</li> <li>• Reduce excessive use of water.</li> <li>• Minimise use of plastics (for example, staff to use own cups).</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the Cardiff &amp; Vale UHB non-smoking policy.</li> <li>• Recycle waste.</li> <li>• Print documents only when necessary.</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff
<p><b>Procurement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sustainable procurement decisions.</li> <li>• Reduce the ordering of single-use devices.</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff
<p><b>Transport</b> Travel to and from work is a significant cause of carbon pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use environmentally friendly travel where possible.</li> <li>• Use video conference facilities and virtual/hybrid meetings when appropriate.</li> <li>• Travel actively (walking, cycling) if possible.</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff
<p><b>Equality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an Equality and Health Impact Assessment form and ensure it is considered by AWMSG and its subcommittees for all internal projects and policies, medicines optimisation projects and medicines appraisals.</li> <li>• Ensure our information is published in formats that are accessible to all.</li> </ul>	AWTTC staff AWTTC Equality Group External project leads

**AWTTC will work in conjunction with the C&V UHB Green Group and national environmental committees (such as Green Health Wales).**