

Public Health Wales

# Decarbonisation Action Plan Executive Summary

2022-2024



# Public Health Wales Decarbonisation Action Plan Executive Summary

Public Health Wales' Decarbonisation Action Plan (DAP) sets out the key actions and strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) supporting our journey to becoming Net Zero by 2030. The plan identifies deliverable actions for two years from April 2022 to March 2024, aligning to and supporting NHS Wales's Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan.

This DAP takes a theme based approach, detailing actions under five activity streams:



## Carbon Management



## Buildings, Estates Planning & Land Use



## Transport & Travel



## Procurement



## Approaches to Healthcare & Future Service Provision

To achieve Net Zero we will need to scrutinise all of our activities and take appropriate action to reduce emissions from service delivery, buildings, transport, waste and procurement, with **decarbonisation incorporated into the decision making process at all levels.**

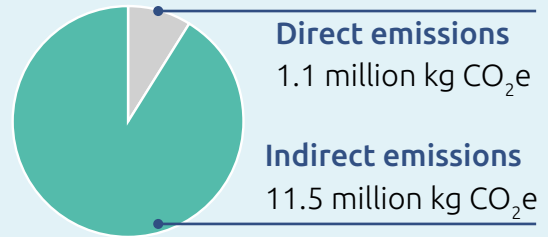
This DAP identifies the importance of Public Health Wales' role as a **National Public Health Institute in Wales**, collaborating with other health boards and trusts to achieve an 'All Wales' approach to reducing emissions. It is well documented that there is a **significant link between the impacts of climate change and the health and well-being of people.** The World Health Organization identifies **climate change as the most significant threat to the health of humanity on a global scale.** Reducing our GHG emissions and taking action on climate change will help bring about direct improvements for public health and health equity.



Both the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** and the **Environment Wales Act 2016** have been incorporated into the development of this plan, and **they need to be considered in all actions during the delivery of this plan.**

Our total GHG emissions calculated for the 2019-20 financial year were determined to be 12.6<sup>1</sup> million kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, and are made up of direct and indirect emissions:

- **Direct emissions:** 1.1 million kg CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2019/20, are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by us, representing those over which we have the most control including utilities, vehicle fleet and business travel
- **Indirect emissions:** 11.5 million kg CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2019/20 are emissions that are a consequence of our activities from sources owned or controlled by us, including procurement of goods and services, which contributes to 91% of our total emissions



Key areas where we can make **significant reductions in emissions** include:



**Buildings and Estate Planning (23.8%** of our direct emissions) - reducing operational GHG emissions from our sites will involve effective estate planning as well as technical innovation



**Travel and Transport (76.2%** of our direct emissions, with **39.8%** from business travel) – this will require the support of staff to adopt sustainable travel methods, as well as Public Health Wales providing incentives to help transition to electric/hybrid vehicles.

We have delivered a number of successful projects to date including **replacing lighting with LEDs, installing electric vehicle charge points, developing educational resources** to support behaviour change and establishing **Green Advocates**, an internal staff network for sustainable development. We have also signed the **Cardiff Healthy Travel Charter** and made a commitment to go **'plastic free' by 2023**, key actions to demonstrate commitment to reducing emissions.

Our **Primary Care Division**, launched the **Greener Primary Care Wales Framework and Award Scheme** in spring 2022, to support independent primary care contractors to take action to respond to the climate emergency.

We have established a **Climate Change Programme Board** to provide strategic direction and governance for this work and to ensure we have a joined up approach to climate change.



<sup>1</sup> This figure provides our baseline to inform target setting and monitor progress

It is essential to highlight that this DAP is not a plan just for Estates and Facilities or for the Health and Sustainability Hub, it is a plan for **every member of staff** within Public Health Wales. Actions identified within this plan require **all directorates and service areas to contribute to, and support and deliver actions** to reduce carbon emissions, support behaviour change and actively reduce our impact on climate change.

The **vast majority of actions identified within this plan cannot be quantified but are likely to support the reduction of emissions, in the short term or in the future.** There are also a significant number of actions that focus on undertaking reviews to support next steps and it is essential that this plan evolves as these reviews are completed, and implementation actions are agreed and progressed.

Capital budgets and spending must align with the decarbonisation agenda. Financial implications have been identified for certain actions, but no costs allocated.

Our IMTP clearly highlights that we have both an **internal role to reduce emissions across the whole organisation** alongside a **system leadership role to progress the climate change agenda.** This DAP is a living breathing document that will react to internal and external changes and influences.

Although the actions identified in this plan are likely to result in a reduction of GHG emissions, future decarbonisation action plans will need to **increase the level of ambition** and have **strategic targets** in place to reduce emissions further in the short timescale requirement. There is a long way to go to achieve net zero emissions by 2030; agreeing this Plan is an important first step, our focus must now be on delivery.



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