

GREEN PLAN

Introduction

Heart Networks UK Limited is a GP specialist led community-based cardiology outpatient service to meet the needs of all patients registered with North, Central and South Manchester GP localities. The service provides a non-complex cardiology assessment, diagnostics and management negating the need for secondary care where safe and appropriate to do so.

Every NHS organisation will be supporting the NHS wide ambition to become the world's first healthcare system to reach net zero carbon emissions. The "Delivering a net zero National Health Service" report highlighted that left unabated climate change will disrupt care, with poor environmental health contributing to major diseases, including cardiac problems, asthma and cancer.

Heart Networks recognises that the enormous issues of climate change present challenges to the NHS and our patients. Our plan will contribute to the great sustainability work being undertaken right across Greater Manchester including prioritising interventions which will simultaneously improve patient care and community well-being while tackling climate change and broader sustainability issues. Implementing the actions presented within this Green Plan will help ensure that Heart Networks is creating the best environment for our staff and patients. Staff are engaged in our Green Plan and take ownership within their own areas of influence to enhance our approach to sustainability.

Heart Networks' Green Plan goals which are set out below demonstrate our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment and to deliver sustainable healthcare, helping to secure better health for life for generations to come. We will work with patients, staff, local communities and partners to put our organisation on a path to a cleaner, greener, healthier and more equitable future.



Cleaner Air

We will contribute to the reduction of harmful particle matter in the air around our site to create a greener and safer environment for the community which will improve health outcomes. Our clinic site has electric heating and hot water to reduce our carbon emissions. Rooms have individual heating and lighting controls to save unnecessary energy consumption. We will encourage hybrid meetings by allowing people to join a meeting both virtually and in-person to reduce people making unnecessary journeys that release greenhouse gases and other air pollutants into the atmosphere. We will where possible order consumables in bulk from local suppliers. We will use due diligence with all our suppliers to reduce risks or concerns such as modern slavery. We will buy energy from a supplier of sustainable energy to help make the business more eco-friendly.



Reduced Energy Usage

Phantom power is energy that is consumed by electronic devices whilst they are in stand-by mode or completely switched off. We will reduce our energy use by turning off computers and other equipment when not in use. We will replace lighting with LED's. We will switch off lighting and heating in areas not in use.



Smarter Travel

We will reduce air pollution by encouraging greener and active travel alternatives among our staff, patients and visitors. Our clinic site is located close to major public bus and tram routes. We will offer facilities, such as a bike rack to safely store bicycles, to encourage employees to cycle to work to promote a healthier lifestyle whilst reducing emissions from vehicles in the local area.



Water Use

We will improve our water efficiency by reducing consumption and waste. We will install a dishwasher which will be more water and energy efficient.



Better Waste Management

We will reduce the level of waste we produce as a service. We will embed best practices around recycling and disposal. We will reduce office waste by continuing to implement paperless workflows to help save trees and reduce printing as well as reduce energy consumption from printing equipment. We will shred and recycle confidential information. We will use rechargeable batteries where possible. We will use a battery recycling company who will collect and recycle used batteries.



Innovative Care

We will become more sustainable through continuous improvement and innovation in the care we provide for patients. We will offer patients remote consultations for follow up appointments to reduce patient travel. We will continue to investigate how to integrate better pathways to improve and provide an efficient service. We will educate and develop the team's understanding of sustainable practices on topics such as energy efficiency, waste management and conservation to not only be more environmentally friendly in their workplace but also in their own homes.



Greener Facilities

We will ensure that sustainability is at the forefront of improvements and refurbishments to our facilities with patient and staff wellbeing at the core. This will include any new building work and greater utilisation of our ways of working. The service is making good progress towards becoming a paper-free organisation. We have no paper patient records and have reduced printing and postage by various utilising electronic communication systems. We will partner with a green website building platform which uses renewable energy sources, such solar, wind and hydroelectric power to reduce the environmental impact of powering its servers.