

Property and Asset Management

NHS Fife Annual Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report

2023-2024

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Introduction

This is NHS Fife's Annual Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report for the financial year 2023/2024.

NHS Fife delivers healthcare services to approximately 375,000 residents across Fife and employs around 9,805 staff, including 8,195 WTE staff. Our estate spans 130 hectares across 49 sites, with over 60% of this area equating to 84 hectares, designated as Greenspace.

As part of our commitment to becoming a net-zero health board by 2040, and in alignment with the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency & Sustainability Strategy 2022–2026, NHS Fife has prioritised sustainability across many facets of the organisation. This includes significant efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to more sustainable practices, wherever feasible. This report outlines our progress and highlights key initiatives undertaken to advance our sustainability objectives.

While our primary focus remains on the health and wellbeing of our patients and staff, NHS Fife recognises its role as a major public sector organisation and Anchor Institution within the region. We are committed to demonstrating environmental leadership by minimising our environmental impact and creating a more sustainable healthcare system for the people of Fife, both now and for future generations.

Leadership and Governance

NHS Fife has made significant progress towards meeting the requirements of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy, by identifying and aligning staff roles and responsibilities towards the sustainability agenda.

This year, an Energy Manager was appointed to strengthen our workforce and support the delivery of our sustainability goals. The role is vital in driving improvements in energy efficiency and advancing decarbonisation efforts across our estate. The growth of our Sustainability Team reflects the Board's commitment to allocating the necessary resources to engage with all departments across the organisation, fostering effective and lasting change.

We are also in the process of establishing an Infrastructure and Change Board to support our sustainability agenda. This programme is a key component of our Re-form, Perform, Transform (RTP) Framework, which prioritises areas for financial savings. It has since evolved to encompass sustainability projects aligned with the NHS Scotland Climate Change Emergency & Sustainability Strategy 2022–2026. These initiatives are linked to the objectives outlined in the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP), as reported to the Scottish Government.

The following table represents current roles of staff in the organisation:

Executive Director	Executive Input to Objective	Role
Non-Executive Director	Contributor and Non-Executive Board Champion for Sustainability	The role of a Non-Executive Board Champion is to ensure that the Board is aware of the key priorities and responsibilities within the strategy. The Board Champion will also lead on the development of sustainable communities and adapt to the impact of climate change.
Director of Property and Asset Management	Lead Executive	The role is Lead Executive (LE) and will create management time and capacity to co-ordinate the strategy on a day-to-day basis.
Director of Public Health	Board lead for Anchor Institution and contributor	The role will ensure that the Board is aware of the key priorities and responsibilities within the strategy. The Director of Public Health will lead the development of sustainable communities and adaptation on the impact of climate change.
Director of Pharmacy	Clinical lead for Sustainability	
Medical Director	Contributor	Lead and develop the rationale and modelling around Sustainable Care into the future including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Care Pathways • Reducing harm and waste • Medicines • Green Theatres • Supporting Primary Care
Director of Nursing	Contributor	
Director of Acute Services	Contributor	
Director of Health and Social Care	Contributor	
Director of Pharmacy and Medicines	Clinical Lead for Sustainability and Contributor	
Director of Finance and Strategy	Contributor	LE for Sustainable Goods and Services (circular economy) and consideration for PMO support for the programme and reporting regime.
Director of Workforce	Contributor	LE for staff engagement within NHS Fife staff to ensure that Climate Emergency and Sustainability is at the heart of all that we do including staff training, awareness, and communication.
Head of Sustainability	Contributor	Lead and promote improvements on NHS Fife's performance on climate change and sustainability.
Sustainability Officers	Contributor	Delivering projects and supporting NHS Fife to meet sustainability objectives.
Energy Manager	Contributor	Managing energy across the Estate and supporting NHS Fife in meeting its objectives.

Summary of Impacts

NHS Fife aims to become a net-zero organisation by 2040.

The table sets out the amount of emissions produced annually by NHS Fife:

Source	Description	2022/23 Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2023/24 Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage Change 2022/23 to 2023/24
Building energy	Greenhouse gases produced when providing electricity and energy heat for NHS buildings	19,794.9	20,181.3	+1.95%
Non-medical F-gas	Greenhouse gases used for refrigeration and air conditioning	312.32	93.90	-69.9%
Medical gases	Greenhouse gases used in anesthetics - nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), Entonox (which contains nitrous oxide), desflurane, sevoflurane and isoflurane	1,338	1,420	+6.12%
Metered dose inhaler propellant	Greenhouse gases used as a propellant in inhalers used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD)	6,034	6,074	+0.66%
NHS fleet travel	Greenhouse gases produced by NHS vehicles	468.44	417.14	-11.5%
Waste	Greenhouse gases produced by the disposal and treatment of waste produced by the NHS	306.20	310.34	+1.35%
Water	Greenhouse gas produced from the use of water and the treatment of waste water (note this is only ten months usage due to an issue with billing)	102	104	+1.96%
Business travel	Greenhouse gases produced by staff travelling to work (using their own vehicles)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Total Emissions		28,355.86	28,600.68	+0.86%
Carbon sequestration	The amount of carbon dioxide captured by woodland, trees, grassland, and shrubs growing on NHS grounds	259.70	259.70	0

The table below displays key resources NHS Fife has used over the last two years:

Source	2022/23 Use	2023/24 Use	Percentage Change 2022/23 to 2023/24
Building energy (kWh)	96,098,978	95,180,534	-0.96%
Waste (tonnes)	2,853	2,937	+2.9%
Water (cubic metres)	250,833	282,590	+12.7%

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change exacerbates existing health risks and introduces new challenges, ranging from the spread of infectious diseases to the intensification of heatwaves and extreme weather events that will impact the health of the population, healthcare assets and services.

NHS Scotland plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the life and health of communities by developing climate-resilient health systems capable of responding to evolving threats.

The changing climate is increasing risks for health and health services. More information on these risks in the UK can be found in the UK Climate Change Committee's Health and Social Care Briefing: www.ukclimaterisk.org/independent-assessment-ccra3/briefings/

What are the main risks from climate change that the Health Board has identified through its Climate Change Risk Assessment?

- Overheating - risk to electrical equipment, patient and staff health and to delays in service provision.
- Flooding and downpours - infrastructure damage, equipment damage, staff unable to commute to work, appointment and service cancellations which all impact on patient and staff health, both mentally and physically.
- Structural damage from high winds - infrastructure damage, equipment damage and risks to the health of patients and staff.

What actions has the health board taken to reduce those risks - what has changed since the last report?

In alignment with the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme and based on board assessments, primary, current and future risks identified are the impacts of extreme weather on infrastructure and service provision. The board is actively identifying areas at risk of flooding and extreme weather, with plans to implement solutions to mitigate damage and service disruption.

Over the past year, NHS Fife has taken significant steps to address these climate risks and adapt to the challenges of climate change.

Overheating in hospital wards has been identified as a key risk and NHS Fife has partnered with NHS Assure to explore effective solutions. Two wards - one at Lynebank Hospital, Dunfermline and another at Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, have been selected for pilot studies.

Technical surveys of these areas are underway, and we are exploring nature-based solutions, such as planting trees to provide shading and reduce solar radiation, which in turn, creates a cooling effect.

In addition, research has been conducted using the NHS Scotland Climate Mapping Tool to assess flooding risks on all of our sites. This research identified ten to fourteen coastal sites potentially at risk of flooding by 2080.

The Den Burn at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy has been risk-assessed for flooding in collaboration with Fife Council.

To further our adaptation efforts, NHS Fife has joined the Sniffer Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network. Membership provides opportunities to gain experience from other organisations and share our own experiences, insights and challenges.

What are we doing to be prepared for the impacts of climate and increase the resilience of our healthcare assets and services?

NHS Fife is proactively strengthening the resilience of our healthcare assets and services to address the impacts of climate change. This includes embedding climate risk assessments into our resilience planning in collaboration with our Resilience Team.

We are also enhancing greenspaces around our facilities to promote biodiversity and incorporate nature-based solutions into site management practices. These efforts not only improve environmental sustainability but also help mitigate the risks of extreme weather events.

The NHS Fife Board is committed to developing a comprehensive adaptation plan based on the forthcoming Scottish National Adaptation Plan. This plan will identify our most significant climate risks and outline measures to safeguard service delivery and infrastructure from adverse weather impacts.

In partnership with Sniffer, through the Climate Ready Southeast Scotland (CRSES) Project, we are identifying regional climate risks and opportunities and exploring collaborative approaches to climate adaptation. Additionally, NHS Fife actively engages with other Boards to exchange insights, progress on adaptation plans and address common challenges.

Building Energy

We aim to use renewable heat sources in all the buildings owned by NHS Fife, by 2038.

NHS Fife has forty-six buildings including hospitals, health centres & clinics.

In 2023/24, 20,181 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent were produced by NHS Fife for the use of energy for buildings. This was an increase of 1.95 % from the year before.

In 2023/24, NHS Fife used 95,181 MWh of energy. This was a decrease of 0.01% from the year before.

In 2023/24, NHS Fife generated 351 MWh of energy from renewable technologies.

Building Energy Emissions - 2015/16, 2022/23 and 2023/24 - tCO ₂ e				
	2015/16 Energy Emissions	2022/23 Energy Emissions	2023/24 Energy Emissions	Percentage Change 2015/16 to 2023/24
Building fossil fuel emissions	16,041	15,141	14,722	-8.2%
District heat networks and biomass	218	66	34	-84.4%
Grid electricity	11,969	4,588.1	5425	-54.7%
Total	28,228	19,795	20,181	-28.5%

Building Energy Use - 2015/16, 2022/23 and 2023/24 - MWh				
	2015/16 Energy Use	2022/23 Energy Use	2023/24 Energy Use	Percentage Change 2015/16 to 2023/24
Building fossil fuel use	76,626.40	70,782.40	68,894.80	-10.1%
District heat networks and biomass	7,918	3,554.20	1,8220	-77%
Grid electricity	24,099.40	21,737.40	24,113.30	0.058%
Renewable electricity	n/a	25	351	n/a
Total	108,643.80	96,099	95,181.10	-12.4%

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce emissions from building energy use?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife took several key steps to reduce emissions from building energy use:

- LCITP - Funded Projects - Through the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP), we secured funding to upgrade windows and doors at the Fife College of Nursing, Kirkcaldy.

Additionally, we installed new attic insulation and upgraded heating insulation to improve energy efficiency.

- Hot Water Recovery - A hot water recovery unit was installed in the laundry at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, which is projected to deliver significant energy savings, equating to approximately £100,000 annually.
- LED Lighting Upgrades - Following the LCITP, NHS Fife allocated £500,000 from its Capital Budget to replace lighting across the estate with energy-efficient LED alternatives.

These initiatives represent our continued commitment to improving energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint across our facilities.

What are we doing in 2024/25 and the longer term to reduce emissions from building energy use?

From 2024/25, NHS Fife is focusing on enhancing energy management and implementing renewable technologies to further reduce emissions:

- Enhanced Data Monitoring - We aim to develop strategies for more granular monitoring of energy data. Currently, our systems do not allow us to assess the performance of individual buildings, and this improvement will provide the insights needed to target efficiency measures more effectively.
- Renewable Technology Deployment - NHS Fife will continue to engage with National Procurement teams to explore opportunities for implementing fully funded renewable energy technologies across our sites. This includes initiatives such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), additional solar photovoltaic (PV) installations, solar car parks and the exploration of off-site Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).
- Site Rationalisation - We will look to rationalise services across our overall footprint and will work with other public sector organisations to ensure good utilisation of public sector buildings.

These efforts align with our long-term commitment to reducing emissions and transitioning to a more sustainable, energy-efficient estate.

Sustainable Care

The way NHS Fife provides care influences our environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions.

NHS Scotland has three national priority areas for making care more sustainable:

Anaesthesia, surgery and respiratory medicine.

Anaesthesia and Surgery

Greenhouse gases are used as anaesthetics and for pain relief. These gases are nitrous oxide, Entonox (a mixture of oxygen and nitrous oxide) and the volatile gases; desflurane, sevoflurane and isoflurane.

Through improvements to anaesthetic technique and the management of medical gas delivery systems, the NHS can reduce emissions from these sources.

NHS Fife's total emissions from these gases in 2023/24 was 1,372, which is an increase of 74 from the previous year.

Emission details are set out in the tables below:

*Note: The nitrous manifolds only completely ceased use in October 2023 and then there were a number of returns which appear to have affected our figures for 2023/24. The most recent report shows no piped nitrous this year.

Nitrous Oxide and Entonox Emissions - 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24 - tCO ₂ e				
Source	2018/19 (baseline year)	2022/23	2023/24	Percentage Change 2018/19 to 2023/24
Piped nitrous oxide	188	217	336	+78.7%
Portable nitrous oxide	128	109	97	-24.23%
Piped entonox	1,064	858	831	-21.9%
Portable entonox	113	114	108	-4.42%
Total	1,493	1,298	1,372	-8.1%

Volatile Medical Gas Emissions - 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24 - tCO ₂ e				
	2018/19 (baseline year)	2022/23	2023/24	Percentage Change 2018/19 to 2023/24
Desflurane	95	-4	-	-100%
Isoflurane	6	0	1	-83.33%
Sevoflurane	51	44	47	-7.84%
Total	152	40	48	-68.42%

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce emissions from anaesthetic gases?

In 2023, the nitrous oxide manifolds at Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline and at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy were decommissioned to conclude the work of the Short-life Working Group established in 2022 to address the recommendations contained in the Technical Update - Anaesthetic Nitrous Oxide System Loss and Mitigation and Management

What are we doing in 2024/25 to reduce emissions from anaesthetic gases?

An Entonox® (50/50 nitrous oxide/oxygen) Short-life Working Group has been established to address the recommendations contained in the Technical Update - Entonox® System Loss Mitigation and Management.

In July 2024, a System Loss Assessment of the Entonox piped system at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy was conducted.

Following the Assessment, very minor issues were highlighted, giving assurance that we are not experiencing a system-wide loss of Entonox.

The System Loss Assessment is planned to be repeated in July 2025.

NHS Fife has undertaken a review of the clinical use of Entonox and work is ongoing to consider utilising part-full cylinders rather than return to the supplier where it is being vented into the atmosphere. Close links have been established with the cylinder supplier and we await confirmation of approval from the medicine regulator (Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency) for Entonox cylinders to be 'top-filled' rather than vented.

Monthly report on nitrous oxide and Entonox use are reviewed by the Short-life Working group and Medical Gas Committee and we are pleased to note a reduction in CO₂ emissions as a result of this work.

A National Green Theatres Programme was officially launched in 2023 to help reduce the carbon footprint of theatres across NHS Scotland and to enable more environmentally sustainable care by:

- Collaborating closely with clinicians and professionals to develop actions that reduce carbon emissions, waste and resource use.
- Supporting other NHS Boards with the implementation, measuring and reporting of these improvements.

The Green Theatres Programme is based on actions developed by frontline staff and the Green Theatre Project at Raigmore, NHS Highland.

What are we doing in 2024/25 to make surgery more sustainable?

We continue to work with the National Green Theatre Project team and implement actions when they are published.

Many of these actions are now in practice with work on-going in other areas.

Achievements include:

- Reduction in NO₂ across sites. Manifolds are no longer in use and cylinders are only in use when necessary.
- Correct use of waste streams, including sharps disposal.
- Further enforcement of 'rubbing not scrubbing' which has been in place since 2014.
- Reduction in use of fluid warmers - fluids in warming cabinets, dated (2 weeks), supported by pharmacy colleagues.

Respiratory Medicine

Greenhouse gases are used as a propellant in metered dose inhalers used to treat asthma and COPD. Most of the emissions from inhalers are from the use of reliever inhalers - Short Acting Beta Agonists (SABAs). By helping people to manage their condition more effectively, we can improve patient care and reduce emissions.

There are also more environmentally friendly inhalers such as dry powder inhalers which can be used, where clinically appropriate. We estimate that emissions from inhalers in NHS Fife were 6074 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2023/24.

Inhaler Propellant Emissions - 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24 - tCO ₂ e				
Source	2018/19 (baseline year)	2022/23	2023/24	Percentage Change 2018/19 to 2023/24
Primary Care	5,358.95	5,913.86	5,950	+10.45%
Secondary Care	112.09	121.10	124	+10.09%
Total	5,471.04	6,034.96	6,074.00	+10.45%

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce emissions from inhalers?

- NHS Fife has identified patients who are currently on higher carbon inhalers and have moved suitable patients over to using lower carbon emission inhalers in line with the East Regional Formulary (ERF).
- We encourage the recycling of inhalers and advise patients of good inhaler techniques in order to reduce overuse and wastage. These reduction techniques are included in demonstrations and clinic reviews within Primary Care settings and GP practices.

Secondary Care are also promoting these values.

What are we doing in 2024/25 to improve patient care and reduce emissions from inhalers?

- NHS Fife will continue to promote greener prescribing and encourage DPI over MDI inhaler use.
- We will also continue to deliver education related to impact of carbon emissions within the use of MDI within PC and SC by promoting ERF.
- Before including new inhalers into our formulary, NHS Fife, as part of the East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC), ensure there is robust governance and takes into account carbon emissions of new inhalers as a key factor.
- We will promote MART and AIR therapy. The aim is to improve patient control of symptoms, wellbeing and reduce hospital admissions.

- We will continue to reduce prescribing of SABA by collaborating with our MDT colleagues to identify patients that have had 6 MDI per year. These high-risk patients will be prioritised and reviewed accordingly.

What are we doing to raise awareness with staff and patients, including primary care?

- Posters have been developed which highlight the carbon emissions with MDI and overuse of SABA.
- NHS Fife has developed new guidance charts with collaboration with NHS Borders and NHS Lothian. These guidance charts have been distributed to MDT.
- NHS Fife have developed new prescribing charts, based on the East Region Formulary.
- Guidance and posters are available on the NHS Fife Stafflink: [Hub • Blink](#). All of these materials have been distributed to MDT.
- Regular meetings take place with Primary Care colleagues, Practice Nurses etc to share awareness of the impact of MDI inhalers and the overuse of inhalers in general.
- Recycling of inhalers is promoted through shared learning and inhaler techniques are reinforced to MDT and patients through respiratory clinics and group sessions for Breathe Easy Patients.
- Respiratory MCN steering group supporting to raise awareness, education and updating guidelines.

Travel and Transport

Domestic transport (not including international aviation and shipping) produced 28.3% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2022. Car travel contributes the most to those emissions.

NHS Scotland is supporting a shift to a healthier and more sustainable transport system where active travel and public transport are prioritised.

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce the need to travel?

Last year we continued implementing our Agile Working Policy, enabling staff who can work from home to have the ability to do so. This also includes encouraging staff who have external meetings to take them online where possible, to reduce business travel and long journeys for in-person meetings.

What did we do in 2023/24 to improve active travel?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife made significant strides in promoting active travel and encouraging sustainable commuting options:

- Partnership with Mobilityways - We continued our collaboration with Mobilityways, which included an annual travel survey and a Commuter IQ analysis. This initiative provided valuable insights into commuting behaviour and identified alternative sustainable travel options for our staff.
- Cycling Initiatives - We focused on cycling to work and were awarded the Cycling Friendly Employer status by Cycling Scotland. To better understand staff preferences, we circulated an active travel questionnaire to gather input on changes that would encourage more active travel and cycling across the organisation.
- Partnership with Greener Kirkcaldy - We deepened our partnership with Greener Kirkcaldy to further our cycling efforts. This included hosting a cycling awareness day for staff to learn about cycling to work, local cycling routes and available support such as led rides and training.

Additionally, we held a Dr Bike event at Victoria Hospital, offering free minor bike repairs for employees.

- NHS Fife Active Travel Group - We established the NHS Fife Active Travel Group, an open space for all employees interested in active travel. This group fosters idea sharing, connects enthusiastic individuals and provides a forum for discussing active and sustainable travel initiatives at NHS Fife.
- Cycle to Work Scheme - In March, we relaunched our Cycle to Work Scheme in partnership with Halfords, increasing the scheme's limit to £3,000. This year-round offering has been well-received by staff.

What did we do in 2023/24 to improve public and community transport links to NHS sites and services?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife made several efforts to enhance public and community transport links to our sites and services:

- Staff Transport Discounts - We continued to promote discounted travel opportunities with Stagecoach and other transport providers for our staff.
- Engagement with Stagecoach - We worked closely with Stagecoach, sharing our scoping reports that detail staff travel patterns. This collaboration aims to inform potential new transport routes and adjustments to existing timetables.
- Promotion of NHS Travel Reimbursement and Community Transport - In alignment with NHS Scotland's Population Health and Wellbeing Annual Delivery Plan, NHS Fife launched additional resources to raise awareness of the NHS Travel Reimbursement Scheme and available community transport services. These initiatives aim to support patients by informing them about the options to reclaim bus travel costs and access community transport when attending appointments.
- Support for Local Welfare Teams - These initiatives have also supported local welfare teams in promoting transport schemes, helping ease the cost of living and ensuring better attendance at appointments.

What are we going to do in 2024/25 to reduce the need to travel?

In 2024/25, NHS Fife will focus on reducing the need for travel by encouraging staff to adopt a travel hierarchy when making decisions about commuting. This approach will prioritise remote working, where possible, with staff only travelling to work when absolutely necessary.

What are we going to do in 2024/25 to improve active travel?

In 2024/25, NHS Fife plans to implement a variety of initiatives to encourage active travel:

- E-Bike Scheme - We aim to launch an e-bike scheme at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy funded through the Active Ways to Work Programme. This initiative will provide staff with the opportunity to hire e-bikes for a month at a time, promoting cycling as a sustainable commuting option.
- Cycle Storage Upgrades - We will apply for funding from Cycling Scotland to modernise and upgrade our cycle storage facilities. The current user pathway to the storage areas is unclear and there is insufficient space for more expensive bikes. This funding will help address these issues. Consideration is also being given to exploring improvements to shower and changing facilities.
- Promotions and Competitions - We will work with our Cycle to Work provider, Halfords, to run competitions aimed at increasing staff participation in the Scheme.
- Active Travel Days - We plan to host active travel days at our main sites, inviting various stakeholders who will provide staff with information on active travel options.
- Ongoing Support - We will continue to offer Dr Bike events and promote cycle training and led rides to further encourage cycling among staff.

What are we going to do in 2024/25 to improve public and community transport links to NHS sites and services?

In 2024/25, NHS Fife will continue its efforts to improve public and community transport links by focusing on raising awareness and engaging with transport providers and community partners:

- Promotion of Travel Reimbursement and Community Transport - We will continue to promote the NHS Travel Reimbursement Scheme and Community Transport options across the NHS workforce, public sector and third sector by ensuring patients, families and carers are aware of available support.

Impact will be measured through tracking the number of reimbursements claimed and bookings made with community transport providers.

- Engagement with Local Transport Providers - NHS Fife will engage with the local council, Stagecoach and ScotRail to improve services that better meet the needs of staff.

We are also exploring the possibility of establishing a regional transport group, bringing together NHS bodies and the local Council to collaborate on shared transport issues and infrastructure improvements.

- Partnership with SEStran - We will join forces with SEStran as part of a regional partnership to share ideas and best practices related to active travel and sustainable transport. This collaboration will help develop a coordinated strategy that links transport and health, contributing to broader public health goals.
- Transport to Health Programme - NHS Fife is participating in SEStran's Transport to Health Programme, which supports both staff and patients in exploring active travel options for commuting and attending appointments. This aligns with our commitment to reducing health inequalities, as outlined in the NHS Scotland Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24, Priority 6 - Health Inequalities, action 6.6.
- Health Promotion and Awareness - From March 2023, the Fife Health Promotion Service has delivered a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the NHS Fife Travel Expenses leaflet and posters. These materials have been distributed across Primary Care, community services and NHS acute sites.

Additionally, transport support has been incorporated into the Health Promotion Poverty Awareness Training as part of our workforce development on health inequalities.

- Community Transport Services Promotion - A newly developed leaflet and poster, in partnership with community transport charities and the public sector, has been launched to promote available patient transport services across Fife.
- We are working to remove all petrol and diesel fuelled cars from our fleet.

The following table sets out how many renewable powered and fossil fuel vehicles were in NHS Fife fleet at the end of March 2023 and March 2024:

	March 2023		March 2024		
	Total Vehicles	% Zero Tailpipe Emission Vehicles	Total Vehicles	% Zero Tailpipe Emission Vehicles	Difference in % Zero Tailpipe Emission Vehicles
Cars	55	13	57	25	63%
Light commercial vehicles	78	27	69	31	14%
Heavy vehicles	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Specialist vehicles	2	2	2	2	0.00%

The following table sets out how many bicycles and eBikes were in NHS Fife's fleet at the end of March 2023 and March 2024:

	March 2023	March 2024	Percentage Change
Bicycles	0	0	0
eBikes	0	0	0

The following table sets out the distance travelled by our cars, vans and heavy vehicles in 2023/24:

Distance travelled, miles	Cars	Light commercial vehicles	Heavy vehicles	Specialist vehicles	Total
2023/24	3,278,658	Not available	NA	NA	3,278,658

Business travel is staff travelling as part of their work in either their own vehicles or public transport. It covers travel costs which are reimbursable and does not cover commuting to and from work. The table below shows our emissions from business travel by transport type.

Business Travel Emissions, tCO ₂ e	Cars	Public Transport	Flights	Total
2023/24	816	27	Not available	843

Greenspace and Biodiversity

Biodiversity

Biodiversity, or the wide variety of living organisms within an environment, has declined at a rapid rate in the last 50 years. Evidence demonstrates that these trends are attributed to human activities, such as land use change, habitat degradation and fragmentation, pollution and the impacts of climate change. The State of Nature report published in 2023 has highlighted the decline of nature across Scotland, with 11% of species now classed as threatened with extinction.

Public bodies in Scotland have a duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 ([Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004](#)) to further the conservation of biodiversity, taking care of nature all around us. Furthermore, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 ([Wildlife and Natural Environment Scotland Act 2011](#)) requires every public body to summarise their activities to meet this duty, through the production of a publicly available report.

What actions have been taken to identify, protect and enhance biodiversity across your organisation?

In the past year, NHS Fife has worked with a variety of partners to protect and enhance biodiversity across our estate. These partnerships include Fife Council, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT), Scottish Natural Heritage and the Fife Environmental Partnership, allowing the sharing of sustainability opportunities, improved community links and to gaining expert advice on biodiversity enhancement.

Key actions we have taken include:

- Collaboration with Local Biodiversity Groups - NHS Fife maintains strong connections with the Fife Biodiversity Partnership and the Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), which guide our efforts to protect local wildlife.
- Greenspace Strategy - Our 2030 Greenspace Strategy, developed in collaboration with the FCCT, is central to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity across NHS Fife sites. This includes updating our greenspace management processes to support the creation of wildflower meadows, which provide a greater biodiversity benefit by reducing mowed grass areas.
- Nature-Based Solutions - Last year, NHS Fife visited Edinburgh Botanic Gardens to learn about implementing nature-based solutions which will also enhance biodiversity across our sites.
- Biodiversity Audits - We have conducted biodiversity audits at our main sites, which will inform future biodiversity initiatives and help track improvements over time.
- Tree Planting Initiatives - NHS Fife organised the Akin Oak Tree Project which resulted in the planting of twelve oak trees across our sites to contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.
- No Mow May - In line with our commitment to biodiversity, NHS Fife participated in the No Mow May initiative, halting grass cutting at selected sites for the month to allow for the growth of wildflowers and support local wildlife.

What actions have been taken to contribute to the NHS Scotland Estate Mapping programme, or to develop an internal mapping programme?

In August 2022, NHS Fife undertook a comprehensive mapping of our entire estate using ESRI GIS technology. This digital map provides an accurate and detailed record of our natural capital, helping us to better understand the location and types of greenspaces across our sites. This mapping will allow for more effective management of these spaces in the future.

Key actions include:

- Mapping of Estate - NHS Fife used ESRI GIS technology to create a digital map of our estate, providing a clear record of our greenspaces and their characteristics.
- Collaboration with Public Health Scotland - We shared our estate mapping data with Public Health Scotland, contributing to the broader NHS Scotland Estate Mapping Programme. This will support the development of future mapping projects and help improve the management of NHS greenspaces across Scotland.

What actions have been taken to mainstream biodiversity across the organisation?

The development of our 2030 Greenspace Strategy has been a key step in mainstreaming biodiversity across NHS Fife. This strategy has enabled us to identify shared opportunities and foster partnership working by providing a platform for NHS Fife employees who wish to contribute to greenspace and biodiversity improvements.

Key actions include:

- 2030 Greenspace Strategy - The strategy has provided a clear framework for integrating biodiversity into our operations, aligning all relevant efforts and ensuring that biodiversity considerations are embedded in our decision-making processes.
- Employee Involvement - By creating accessible opportunities for staff engagement in biodiversity and greenspace initiatives, we have encouraged active participation from employees at all levels of the organisation.
- Estate Mapping - The integration of our mapped estate with the Greenspace Strategy has allowed us to make more informed decisions about greenspace development, ensuring a more coordinated approach to biodiversity enhancement moving forward.

How have nature-based solutions been used to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies?

In response to the climate and biodiversity crises, NHS Fife has been exploring nature-based solutions to adapt to identified climate risks. Our focus has been on incorporating these solutions into both climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement efforts.

Key actions include:

- Overheating in Wards - As overheating is a major risk at some of our sites, we have identified the wards most at risk and are working with NHS Assure to conduct technical surveys in these areas. These surveys aim to explore nature-based solutions such as tree planting to provide shade and reduce temperatures.
- Flood Management - We are also looking at how nature-based solutions can be integrated into our flood management plans for high-risk areas, such as using natural barriers to help mitigate flooding and protect our infrastructure.

What actions have been undertaken to raise awareness, engagement and understanding of biodiversity and nature?

NHS Fife has taken several steps to raise awareness and engage staff, the public and community groups on biodiversity and nature. Our initiatives aim to foster greater understanding and participation in biodiversity efforts across the organisation and within the local community.

Key actions include:

- Internal Awareness - We regularly share project successes related to climate, sustainability and nature on our staff intranet, as well as promoting relevant events and initiatives, such as nature-related days.
- Public Engagement - We have created a dedicated page on our NHS Fife public website to highlight our greenspace efforts and regularly updating the sustainability hub with new information on our biodiversity and greenspace activities.
- Community Collaboration - In March 2024, we hosted a successful event alongside FCCAN, inviting community groups to learn about how they can engage with our green estate and start greenspace projects. This event led to new partnerships with local groups and has supported the development of our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.
- ESRI UK Feature - NHS Fife was featured in the ESRI UK newsletter and magazine, where we highlighted our 2022 mapping project and how this mapping data will guide future development of our greenspace and biodiversity efforts.

These actions help raise awareness, build engagement, and foster understanding of biodiversity and nature, both within NHS Fife and in our broader community.

What surveys, monitoring or assessment of biodiversity have been undertaken? If you have – have systems been developed to continue monitoring long-term?

Over the past year, NHS Fife has undertaken Greenspace and Biodiversity Audits for our main sites. These Audits assess how greenspaces are currently being used and identify potential projects to support and enhance existing biodiversity while encouraging new species.

Key actions include:

- Greenspace and Biodiversity Audits - These audits have provided valuable insight into the current state of biodiversity on our sites, helping us identify areas for improvement and projects that will foster biodiversity growth.

- Ongoing Monitoring - Progress will be monitored through our mapping work and the development of our Greenspace Strategy, ensuring that we can track improvements and adapt as needed.
- Future Surveys - We are in discussions with NHS Assure regarding the possibility of conducting UKHab surveys at our main sites. However, we are currently awaiting a decision on national funding before proceeding with these surveys.

These efforts lay the foundation for continued long-term monitoring of biodiversity, ensuring that we can track and adapt our strategies to improve biodiversity across NHS Fife.

Greenspace

Following the publication of the NHS Fife Greenspace Strategy, the Sustainability team has undertaken several key projects to assess and enhance the Board's green estate. These initiatives focus on adapting and using these spaces to benefit staff, patients, the wider community, generate green energy and support biodiversity. The projects align with the themes of energy, wellbeing, food, climate, nature and skills outlined in the Greenspace Strategy.

Key Projects and Achievements:

- Greenspace Assessments - Greenspace and biodiversity audits have been completed at our main sites, identifying current usage and potential projects that can support biodiversity and benefit staff, patients, and the community.
- Green Energy - We are exploring how our greenspaces can contribute to the generation of green energy as part of our sustainability goals.
- Staff and Community Engagement:
 - We have hosted engagement events with local community groups and developed a suite of documents to guide the best use of our green spaces and manage future projects.
 - NHS Fife participated in the Tree in the Park event alongside other local organisations and businesses.
 - We have joined the Dunfermline Greenspace Forum, strengthening collaboration on greenspace and sustainability initiatives.
- Oak Tree Planting - The Oak Tree Planting Project was successfully delivered across NHS Fife, contributing to biodiversity and staff wellbeing.
- Greenspace Management - We have updated our greenspace management processes in collaboration with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT). As part of this, we are reducing the amount of mowed grass on NHS Fife sites to encourage the establishment of wildflower meadows, which have a higher biodiversity net benefit.

Ongoing Projects:

- We continue discussions with Fife Council to identify the best use of land owned by NHS Fife for gardening allotments, which supports the Fife Council Allotment Strategy and the Food4Fife Strategy.

All of these efforts are tracked through our project and action tracker to monitor progress against the goals set out in the NHS Fife Greenspace Strategy.

The table below outlines any key greenspace projects and their benefits.

Project Details	Benefits of Project	Details of Project
Akin Oak Tree Project	Biodiversity	We collaborated with employees of the Project to plant twelve oak trees across several of our sites as part of a Fife wide tree planting project
Staff AU2 Courtyard	Biodiversity, health and wellbeing	Upgrade to a garden that will facilitate OT inpatient rehabilitation. Look at ways to incorporate different planters, trees and feeders that will enhance biodiversity whilst maintaining patient benefits. The project has been fully designed and will be finished by January 2025.
Allotments	Health and wellbeing, community growing space, biodiversity	We have started initial discussions with Fife Council to look at the possibility of adding allotments on several of our sites. We are at the initial stages and next steps will involve identifying sites.
Levenmouth Green Health Partnership	Health and wellbeing, community benefit, nature and biodiversity	We are part of the Green Health Partnership, aiming to make better use of our outdoor green estate as a health-promoting resource. This partnership is still in its infancy, only being developed in 2023.

Sustainable Procurement, Circular Economy and Waste

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when our demand for resources exceeds what earth can regenerate in that year. In 2024, Global Earth Overshoot Day is 1 August, a day earlier than in 2023.

For the UK, the picture is more worrying. In 2024, the UK's Earth Overshoot Day was 3 June. The current level of consumption of materials is not sustainable and is the root cause of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

We aim to reduce the impact that our use of resources has on the environment through adopting circular economy principles, fostering a culture of stewardship and working with other UK health services to maximise our contribution to reducing supply chain emissions to net-zero by 2045.

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce the environmental impact and the quantity of the goods and services we buy?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife launched the Warp-it System, a web-based platform for the re-distribution of surplus furniture and equipment across public sector organisations.

The initiative has provided multiple environmental and financial benefits by enabling the reuse of existing resources rather than purchasing new items. The system has helped to reduce procurement costs, decrease manufacturing needs, lower waste disposal costs and generate significant carbon savings.

In 2024/25, NHS Fife will continue to promote the Warp-it System and encourage all staff members to actively make use of it, maximising its environmental and financial benefits.

We are also exploring the possibility of creating a place-based approach to Warp-it, with a vision to develop a Fife-wide system in collaboration with Fife Council, Fife College and the University of St Andrews.

Additionally, the Procurement and Sustainability teams will work together to develop a framework for assessing and managing Scope-3 emissions. This will involve using data tools from NHS National Procurement Services to identify our largest suppliers, track their net-zero and sustainability plans and create a targeted action plan focused on carbon reduction and cost savings.

Furthermore, we are committed to reducing waste production and improving our recycling rates across NHS Fife, aiming for a more sustainable waste management approach.

The table below sets out information on the waste we produce and its destination for the last three years:

Type	2021/22 (tonnes)	2022/23 (tonnes)	2023/24 (tonnes)	Percentage change 2021/22 to 2023/24
Waste to landfill	34.50	35.70	-	-100%
Waste to incineration	1,185	1,290	1286	+8.5%
Recycled waste	691.10	713.90	787	+13.98%
Food waste	79.20	55.40	87	+9.85%
Clinical waste	846.90	758	777	-8.25%

Comment on waste to landfill figure: The reports we receive outline that the destination of our waste is all energy for waste and therefore we no longer obtain a landfill figure. Our current contractor does not put any waste to landfill. It is extremely minimal.

We have set targets to reduce the amount of waste we produce, and the tables below provide information on our performance against those targets:

Reduce domestic waste by a minimum of 15%, and greater where possible compared to 2012/2013 by 2025	
Target - reduce domestic waste by	307 tonnes
Performance - domestic waste reduced by	60 tonnes
Outcome	Not achieved yet
Further reduction required	247 tonnes

Ensure that no more than 5%, and less where possible, of all domestic waste is sent to landfill by 2025	
Target - reduce waste sent to landfill by	1,792 tonnes
Performance - waste sent to landfill reduced by	1,886 tonnes
Outcome	Achieved
Further reduction required	0 tonnes

Reduce the food waste produced by 33% compared to 2015/16 by 2025	
Target - reduce food waste by	80 tonnes
Performance - food waste reduced by	156 tonnes
Outcome	Achieved
Further reduction required	0 tonnes

Ensure that 70% of all domestic waste is recycled or composted by 2025	
Target - recycle or compost	1,392 tonnes

Performance - recycled or composted	874 tonnes
Outcome	Not achieved yet
Further increase required	519 tonnes

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce our waste?

In 2023/24, our primary focus has been on better identifying and distinguishing between clinical waste and other types of waste. By doing so, we can reduce unnecessary spending on clinical waste disposal and promote recycling. For example, clinical packaging, which is often sterile but not necessarily classified as clinical waste, was frequently being disposed of incorrectly. Through improved waste categorisation and staff training, we aim to reduce waste sent to landfill and increase recycling rates across NHS Fife.

What are we doing in 2024/25 to reduce our waste?

In 2024/25, our focus will be on enhancing communication and staff engagement around waste reduction. This will involve launching roadshows and updating training to ensure it is current, mandatory and accessible for all staff.

We plan to conduct a test of change on clinical waste in wards, aiming to reduce the amount of clinical waste generated.

Additionally, we will continue to promote recycling and encourage a return to pre-pandemic waste management behaviours.

We will also seek funding to improve waste segregation by providing new waste bins across our sites.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship includes any activities which may adversely impact land, air and water, either through the unsustainable use of resources or the generation of waste and pollution.

Having an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place provides a framework that helps to achieve our environmental goals through consistent review, evaluation and improvement of our environmental performance.

What steps did we take in 2023/24 to develop and implement our EMS?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife took significant steps toward developing and implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS).

A resolute Sustainability Officer was appointed to oversee the implementation process. As a result, the NHS Fife EMS policy was approved and published in April 2024.

Following the publication of the policy, the team has been working closely with high-risk departments to evaluate current operations and identify areas for improvement regarding environmental compliance.

Additionally, work has started on the creation of the EMS legal register and aspects and impacts register, which are expected to take approximately one year to complete given current resourcing levels.

Although we have made considerable progress, EMS has not yet been fully implemented to ISO14001 standards at any of our sites.

What steps will we take in 2024/25 to further develop and implement our EMS?

In 2024/25, NHS Fife will continue to develop and implement our Environmental Management System (EMS) with several key actions:

- Finalise the creation of the EMS aspects and impacts register.
- Establish an EMS governance group to oversee ongoing implementation and improvements.
- Begin assessing environmental compliance across departments, focusing on areas with high waste, resource use or energy consumption.
- Develop a SharePoint hub to centralise EMS resources and information for the Board.

What did we do in 2023/24 to reduce our environmental impacts and improve environmental performance?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at reducing our environmental impacts and improving our overall environmental performance:

- Environmental Policy and EMS Development - We published our Environmental Policy and continued developing our Environmental Management System (EMS). Although we are early in the EMS journey, we have made significant strides in establishing an effective system.
- Waste Management Improvement - We developed a new tool for recording and managing waste data. This tool provides valuable insights into our waste figures and helps identify areas where improvements can be made.
- Collaborative Efforts Across the Organisation - We fostered collaboration between clinical and non-clinical teams to promote sustainable practices in various work areas. This has helped to embed environmental awareness and action throughout the organization.
- Energy Billing and Validation - We brought energy billing and validation in-house, enabling better control and understanding of our energy usage. This move allows us to monitor our energy portfolio more effectively, spot billing discrepancies and identify areas for efficiency improvements.

What are we doing in 2024/25 to reduce our environmental impacts and improve environmental performance?

In 2024/25, NHS Fife is taking several proactive steps to further reduce our environmental impacts and enhance our environmental performance:

- Pilot Projects for Climate Risks - Building on the planning and research conducted in 2023/24, we are initiating pilot projects to address key risks, such as overheating in wards and the creation of flood management plans and severe weather frameworks for high-risk sites.
- Expanding Primary Care Engagement - We aim to extend our environmental initiatives into primary care by creating a Greener GP's Network across Fife. This will focus on reducing the environmental impacts of Primary Care settings and engaging local practices in sustainability efforts.
- Granular Energy Metering - We will install additional energy meters across our sites to gain a more detailed understanding of energy consumption at the building level. This will enable us to identify specific areas where energy reduction measures can be targeted, helping to improve overall energy efficiency.
- Sustainability Ambassadors Network - We will launch a network of Sustainability Ambassadors to engage staff in sustainability initiatives and raise environmental awareness. This network will help support improved environmental performance across various departments and contribute to a culture of sustainability within the Board.

What factors have prevented implementation of EMS to ISO14001 Standard for any sites in NHS Fife's estate which have not yet reached that standard?

Several factors have contributed to the delay in implementing the EMS to the ISO14001 standard across NHS Fife's estate:

- Limited Board-Specific Guidance - There is currently a lack of standardized, board-specific guidance on how to implement an EMS, as each NHS Board has different governance structures and processes. This has resulted in varied approaches to EMS implementation across the organization.
- Newly Created EMS Role - In 2023, a dedicated EMS role was created to support the implementation of the EMS in NHS Fife.

Despite these challenges, we are making progress towards the implementation of a robust EMS framework and are focused on overcoming these barriers in the coming year.

Sustainable Construction

Where there is a need for new healthcare facilities, we want both the buildings and grounds to be safe, nature-rich, sustainable, resilient and accessible.

What did we do in 2023/24 to make our construction projects more environmentally sustainable and our future plans?

In 2023/24, NHS Fife focused on considering the long-term impacts of new developments and refurbishment works.

Key steps included:

- Refurbishment over New Build - Given budgetary constraints, construction inflation and the need to meet zero-carbon targets, we prioritized refurbishment of existing assets over new-build projects when feasible. Refurbishing existing buildings is more cost-effective and helps reduce embodied carbon, aligning with Scottish Government's Whole System Planning directive to maximize the use of our existing built assets.
- Sustainable Design and Construction (SDaC) Guide - For projects above our delegated limits (currently £5m), we adhered to the Sustainable Design and Construction (SDaC) Guide (SHTN 02-01). This guide helps ensure that our construction projects meet sustainability standards, incorporating environmental considerations into every phase.
- Material Reuse and Energy Efficiency in Refurbishments - During refurbishment projects, we focused on reusing materials and equipment where possible. We prioritized improving the energy efficiency of our assets by integrating energy-saving technologies such as LED lighting.
- BREEAM Accreditation - The recently completed National Treatment Centre achieved a 'very good' rating under BREEAM 2018 (a predecessor to SHTN 02-01), demonstrating our commitment to sustainable construction practices.

Additionally, our proposed health and wellbeing centers in Lochgelly and Kincardine were developed using the SHTN 02-01 framework, ensuring they align with sustainable design principles.

Future Plans - Moving forward, NHS Fife will continue to be selective in our approach to new construction projects, opting for refurbishment where possible and ensuring that all projects adhere to sustainable design principles to meet zero-carbon targets and improve environmental performance across our estate.

Sustainable Communities

The climate emergency undermines the foundations of good health and deepens inequalities for our most deprived communities.

The NHS touches every community in Scotland. We have a responsibility to use our abilities as a large employer, a major buyer and one of the most recognised brands in the world - an anchor organisation - to protect and support our communities' health and wellbeing.

What are we doing to act as an Anchor Institution for our local community?

We are part of NHS Fife's Anchor Operational Group and are using the Progression Framework to monitor the implementation of key objectives. These objectives relate to what we can do in practice specifically relating to environment, sustainability & assets.

Actions are broken down into the following categories:

- Climate emergency & response
- Environmental Policy and EMS
- Waste, resource use and pollution
- Energy use, efficiency and resource
- Unnecessary use of plastic and reduction in single-use plastic
- Transport
- Building & infrastructure
- Natural environment, green infrastructure & environment
- Community use of facilities and outdoor estates and 'good' neighbour role
- Strategic planning, regeneration and good design of infrastructure

The NHS Fife Board is fulfilling its duty as an Anchor Institution by influencing and engaging with the local community in many ways, and much of this work is highlighted throughout this report.

In addition, please see several ways we have positively engaged with the local Fife community:

- Membership on the Green Health Partnership Steering Group. This partnership aims to find ways to make the most of green health opportunities, bringing together health, social care, environment, leisure, sport and active travel to make more use of local green space as a health-promoting resource.
- Allowing community groups to use our greenspace for community projects. We recently hosted a greenspace event with the Fife Community Climate Action Network (FCCAN) where we invited local community groups to hear about how they can use our land and the types of projects they could start.
- Working collaboratively with Fife Council to use our greenspace for allotments. These allotments will be available for individuals in the community as well as community groups.

Finally, we have published our anchor strategy 'Living well, working well and flourishing in Fife.' This strategy aims to support NHS Fife in maximising our social and economic impact in the local community.

What are we doing to improve the resilience of our local community to climate change?

NHS Fife is actively working to improve the resilience of the local community to climate change through several collaborative initiatives and targeted actions:

- Climate Change Risk Assessment - NHS Fife developed a comprehensive Climate Change Risk Assessment to identify and understand the key climate risks facing our operations and the wider community. This assessment enables us to pinpoint areas where we can mitigate the effects of climate change, such as flooding, rising temperatures and coastal change.
- Partnership with Fife Council - We work closely with Fife Council on climate adaptation initiatives to ensure a co-ordinated approach to addressing the region's climate risks. This collaboration strengthens our collective ability to adapt to climate challenges and implement effective solutions.
- Climate-Ready South-East Scotland (CRSES) Advisory Group - NHS Fife is a member of the CRSES Advisory Group, which is developing south-east Scotland's first Regional Climate Risk Assessment. This Regional Assessment will help identify priority areas for adaptation, ensuring that climate resilience strategies are region-specific and tailored to local needs.
- FCCAN (Fife Communities Climate Action Network) - As part of FCCAN, NHS Fife is fostering community connections and promoting the sharing of local knowledge and experience. This helps strengthen the resilience of communities in Fife, empowering local groups to take climate action and collaborate on solutions to climate-related challenges.

Conclusion

In 2023/24, NHS Fife has made significant strides toward integrating sustainability and environmental stewardship into its operations, reflecting our commitment to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

We have made notable progress in reducing the environmental impact of travel through promoting active travel initiatives and enhancing public and community transport links, particularly through hosting active travel events and improving patient transport services.

In terms of biodiversity, NHS Fife has been proactive in planting oak trees, reducing grass cutting to encourage wildflower growth and collaborating with partners to protect and enhance local ecosystems.

Our 2030 Greenspace Strategy has been pivotal in providing a structured approach to developing our greenspace as well as mainstreaming biodiversity efforts across the Board.

Efforts to reduce waste have focused on improving waste segregation, minimising clinical waste and fostering a culture of recycling, with future initiatives centred around staff engagement and mandatory training.

Our work on environmental management systems (EMS) is progressing, with the establishment of a resolute Sustainability Officer and the development of key policy documents to guide our actions. This aligns with our broader efforts to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency and create a more sustainable operational framework.

NHS Fife's approach to sustainable construction has prioritised refurbishment over new builds where possible, utilising resources efficiently while aligning with Scottish Government directives.

In addition, our role as an Anchor Institution in the local community has been strengthened through partnerships with local organisations, making use of green spaces for community projects, allotments, and climate adaptation initiatives.

Looking ahead, NHS Fife is committed to continuing this momentum in 2024/25, with plans to further refine waste management practices, advance our EMS, reduce energy consumption and enhance the resilience of both our healthcare services and local communities to the climate emergency.

By embedding sustainability across all levels of our organisation, we are not only safeguarding the health and well-being of our patients and staff but also contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for the communities we serve.