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Global health services and systems:

A: Why should we act?

B: Why we so often don't act?



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A: Why should we act?



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1. The health co-benefits
2. The law, regulations and governance
3. The money (savings and tax...)
4. The reputation of health care organisations
5. The size of health care organisations
6. The commitment of healthcare staff
7. The special responsibility and opportunity for health care systems to lead by visible example



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The health benefits NOW (“health co-benefits”)

1: Better individual direct health

- Active Travel (more physical activity, better air quality, less travel trauma, less obesity, less heart disease, diabetes..)
- Better diet (less heart disease, less obesity, less diabetes)

2: Better health care systems

- Empowered public, patients, and primary care staff, more tele-care, more care closer to home, better use of ICT, better value health care away from hospitals, less travel, better patient experience, better work life balance of health professionals

3: Better society

- more sustainable food system, more sustainable transport system, fewer health inequalities, better local economy, more equitable global system...



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- 2: *Better health care systems*
- 3: *Better society*



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3: Better society

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4 specific actions for all health care organisations:

- 1: Have a board approved sustainable development management plan
 - www.sdu.nhs.uk
- 2: Sign up to a Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Tool
 - e.g. www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk/
- 3: Monitor, review and report on carbon / SD
 - www.carbontrust.co.uk/carbon/publicsector/nhs/
- 4: Raise staff awareness at every level
 - e.g. www.ageofstupid.net

In the UK: NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model



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Topic Overviews, Case Studies & Resources...

[Transport](#) [Procurement](#) [Facilities Management](#) [Employment & Skills](#) [Community Engagement](#) [New Buildings](#)



*'All organisations providing healthcare stand to benefit from behaving as **good corporate citizens**. It offers the opportunity to promote health, tackle health inequalities, save money and contribute to a healthy environment.'*

Sir Nigel Crisp
Former NHS Chief Executive

Good corporate citizenship discussion network

Need some good advice?
Looking for best practice? Join

Good Corporate Citizenship describes how NHS organisations can embrace sustainable development and tackle health inequalities through their day-to-day activities.

This means using NHS organisations' corporate powers and resources in ways that benefit rather than damage the social, economic and environmental conditions in which we live. How the NHS behaves - as an employer, a purchaser of goods and services, a manager of transport, energy, waste and water, as a landholder and commissioner of building work and as an influential neighbour in many communities - can make a big difference to people's health and to the well being of society, the economy and the environment.

Find Out How...

OTHER NHS TRUSTS HAVE USED THE MODEL

- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Case Study
- Derbyshire Mental Health Trust Case Study
- Greater Manchester Good Corporate Citizenship Group Case Study

Pilot Organisations

- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust





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B: Why do health services so often not act?



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1. Very focussed on the day job
2. Staff focussed on problems and crises
3. Halo effect – saving patients *and* planet?
4. Worried climate change is not its core mission
5. No culture of whole life costing
6. Few incentives for long term investment
7. Rewarded for activity not outcome
8. More interested in treatment, rather than health protection, illness prevention, or health promotion



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Summary

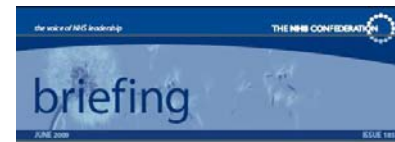
- Be positive: vision
- Focus on immediate improvements
 - finance, reputation, regulation...
- Highly congruent with business case
 - sustainability is part of quality

...our watch, our legacy...



Action now... examples from the UK

1. SDC Good Corporate Citizenship toolkit
 - www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk/
2. NHS Carbon Trust Management Programme
 - <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/carbon/publicsector/nhs/>
3. Sustaining a Healthy Future
 - www.fph.org.uk
4. NHS Confederation briefings
 - <http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/briefings/Pages/Briefings.aspx>
5. NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy and 2030 health care scenarios
 - www.sdu.nhs.uk



Climate change and the NHS:
new legislation and initiatives

Key points

- New legislative establishes a long-term legal framework for tackling climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions targets and a new structure for reporting to Parliament on progress.
- Sustainability, improving health

Climate change is now recognised as one of the most significant challenges facing the world. Ministers' ambitions have led to a massive increase in the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and global warming is happening significantly faster than before, both of which have huge implications for human health and the NHS. The NHS has gone some way in responding to the challenge but there is much to do, and new legislation sets legally binding targets and a means for the Government to monitor progress. This briefing outlines the key points of the new legislation and other initiatives that are helping the NHS to do its bit to slow climate change.



NHS CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND
January 2009

Development Unit



Fit for the Future
Scenarios for low-carbon healthcare 2030

September 2008



Sustainable
Development Commission

