

Decarbonising general practice – Procurement

Your guide to a net-zero
action plan for non-clinical
emissions



Humber and North Yorkshire
Health and Care Partnership

Dr Matt Sawyer



See Sustainability



**Humber and
North Yorkshire**
Integrated Care Board (ICB)



Humber and North Yorkshire
Health and Care Partnership

Procurement of goods



Addressing your procurement footprint

“Procurement holds the key to the majority of impacts. It has a vital role to influence the supply chain, in your own operations and the distribution of your products and services” according to Hugh Jones, managing director of The Carbon Trust.

Procurement of goods in practice includes medical consumables (PPE to uniforms), office consumables (printing, paper, postage), medical equipment (BP machines to oximeters) and office equipment. Being aware of what we buy, how it is used and how it is disposed of is vital.

Practices are part of the global supply chains as these extend around the world. They are vulnerable to natural disasters and civil conflict. Climate change, water scarcity, and poor labour conditions in much of the world increase the risk to our ability to have the tools, equipment and staff to deliver great healthcare.

Procurement can make a real difference when cutting carbon emissions as carbon is associated with the assembly, packaging, transport, storage and handling of products and materials which account for a significant proportion of an organisations carbon footprint.

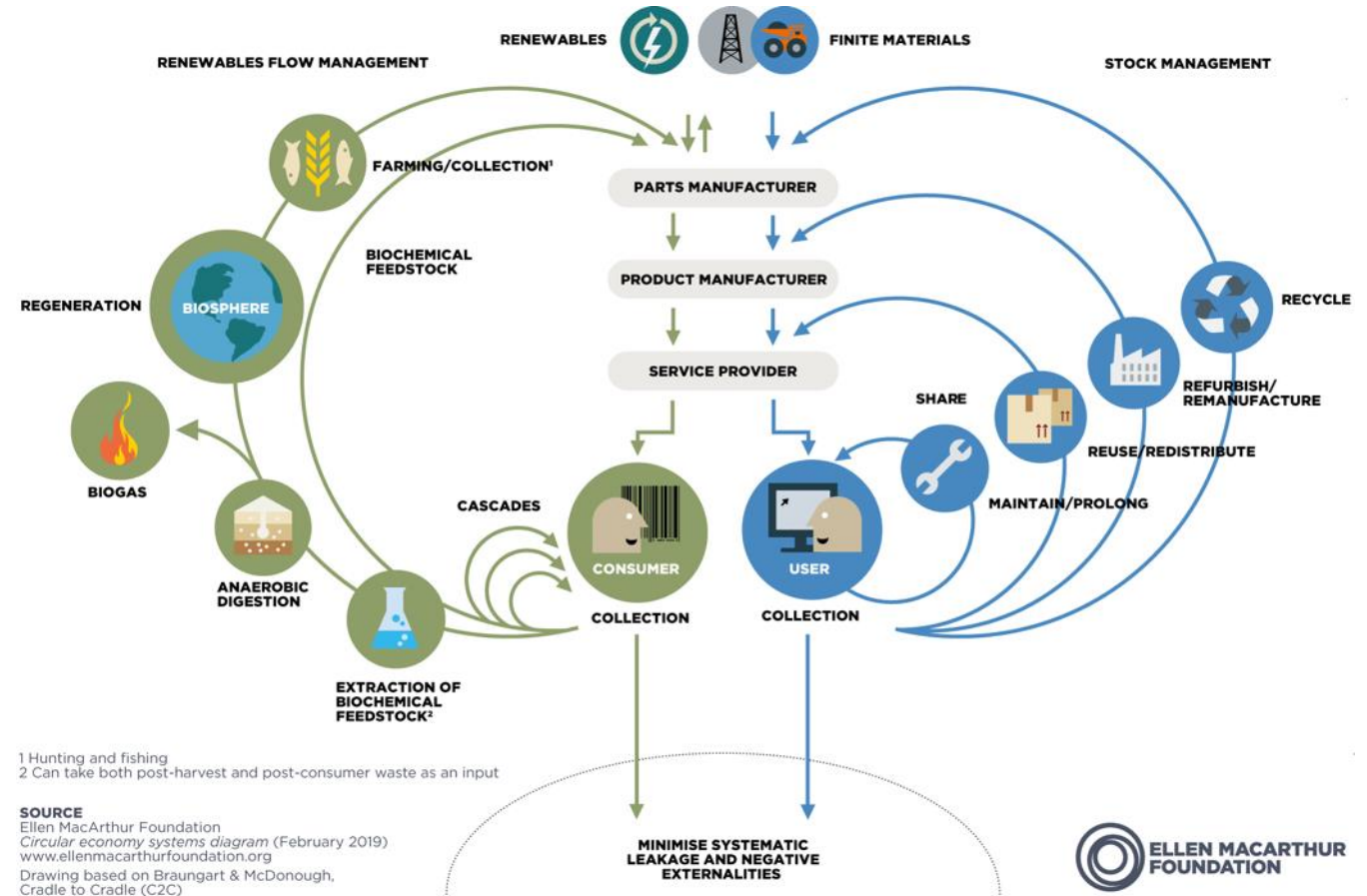
The NHS aims to reduce emissions under its influence, including travel and suppliers, to net-zero by 2045. This also includes an 80% reduction in emissions by 2036.

The message from the Greener NHS report is clear: suppliers must meet or exceed their commitment on net zero emissions.



Top actions you can take

- Reduced the number of products used by extending their lifespan e.g., frequency of replacing practice uniforms.
- Identify less environmentally harmful services for the services contributing most to your footprint – e.g. request products which have their carbon footprint calculated.
- Think through the whole lifecycle of the services being provided and the equipment and products used.



The circular economy for procurement*

*Source: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/explore/the-circular-economy-in-detail>

Medical procurement – equipment

Medical equipment

There are two reasons that medical equipment has a high carbon footprint. Firstly, it is the high carbon impacts associated with the materials and the production of them, and secondly it is end-of-life disposal options.

For example, the carbon impacts of producing equipment made from metals has a large carbon and ecological footprint from mining to melting and moulding. For instance, the carbon footprint of an aluminium Zimmer frame and wheelchair are 24 and 168 kg CO₂e respectively. Which is similar to a train journey to Amsterdam (28 kg) or a one-way flight to Rome, respectively.

For medical equipment, redundancy feels built in, and there is a newer model with more features coming soon. By extending the lifespan of our equipment, making them multi-use rather than single use, investing in repairing and maintaining, we can reduce the environmental and carbon impact from our equipment.

Action

Audit all the medical equipment bought over the previous 12 months.

Case study : Seal Medical Supplies Recycling medical equipment



Seal Medical Supplies are a retailer of medical equipment based in Nottingham. A team of field-based technicians carry out calibration, servicing and repairs to medical equipment across the UK in partnership with their sister company - Seal calibration Ltd.

In addition, they offer a medical equipment disposal service allowing medical establishments to **responsibly dispose of old or broken equipment**. Upon collecting your old medical equipment, a traceable waste transfer notice is provided for your records.

Once collected, the equipment will be assessed and working parts salvaged, recycled or refurbished. Items that can't be reused in any fashion are responsibly disposed of.

Send all those old stethoscopes, ECG machines, otoscopes or ophthalmoscope from your practices.

www.sealmedical.com

Tel: 0115 906 3000

Email: sales@sealmedical.com

Medical procurement – consumables

Medical consumables

There are many products which constitute 'medical consumables' – from PPE and masks to PV speculums, couch roll, venepuncture equipment, wound dressings and many more.

Many medical supply companies aim to produce single use disposable equipment for additional sales. However, reusable medical devices are available.

Any item that contacts intact skin but not mucous membranes – Intact skin acts as an effective barrier to most microorganisms – are considered **low risk** for causing infection and can be made reusable. They can be disinfected between use when required.

Action

Audit the medical equipment bought over the previous 12 months.

Optimise stock inventory to avoid products going out of date and being wasted.



Case studies

Carbon footprint of PPE

If, over a year, a practice used...

20 rolls of aprons (200 per roll) = 4000 apron @ 65g CO₂e/apron = 260 kg

16 boxes of disposable masks (50 per box) = 800 masks @ 20g CO₂e /mask = 16 kg

175 boxes of gloves (100 per box) = 17,500 gloves @ 26g CO₂e /glove = 455 kg

Their total carbon would be **731 kg CO₂e** (about 3/4 tonne CO₂e) annually.

Source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/01410768211001583>

Revolution Zero

During the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, NHS alone has disposed of 1.4 billion masks. Revolution-ZERO masks and other PPE target both zero carbon and zero waste by having a fully circular cradle-to-cradle service offering.

Sterile services and equipment reuse

Some practices are discussing with the Sterile Services Dept in their local acute trust about using reusable equipment and having it sterilised after use rather than using single-use equipment.

Office procurement – equipment

Office equipment

Office equipment covers personal electrical equipment (headsets, telephones, cables, webcams and microphones) to office electricals (fans, printers shredders, projectors) to furniture (desks, drawers, back rests, foot stools, standing desks) to new door locks and radiators.

Actions

- Audit the office equipment bought over the previous 12 months.
- Log stock inventory to know what resources and equipment are currently available in the practice.



Case study : Warp-it

Warp-it helps businesses find, give away, or loan office furniture, equipment and other resources.

They help save money time and space.

- Reduce waste disposal and purchasing costs.
- No need to purchase new equipment and resources for your organisation.
- Find a new owner for your surplus kit in your organisation or beyond.

They are currently used nationwide by many healthcare and other organisations.

By 2021, they have saved 11,000,000 kg CO₂e and £25 million and diverted nearly 4 million kg of equipment from waste streams.

www.warp-it.co.uk

0800 0488755

General enquiries: info@warp-it.co.uk

Office procurement – consumables

Office consumables

This category includes stationary (paper, envelopes, pens, tape and appointment cards) to printer consumables (toners and printer cartridges) to staples and storage options (box files, poly pockets, filing trays) to books (training manuals, diaries, notebooks) to batteries to refuse sacks and cleaning products.

Action

Audit the office consumables bought over the previous 12 months.

Batteries have a footprint of 12.1kg CO₂e per kg of battery. A 4-pack of AA alkaline batteries weighs around 100g so their carbon footprint is 1.2kg CO₂e.

Recycling ink/toner cartridges saves nearly 9,600 kg of aluminium, 40 tons of plastic, and one million litres of oil for every 100,000 cartridges recycled.



Setting targets



Setting targets can help you deliver the strategic changes that are needed to reduce carbon emissions from procurement.

Regarding procurement, the practice can set their own targets to achieve their goal such as

- Reduced the number of products used e.g. frequency of replacing practice uniforms.
- Identify less environmentally harmful services for the services contributing most to your footprint.
- Think through the whole lifecycle of what you are doing/the service being provided.

“Public authorities have to regard economic, social and environmental well being in connection with public services contracts and also taking into account wider social and environmental value when they choose suppliers.”

Services (Social Value) Act 2012

Example

Route to reduce		Aim/target					
Area	Current footprint (2021)	3 years time		6 years time		9 years time	
		Total % reduction	How	Total % reduction	How	Total % reduction	How
Medical procurement	24,000 kg CO ₂ e	25%	Audit and identify medical equipment and consumables. Manage stock better.	50%	Identify alternative clinical pathways to reduce single use.	75%	Identify reusable medical equipment; remove single use; 100% at end of life to refurb service.
Office procurement	20,000 kg CO ₂ e	20% in use	Paper free with digital as default for communication.	50%	Use recycled equipment as default via Warp-it, etc.	100%	Remove all single use materials; only use suppliers with net zero policy.

More medical actions you can take

Increasing reuse

- Where possible purchase products that can be decontaminated and reused, rather than single use items
- Charge a deposit on items, local practices charges £20 for hiring BP machines
- Hold an amnesty day for returned items
- Wash, autoclave and reuse items such as ring pessaries, metal scissors

Switching material choices

- For items that are unavoidably single use switching to a lower carbon alternative can be preferable.
- Rather than you having to become a carbon footprint expert on different materials here are some high and low carbon examples:

High carbon footprints:

- Metals
- Cotton

Lower carbon footprints:

- Plastic
- Recycled paper
- Bamboo

Simple switches

- If they can't be reused, switching from metal to plastics has a lower footprint or from virgin tissue roll to recycled or bamboo tissue.

More office-based actions you can take

Avoiding unused items expiring

- By having a good stock management system and keeping items that expire at the front of the cupboards it can avoid items expiring before they are used.
- Buying in bulk will save money by making the most of bulk purchase offers, and can consolidate the number of deliveries made, reducing carbon emissions.

Reduce the impact of your purchases

- Keep things in use for as long as possible
- Buying items to last or on a lease where they are kept in circulation for longer
- Working with a IT provider that responsibly manages the end of life of waste electrical items; ideally by refurbishing and making available within the local community

- Request take back schemes for packaging or ask for 'no packaging' options
- Create a recommended purchase list for the low carbon options so staff can buy from this list rather than having to evaluate themselves

Reduce

Printing

- Changing printing settings so people have to press the printer to print
- Double-sided printing as a default setting

Cleaning products





- Switch to brands that sell soluble sachets that are diluted with water in trigger bottles or mop buckets





Resources – examples of providers










Procurement of Goods Second-hand Furniture





 **City New and Used Office Furniture**
info@cofsolutions.co.uk
 01482221188 **North Yorkshire** 
 <https://cityusedofficefurniture.co.uk/>


 **Office Furniture Outlet**
info@officefurnitureoutlet.co.uk
 01535681111 **West Yorkshire** 
 <https://www.officefurnitureoutlet.co.uk/>





 **Surplus Office Supplies**
sales@surplusofficesupplies.co.uk
 01924763744 **Harrogate/York** 
 <https://www.surplusofficesupplies.co.uk/>




 **SOS Office Supplies** **Hull** 
sales@sos-officesupplies.co.uk
 01482223792
 <https://sos-officesupplies.co.uk/>





 **Community Furniture Store**
01904426444 **York/S'borough** 
 <https://communityfurniturestore.co.uk/>

 **Office Resale** **National** 
officeresale.uk@crowneww.com
 02089762080
 <https://www.officeresale.co.uk/>

 **We Don't Want** **National** 
hello@wantdontwant.com
 02075298180
 <https://www.wantdontwant.com/home/>





 **Kings Office Furniture** **National** 
contact@kingsofficefurniture.co.uk
 08455219070
 <https://kingsofficefurniture.co.uk/pages/office-clearance>



 **Reyooz** **National** 
hello@reyooz.com
 <https://www.reyooz.com/>




 **Re:Work** **HNY Region** 
 01132721341
 <https://www.wearerework.co.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Refurbished IT Equipment

 **Dell** **National** 
DFS_Retail_Support@dell.com
 03308082078
 <https://www.dellrefurbished.co.uk/>

 **Stone Refurb** **National** 
support@stonegroup.co.uk
 01785786786
 <https://www.stonerefurb.co.uk/>

 **AU Computers** **Hull** 
info@auhull.co.uk
 01482353942
 <https://aucomputers.co.uk/>

 **PC Shack** **Hull** 
customerservices@pcshack.co.uk
 01482245000
 <https://www.pcshack.co.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Repair Furniture


 **Alan Henderson and Son**
01287619191 **Yorkshire** 
 <https://www.alanhendersonupholstery.co.uk/>

 **The Chair Clinic** **National** 
sales@chairclinic.co.uk
 01384 480030
 <https://www.chairclinic.co.uk/office-chair-repairs/>



Resources – examples of providers







Procurement of Goods Repairing IT Equipment

 **PC Revamp** York 
info@pc-revamp.com
01904373373
<https://www.pc-revamp.com/>

 **Kit** York 
info@kityork.co.uk
01904848610
<https://www.kityork.co.uk/>



 **Easy Repairs** York 
easy-repairs@live.com
07746646246
<http://www.easy-repairs.net/>


 **Hull Computers** Hull 
shop@hullcomputers.com
01482211577
<https://www.hullcomputers.com/index>



 **PC Repairs Hull** Hull 
01482244855
<http://www.pcrepairshull.com/>



 **Jennings Computer Services** S'borough/York 
01723374196
<https://www.jcsltd.co.uk/>



 **Total Fix Technology** East Riding 
info@total-fix.co.uk
01482214384
<https://www.totalfixtechnology.co.uk/>

 **Deepdale Computer Services** Scarborough 
info@deepdale.co.uk
01723370689
<https://deepdale.co.uk/>

 **Core-Concept** Scarborough 
info@core-concept.co.uk
08445049205
<https://www.core-concept.co.uk/>



 **Tiger Computers** S'borough/Bridlington 
tigercomps@live.co.uk
01723355777
<https://tigercomputersscarborough.co.uk/>

 **Phase 4 Computers** Harrogate 
info@p4com.com
01423525277
<https://p4com.com/>



 **Harrogate Computers** Harrogate 
sales@harrogatecomputers.co.uk
01423709634
www.harrogatecomputers.co.uk

Procurement of Goods Renting IT Equipment

 **Hardsoft** National 
info@hardsoft.co.uk
02071111643
<https://www.hardsoftcomputers.co.uk/>



 **Techbuyer** Harrogate 
uk-sales@techbuyer.com
01423789120
<https://www.techbuyer.com/uk/>

Procurement of Goods Renting Furniture

 **City Furniture Hire** National 
info@cityfurniturehireltd.com
01134508462
<https://cityfurniturehireltd.com/>

 **Warp It** National 
info@warp-it.co.uk
08000488755
<https://www.warp-it.co.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Recycling IT Equipment

 **Green IT Disposal** National 
enquiries@greenitdisposal.co.uk
01619281144
<https://www.greenitdisposal.co.uk>

 **Dell** National 
<https://www.dell.com/learn/uk/en/ukcorp1/corp-comm/recycling-consumer-uk1>

 **Revive IT** National 
it@reviveit.co.uk
03332422545
<https://www.reviveit.co.uk/>

 More information on how to dispose of electrical items:

Recycle Now
<https://www.recyclenow.com/wh-at-to-do-with/electrical-items-0>

Resources – examples of providers





Procurement of Goods Reusable Masks



 **Revolution Zero** National 
<https://www.revolution-zero.co.uk/>


Procurement of Goods Reusable Medical Equipment



 **RB Medical** National 
01989 563958
<https://www.rbmedical.co.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Refurbished Medical Supplies


 **Seal Medical Supplies** National 
sales@sealmedical.com
01159063000
<https://www.sealmedical.com/collections/reconditioned-equipment>



 **GB Medical** National 
sales@gbmedical.co.uk
01264 361578
<https://www.gbmedical.co.uk/>


 **MC Medical** National 
01482 620676
<https://mcmedical.co.uk/>

 **Avensys Medical** National 
info@avensysmedical.co.uk
01562 745 858
<https://www.avensysmedical.co.uk/product-category/pre-owned/>

Procurement of Goods Medical Equipment Maintenance and Repair



 **Avensys Medical** National 
info@avensysmedical.co.uk
01562 745 858
<https://www.avensysmedical.co.uk/engineering-services-repair-and-maintenance/>

 **NTH Solutions** National 
enquiries@ntholutions.co.uk
01642 383759
<https://ntholutions.co.uk/services/medical-equipment-servicing/>

 **JD Medical** National 
info@jdmedical.co.uk
0121 779 3741
<http://www.jdmedical.co.uk/equipment-service-repair.html>

 **Williams Medical** National 
01685 846666
https://www.wms.co.uk/Equipment_Repair

Procurement of Goods Re-sell Medical Equipment

 **Avensys Medical** National 
info@avensysmedical.co.uk
01562 745 858
<https://www.avensysmedical.co.uk/sales-storage/resale-service/>

Procurement of Goods Outdoor Furniture

 **Kedel** National 
info@kedel.co.uk
01282 861325
<https://www.kedel.co.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Stationery and Office Consumables

 **The Green Stationery Company** National 
sales@greenstat.co.uk
01225480556
<https://www.greenstat.co.uk/>

 **The Green Office** National 
info@thegreenoffice.co.uk
0800 038 5744
<https://www.thegreenoffice.co.uk/>

Resources – examples of providers




Procurement of Goods Paper



EnvopAP National 
sales@envopap.com
020 8050 2725
<https://envopap.com/>

Procurement of Goods Hot Drinks



Steenbergs National 
01765 640088
<https://steenbergs.co.uk/>




Bird and Wild National 
<https://birdandwild.co.uk/>



Hampstead Tea National 
sales@hampsteadtea.com
01908583701
<https://www.hampsteadtea.com/>



Source Climate Change Harrogate 
info@sourceclimatechange.com
01423 206260
<https://sourceclimatechange.com/>

Procurement of Goods Toiletries



Cheeky Panda National 
alexandra.gros@cheekypanda.com (B2B enquiries)
<https://uk.cheekypanda.com/>



Who Gives a Crap National 
sales@whogivesacrap.org
<https://uk.whogivesacrap.org/>



Bumboo National 
wecare@bumboo.eco
<https://www.bumboo.eco/>



Bamboo Bobbi National 
bobbi@bamboobobbi.co.uk
<https://www.bamboobobbi.com/>




Naked Sprout National 
hello@nakedsprout.uk
<https://nakedsprout.uk/>

Procurement of Goods Cleaning Products



Smol National 
help@smolproducts.com
<https://smolproducts.com/>



Biod National 
info@biod.co.uk
01482 229950
www.biod.co.uk



More information on how to donate unwanted items:

North Yorkshire County Council
https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Environment%20and%20Waste/Waste%20and%20recycling/Reuse_directory_and_leaflet.pdf




Donate surplus medical goods to rural health units in sub-Saharan Africa:

InterCare
<https://intercare.org.uk/>



Recycle empty medicine packets - find your nearest drop off point using this map:



Superdrug and Terracycle National 
<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/medicine-packet-uk>