

Aqua Medical: Carbon Reduction Plan

1. Introduction

Aqua Medical recognises the urgent need to address climate change and reduce the environmental impact of healthcare delivery. This Carbon Reduction Plan sets out our strategy to minimise greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, align with NHS Net Zero ambitions, and support the UK's legally binding target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

2. Organisational Boundary and Baseline

We define our organisational boundary using the *Operational Control Approach*, including:

- All clinical and administrative operations
- Procurement activities
- Patient and staff travel related to services delivered

Baseline Year: 2024

Scope of Emissions:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from owned/controlled sources (e.g., gas heating, company vehicles)
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from purchased electricity
- **Scope 3:** Other indirect emissions (e.g., supply chain, waste, business travel, water)

Note: A detailed carbon footprint assessment will be conducted annually to update this baseline.

3. Targets

Our initial reduction targets:

- **Reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030 (vs. 2024 baseline)**
- **Reduce Scope 3 emissions by 30% by 2030**
- **Achieve Net Zero across all Scopes by 2045**

These targets align with NHS and UK government pathways.

4. Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Below are core initiatives Aqua Medical will undertake:

A. Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation

- Transition to renewable energy tariffs for all facilities
- Upgrade lighting to LED with smart controls
- Replace gas boilers with air source heat pumps
- Introduce building energy management systems to monitor and reduce consumption

B. Sustainable Transport

- Transition to an electric vehicle fleet by 2030
- Provide EV charging points at all sites
- Promote cycling and walking schemes for staff
- Introduce incentives for low-carbon commuting

C. Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

- Implement recycling and composting across all sites
- Eliminate single-use plastics where clinically appropriate
- Engage suppliers in product take-back and recycling schemes

D. Sustainable Procurement

- Embed sustainability criteria into procurement processes (e.g., NHS Evergreen Supplier Framework)
- Require suppliers to disclose and reduce their carbon footprints
- Prioritise local and low-carbon supply chains

E. Digital Transformation

- Expand telehealth and virtual consultations to reduce patient and clinician travel
- Implement paperless systems for patient records and prescriptions

F. Staff Engagement and Training

- Deliver carbon literacy training for all staff
- Establish a Green Champions Network
- Encourage staff-led innovation to reduce emissions

5. Measuring and Reporting Progress

We will:

- Conduct annual GHG emissions inventories
- Report progress to NHS and regulators
- Publish updates on our website and in our annual sustainability report
- Adjust the plan annually to reflect new technology and best practice

6. Governance

Oversight of this plan will be provided by:

- **Sustainability Steering Group**, chaired by the Managing Director
- Monthly monitoring meetings
- Regular board reviews

7. Communication and Collaboration

We will work with:

- NHS Supply Chain
- Integrated Care Boards
- Local authorities
- Patients and community stakeholders

to advance shared goals for sustainability and health.

8. Next Steps


1. Formal approval by Aqua Medical Board
2. Establish baseline emissions assessment
3. Develop detailed action plans per workstream
4. Launch staff engagement campaigns
5. Commence priority carbon reduction projects

9. Contact

For more information or to get involved:

Sustainability Team – Aqua Medical

 sustainability@aquamedical.co.uk

 +44 (0)24 7699 7752