



London Ambulance Service **NHS**  
NHS Trust

## Carbon Reduction Policy

**DOCUMENT PROFILE and CONTROL.**

**Purpose of the document:** To identify how the Trust will minimise the impact of its activities and operations on the environment by making improvements in environmental performance and preventing pollution.

**Sponsor Department:** Finance Directorate

**Author/Reviewer:** Corporate Processes Programme Project Manager. To be reviewed by March 2012.

**Document Status:** Final

Amendment History			
Date	*Version	Author/Contributor	Amendment Details
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05/01/2010	0.1	Corporate Processes Programme Project Manager	Original draft

**\*Version Control Note:** All documents in development are indicated by minor versions i.e. 0.1; 0.2 etc. The first version of a document to be approved for release is given major version 1.0. Upon review the first version of a revised document is given the designation 1.1, the second 1.2 etc. until the revised version is approved, whereupon it becomes version 2.0. The system continues in numerical order each time a document is reviewed and approved.

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Links to Related documents or references providing additional information		
Ref. No.	Title	Version
	Procurement policy	
	Procedure for the disposal/recycling of waste and materials	
	Estates policy/strategy	
	Fleet policy	
	Waste management policy	

Document Status: This is a controlled record as are the document(s) to which it relates. Whilst all or any part of it may be printed, the electronic version maintained in P&P-File remains the controlled master copy. Any printed copies are not controlled nor substantive.

## 1. Introduction

The London Ambulance Service (LAS) NHS Trust acknowledges that its activity and operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment.

To minimise the impact of this effect the Trust is committed to making continuous improvements in environmental performance and preventing pollution. In making this commitment the LAS will aim to meet the requirements of current environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice as a minimum standard.

In 2006 the NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model was launched. The model supports the Department of Health's contribution to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*, signed by all government Departments in 2005.

The NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy, published in April 2009, states that meeting the Climate Change Act requirement of a 26% reduction of carbon emissions by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050 will be a huge challenge. Furthermore, the NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy establishes that the NHS should have a target of reducing its 2007 carbon footprint by 10% by 2015. This will require the current level of growth of emissions to not only be curbed, but the trend to be reversed and absolute emissions reduced. Interim NHS targets will be needed to be met and, if necessary, exceed the government targets.

In 2008: the NHS Sustainable Development Unit launched the NHS Carbon Reduction strategy for England 'saving carbon, improving lives'.

In the draft commissioning guidance to London PCTs 2010/11 NHS London has called for the PCTs to 'carefully consider its impact on its environment by constantly striving to reduce its carbon footprint'.

## 2. Scope

This policy will apply to all activities, operations and work areas of the Trust where, consistent with achieving and maintaining required performance levels and delivering the highest standards of infection prevention and control, patient safety are paramount.

## 3. Objectives

1. Reduction in carbon emissions (our 'carbon footprint').
2. Improved health for our staff and the population we serve by the creation of a cleaner environment.
3. Reduction in waste costs.

4. Reduced utility costs by reducing usage.
5. Reduced fuel costs by sourcing cleaner and more efficient fuels (and adopting economic driving practice).
6. Enhancement of the organisational image as an employer of choice.
7. Support for partner organisation objectives, e.g., NHS London, Transport for London.
8. Facilitate access to environmental action funds.
9. Closer working relationship across directorates.

#### **4. Responsibilities**

The Trust aims to ensure that environmental awareness and understanding is embedded in all parts of the Trust's activity and operations. To this end each directorate of the Trust will be responsible for identifying and implementing ways in which environmental workstreams will be progressed.

The Director of Finance has overall responsibility for carbon management within the Trust. This responsibility is delegated to the Corporate Processes and Governance Programme Manager (owner Key Line of Enquiry (KLoE 5.1)).

##### **4.1 Managers**

All Trust managers will ensure that the staff they manage, permanent temporary or contract, are made aware of the Trust's Carbon Reduction policy and of the Trust's commitment towards environmental management.

Staff will be encouraged to participate in and fully support environmental initiatives and to put forward suggestions for environmental improvements.

In particular managers should:

- Reinforce the need for staff to minimise energy and utility usage by observing good housekeeping measures;
- Support staff in undertaking environmental training as appropriate;
- Assist staff in accessing environmental guidance;
- Contribute towards minimising operational travel by the management of logistics and journey efficiencies;

- Support staff seeking to make use of environmentally friendly alternative travel opportunities, e.g., walking or cycling to work, car sharing or public transport;
- Encourage staff to minimise the production of waste and maximise the re-use and recycling of waste materials;
- Whenever possible avoid asking staff to travel to meetings when a conference call or video conference would be as effective.

#### 4.2 Staff

All Trust employees have the following responsibility under this policy:

- To support and participate in implementing agreed environmental action plans;
- To become familiar with the Trust's environmental policy, support the Trust's commitment towards environmental management in all aspects of their work and put forward suggestions for environmental improvements;
- To minimise energy and utility usage by observing good housekeeping measures;
- To participate in environmental training as appropriate;
- To assist in minimising the production of waste and maximising the re-use and recycling of waste material.

### 5. Definitions

**Sustainability:** the goal of sustainable development is to meet the needs of today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

**Carbon footprint:** A carbon footprint is mostly defined as the total set of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organisation, event or product (UK Carbon Trust 2008). It is labelled a carbon footprint as commonly the total GHG emissions are converted to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions

### 6. LAS' strategy

The Trust's strategic approach to sustainable development and carbon management mirrors the NHS Good Corporate Citizen Assessment Model and comprises six strands:

- Transport
- Procurement
- Facilities management
- New buildings
- Employment of skills
- Community engagement.

## 6.1 Transport

The Trust will benefit from a more sustainable approach to transport. This key area includes low emission vehicles, walking, cycling, use of public transport, policies and performance management, service design and minimising transport.

The Trust's policy of treating patients appropriately which on occasion means that they receive Clinical Telephone Advice (CTA) or are referred to NHS Direct has a positive impact environmentally in respect of the vehicles not being despatched. It also means that the Trust has vehicles and crews available to respond to calls when it is medically appropriate.

## 6.2 Procurement

Buying Solutions (which replaced PASA in October 2009) is an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce in the Treasury whose primary role is to maximise the value for money obtained by government departments and other public bodies through a dedicated, professional procurement service. Buying Solutions recognise that sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic concerns. It is committed to seeking continuous improvement in our performance on sustainability, in both our internal and procurement functions, which is consistent with providing value for money for the tax payer.

The Trust's Procurement Strategy (to be presented for approval by the Trust Board March 2010) makes the commitment "ensuring that sustainability considerations are embedded within our procurement processes and by promoting good practices with those with whom we do business".

## 6.3 Facilities management

Sustainable facilities management is about minimising impacts on the environment through better energy usage, reducing carbon emissions, recycling, effective policies on waste, chemical use and use of water. This links closely to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) which was launched in 2008 – to replace the NHS Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT).

## 6.4 New buildings

The LAS does not construct many new buildings but the Trust's Estates Plan will take account of sustainability when new builds or refurbishment projects are being undertaken. A sustainable building is designed to reduce waste; energy and resource use; saving money, reducing negative environmental impacts and benefiting health.

## 6.5 Employment and skills

The improved working lives standard goes a long way towards ensuring that LAS operates as good corporate citizen. This strand includes training and skills, healthy workplace, recruitment, valuing staff, and support. This strand is managed within the Trust through the Human Resources Directorate e.g. identifying training needs with the introduction of Personal Development Records; support can be accessed via the LINC Peer Support, Counselling and working closely with Staff-side representatives. .

## 6.5 Community engagement

As an NHS organisation the LAS is an integral part of the local community, and engaging with the communities we serve is essential. Our current technique of engagement is sustainable in nature. As we work towards becoming a Foundation Trust we plan to work closely with a geographically and individually diverse membership working and living in London. This will involve the development of new techniques of engagement and communication which will be underpinned by a focus on sustainability and that of good corporate citizen.

## 7. Creating value through vision and shared commitment

To implement this strategy effectively requires a shared vision and the commitment of everyone within LAS. It will take time. It is important we continue to communicate the vision in such a way that every member of staff shares our commitment towards a sustainable future; the aim is to bring people with us rather than impose something upon them.

Our vision is to make sustainability integral to everything we do in our everyday working lives.

This vision links to the Auditors local evaluation (ALE) annual assessment, KLoE 5.1.3 (Trust having proper arrangements in place for securing strategic and operational objectives).

To communicate the vision we have developed the Sustainable Development Communications Strategy (**attached**)



<b>IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	
<b>Intended Audience</b>	All LAS Staff Interested External bodies e.g. Primary Care Trusts
<b>Dissemination</b>	Available to all staff on the Pulse and to the public on the LAS website.
<b>Communications</b>	Policy and Management Action Plan to be announced in the RIB and a link provided to the document.
<b>Training</b>	No training needs have been identified, though work will be undertaken to raise awareness amongst members of staff.
<b>Monitoring</b>	<p>The policy will be implemented and monitored by means of a co-ordinated environmental management system, incorporating policies, procedures and working arrangements that will address a number of environmental work streams.</p> <p>The Carbon Reduction Working Group is responsible for performance monitoring the action plans and key PI from each of the four work streams with reference to the requirement that the Trust's 2007 carbon footprint be reduced by 10% by 2015 It will do this at every meeting (bi-monthly) through the use of highlight reports generated by the PA integrated governance system.</p> <p>As appropriate it will make recommendations to the Senior Management Group if inadequate progress is being achieved.</p> <p>Key performance indicators will be developed in line with NHS Policy and guidance. <b>(To be drafted)</b></p> <p>A Sustainable Development Management Plan will be presented to the Trust board for approval. <b>(attached)</b></p> <p>The results of the bi-monthly monitoring will be reported to the Trust Board via the Balanced Scorecard.</p>