

Investors in the Environment: Case Study

Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

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ABOUT NEWCASTLE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST.



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Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of the UK's largest and most pioneering healthcare organisations, known for combining clinical excellence with a forward thinking approach to sustainability.

Long before environmental responsibility became standard across the NHS, NUTH was already leading the way. In 2019, it became the first healthcare organisation in the world to declare a Climate Emergency - a landmark commitment that marked the start of a focused, science led journey to reduce its environmental impact.

Recognising that sustainability had to be fully embedded within its operations, supply chain, and culture, the Trust sought a structured, evidence based approach to manage and measure progress. Partnering with Investors in the Environment (iE) provided the framework and independent validation needed to ensure continuous improvement and accountability across the organisation.

Journey with iiE

Through the iiE framework, Newcastle Hospitals has transformed its approach to sustainability, embedding data driven decision making, strong governance as well as transparent reporting.

Achieving Green Level accreditation in early 2025 with a score of 77% was a major milestone reflecting consistent progress across energy, waste, travel and carbon management.

iiE's structured process guided the Trust in developing a robust Environmental Management System (EMS), implementing carbon budgeting using the Tyndall Centre methodology plus refining governance so that sustainability now features in all job roles and inductions.

A key strength identified during the audit was the Trust's Zero Waste by 2040 ambition, underpinned by an award winning waste management team and initiatives that champion reuse, food waste reduction, and circular economy principles. iiE's assessment also highlighted opportunities for growth, particularly around transport emissions and wider community engagement.

In response, Newcastle Hospitals is now developing a comprehensive travel plan aligned to its Climate Emergency Strategy and exploring new ways to involve patients and visitors in sustainability initiatives. The partnership with iiE has provided has given Newcastle Hospitals a clear framework, shared language, and network for collaboration, enabling it to influence and inspire sustainable practice across the NHS.

What's next?

With Green Level accreditation achieved, Newcastle Hospitals is focused on the next phase of their sustainability journey:

- Strengthening patient and public engagement on sustainability
- Implementing a Trust wide travel plan and active transport initiatives
- Expanding food and material reuse programmes
- Reviewing carbon budgets and Net Zero milestones through to 2030
- Sharing iiE accredited best practice across the wider NHS network



By working with iiE, Newcastle Hospitals has demonstrated that a sustainable healthcare approach is measurable, scalable and transformative.

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Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has set an ambitious Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. Working with Genee and the iiE scheme has helped us to further develop our environmental management system within the Trust and get an outside perspective on how we are measuring, reporting, and reducing our impacts.

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Anna-Lisa Mills, Sustainability Manager
Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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BUSINESS THAT'S BETTER FOR THE PLANET

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