



36 Foxland Road,
Gatley,
Cheadle,
SK8 4QB

Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Clinical Diagnostic Services Ltd (CDS)'s commitment to reduce our environmental footprint and embed sustainability across all operations and decision-making processes.

Our commitments are aligned with the **NHS England Net Zero Policy** and reflect the UK Government's national targets to achieve Net Zero emissions. As a **new entrant healthcare provider**, CDS has embedded sustainability from inception, ensuring our ultrasound services are designed and delivered responsibly, with minimal environmental impact.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all CDS staff, contractors, and suppliers. It covers:

- Clinical operations, including community-based ultrasound services, GP practice clinics, and mobile diagnostic units.
- Corporate and administrative operations, including head office functions.
- Procurement, supply chain, and partnership activities.

3. Policy Statement

CDS recognises that climate change represents a major health and environmental challenge. We are committed to addressing this challenge by reducing our own carbon footprint, promoting sustainable healthcare delivery, and ensuring our growth is aligned with environmental best practice.

To achieve this, CDS will:

3.1 Adopt sustainability standards and embed them in daily operations, ensuring environmental responsibility is part of staff practice at every level.

3.2 Actively seek innovative solutions and continuously improve to meet and exceed NHS and UK sustainability standards.

3.3 Integrate environmental sustainability into all services, including ultrasound diagnostics, patient pathways, and support functions.

3.4 Measure, monitor, and report performance annually, ensuring transparency and accountability in progress towards Net Zero.

3.5 Develop and maintain a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP), setting targets and tracking progress. The CRP will be published externally and updated at least annually.

3.6 Apply sustainability criteria in procurement decisions, giving preference to suppliers with low-carbon and environmentally responsible products and services.

3.7 Promote waste reduction by maintaining paperless systems, recycling programmes, and prioritising reusable or repairable equipment and consumables.

3.8 Implement targeted measures to reduce emissions from energy, travel, and equipment use, alongside supporting sustainable patient and staff behaviours.

3.9 Educate and train staff on environmental best practice, ensuring responsibility is shared across the organisation.

3.10 Ensure accountability to NHS commissioners, partners, and stakeholders by publishing commitments and demonstrating progress.

3.11 Allocate resources to deliver carbon reduction projects and sustainability improvements.

3.12 Undertake environmental impact assessments for major service developments and expansions, ensuring sustainability is factored into strategic planning.

3.13 Equality and Inclusion – CDS recognises that climate impacts are not felt equally. Our commitment to sustainability includes removing barriers, enabling inclusive participation, and providing the necessary training and support so all staff and patients can contribute to a greener healthcare service.

4. Responsibilities

- **Board of Directors** – hold overall accountability for this policy and its outcomes.
- **Executive Leadership Team** – ensure compliance with the policy across all functions.
- **Policy Owner (Chief Operating Officer)** – responsible for aligning this policy with strategy, governance, and regulatory obligations.

- **Sustainability Lead (Policy Lead)** – responsible for development, monitoring, and review of this policy, and for coordinating reporting.
 - **Directors and Managers** – ensure implementation within their teams, provide training, and integrate sustainability into service delivery.
 - **All CDS staff** – responsible for following sustainable practices in their roles and supporting organisational commitments.
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5. Governance

Associated documents

- Code of Conduct
- Procurement Policy
- Travel and Expenses Policy
- Business Continuity & Resilience Policy
- Quality & Clinical Governance Policy

Legislation / Standards

- NHS England Net Zero Policy
- Environmental Duty of Care
- UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard

Impact Assessments

- **Equality Impact Assessment:** Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable groups. CDS's sustainability approach integrates fairness, accessibility, and inclusion.
- **Data Protection Impact Assessment:** No data protection impacts identified.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment:** No negative impacts identified; positive impact intended through carbon reduction and waste minimisation.

6. Review

- Policy effective date: 21/12/2024
- Review date: 21/12/2025
- Interim updates: Annually, in line with the Carbon Reduction Plan review.
- Version: 1.0

7. Definitions

- **Carbon footprint** – total greenhouse gas emissions from CDS operations.
- **Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)** – annual document detailing CDS's carbon targets and progress.
- **Environmental sustainability** – responsible use of resources to meet current needs without compromising future generations.
- **Scope 1, 2, 3 emissions** – categories of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions defined by the GHG Protocol.
- **Value chain** – all processes from procurement to delivery of services, including suppliers and partners.