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DELIVERING A SUSTAINABLE DERMATOLOGY SERVICE

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ABSTRACT

Healthcare accounts for approximately 4.4% of global net carbon dioxide emissions in the world. In this paper, we discussed the NHS carbon footprint and the practical strategies to deliver a greener dermatology service at the individual, practitioner, service and corporate levels.

Keywords: low-carbon, lean service, recycle, sustainable, net-zero

INTRODUCTION

Healthcare accounts for approximately 4.4% of global net carbon dioxide emissions in the world. In brief, 61% of the National Health Service (NHS) carbon footprint originates from procurement of resources, 17% from energy, 13% from business travel and 9% from commissioning of services (National Audit Office, 2015). Medical instruments and pharmaceuticals are responsible for approximately a quarter of carbon emissions in health and social care in 2017 (Sustainable Development Unit, 2018).

The NHS introduced a statutory target to reach net zero for carbon emissions following the publication of the Health and Care Act 2022. In 'Delivering a net zero National Health Service', the first statutory target is for commissioners and providers of NHS service to reach net zero by 2040 for the emissions the NHS controls directly (i.e., Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP) Scope 1 – direct emissions and GHGP Scope 2 – indirect emissions from the generation of