

Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) joined the Certified Emission Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) in 2012 with an aim to achieve a carbon neutral target by 2050. The main focal areas of our environmental strategy are energy, waste, transport, and supply chain. Tackling these focal areas provides the opportunity to direct attention to carbon hotspots:

## Energy

Minimising the environmental impact of energy and utilities used to provide health services throughout the CM Health estate will help drive down emissions and costs. An energy policy has been approved which sets out this direction and supports the aims of the environmental sustainability programme.

## Waste

Reducing waste to landfill volumes by optimising recycling and focusing primarily on reducing the volume of general, medical and sharps waste. In addition, CM Health will look to add in an organic waste collection service by 2020. Furthermore, working with key suppliers and promoting the uptake of product stewardship schemes will assist with reducing waste generation rates.

## Travel

Reducing single occupied vehicle driver rates by 10% by 2020 and by 30% by 2030 will be a useful indicator to adopt. Plans also include offsetting all SMO work-related air travel. Working with existing Auckland Transport schemes, ridesharing will be targeted, cycling promoted and a subsidy towards public transport explored. A travel strategy to support this work is also underway.

## Supply chain

Purchasing products and materials that meet environmental standards will be a key indicator and a number of other initiatives will be actioned in support of this action. Reducing the amount of meat served to patients, staff and visitors will also fall under this category as does purchasing from local suppliers/communities where possible. Incorporating pharmaceuticals into this field will also allow for the measurement of the environmental impact of anaesthetic volatile agents.

## Climate change

Climate change action results in health and financial benefits. Barriers to climate change action include short termism, financial constraints and system fragmentation. Recommended ways of overcoming these barriers to change have been reported. Embedding climate change into local thinking and decision making will help address the risks to health services. Infrastructural changes to accommodate the changing climate will also add to the resilience of health service delivery in the longer term.

The health sector is dealing with a high number of priorities and cost pressures which can make it difficult to prioritise action on climate change. However a number of actions can be taken to improve resilience and to reduce the likelihood of climate change which will also bring health benefits for individuals, communities and services. Many of these actions also bring financial savings so can be considered as multi-win measures.

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## Most relevant SDGs:

