

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(13 September 2021, 4.45pm)**

Today is the start of Scotland's Climate Week, which is the annual Scottish Government initiative that is focussed on building more sustainable communities and supporting work to protect our environment. This also marks the start of the run-up to COP26, the climate summit which is due to arrive in Glasgow in six weeks' time.

With all of the issues we are currently facing and the pressures on our healthcare system at this time, I fully appreciate that climate change may not be at the forefront of everyone's mind. However, this is an incredibly important subject, so during Climate Week, NHSGGC will make our own official climate emergency declaration. This is because climate change and the associated impacts are recognised as the single greatest threat to our long term global health, something which will shape the health profile of current and future generations and with it, the fabric of our NHS in the years to come. Therefore, as Scotland's largest health care provider and one of the biggest employers in the country, we have an important contribution to make and as such, we must use COP26 as our own catalyst for change.

We are already taking action to make our buildings and services more efficient and sustainable and we are working hard to ensure that our estates will provide attractive green spaces to support positive wellbeing for patients and staff alike. To do this, we will continue to work with our partners to reduce pollution and environmental impacts; we will continue the transition of our fleet of NHSGGC vehicles from petrol and diesel to electric; and we will further enable our staff to continue the work that has been undertaken to develop greenspaces at our hospitals.

I would like to say a special thank you to all of our staff who have continued to devote their time over recent months to enable this work to continue. I would also like to thank the Sustainability Team, who have been working hard in the background to develop mechanisms to support positive changes to be made to the way in which we operate. This activity will be so important long into the future, so please keep up the great work. Thank you.