

Welcome to the Sustainable Procurement Steering Group (SPSG) December newsletter

Who are we?

We're procurement and sustainability colleagues from across NHS Scotland with a keen interest in progressing sustainability across our procurement and supply management activity.

We're a subcommittee reporting to the procurement services Senior Management Team to ensure all activity is approved and standardised across NHS Scotland procurement services.

As you will see from this update, we want to share all of the excellent work from across our procurement community. That means we want to hear from you, let us know what activities you're doing to make sure all your great work is highlighted in our updates.



Environmental Edition

We're currently focusing our attention on increasing efforts in our environmental activities. We're very much at the start of this journey but momentum is growing and you can expect to see a lot more activity on this topic over the coming months.

Building momentum

We put out a call out for new members to join our steering group. If you, or someone you know, has an interest in sustainability and ethical sourcing, please get in contact! NSS.SPSteeringGroup@nhs.scot

Our team attended events, both in person and virtually in recent months to share details and progress of our Sustainability Strategy and action plans:

- Presented Sustainable Procurement as part of Heriot Watt's 'Medical Device Regulatory Affairs CPD Course'
- Presented during the Saving Lives Sustainably: Sustainable Production in the Health Sector Global Forum 2022.
- Attended and facilitated breakout session on Sustainability during NSS Nurse engagement session
- Presented at the NHS Scotland Assure conference in November 2022
- Presented to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Board chaired by the Chief Medical Officer.



Highlights

Over the last few months, we've engaged with clinical leads across NHS Scotland to remove Desflurane, an anaesthetic gas from use. This gas has a notably higher environmental impact than other gases (2,540 times more than Carbon Dioxide).



We have a readymade replacement, called Sevoflurane which in practical terms, is 1/60th of the impact of Desflurane.

We've established monthly alignment calls with NHS colleagues across the four nations to make sure we are all moving forward together and not putting undue duplication of effort onto our suppliers. Working together also allows us to share knowledge and data, to support and accelerate all our ambitions.



We've been working on our approach to calculating our carbon emissions across the supply chain. We've been working closely with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde who have commissioned a carbon report detailing product line-item calculations and will explore if this would be beneficial to do across the entire NHS Scotland supply chain.



The National Procurement supply chain team have been working on driving supply visibility across its 400 strong supplier base... primarily in support of resilience. It also provides us with a heat map of manufacturing locations across its 9,000 products and this can be used as the basis for mapping supply chains from an environmental footprint point of view. It also provides us with insights from an ethical viewpoint, with country of manufacture information allowing us to assess labour practice risk across the supply chain.

We're continuing our training programmes with the NHS Scotland procurement with the launch of our training portal. Our team are signposting to existing sustainability content so it's easily accessible and held in a central location. Due to go live by mid December 2022.

E-learning content is also underway to provide support to staff on sustainability topics, with the aim to start rolling this out in February 2023.

Delivering the goods...

Our supply chain and the purchasing of our goods and services accounts for around 60-70% of NHS Scotland's total carbon footprint. If we're to achieve our goal of becoming a net zero health care service by 2040, we need to know that our suppliers are committed to similar targets.

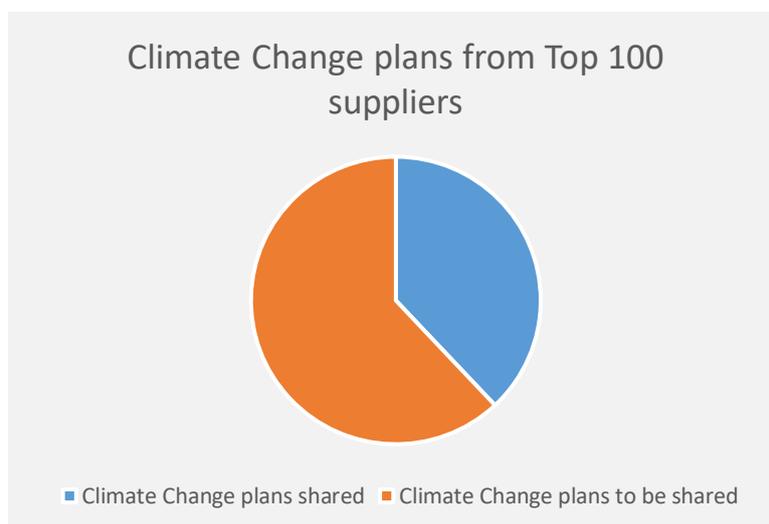
...We have identified NHS Scotland's top 100 suppliers by spend...

...Our top 100 suppliers equate to approx. £1.9bn of spend...

...This group of suppliers equates to 58% of spend in the 2021-22 financial year...

...We currently have climate change plans for 38 of these suppliers...

...Covering over £900m of spend...



Next steps

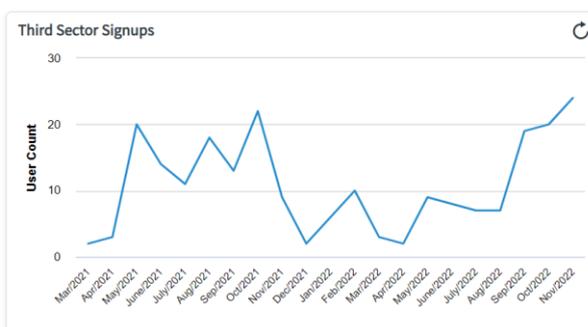
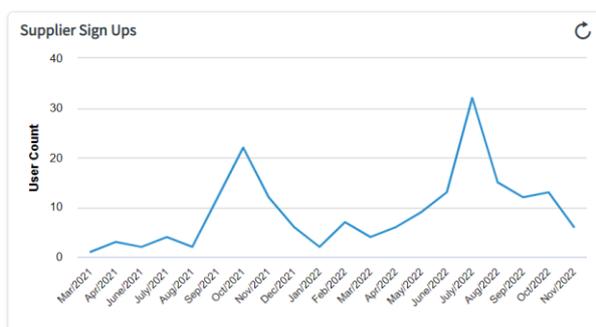
In line with the rest of the Scottish public sector we plan to start formally gathering climate change action plans from suppliers next year.

We'll be asking suppliers to share their plans with us as part of the Single Procurement Document (SPD) and we're currently identifying the best ways of capturing, storing, and analysing this information.

To help sort the information we receive, we've developed a template to allow us to benchmark each supplier's targets and provide us with a baseline to monitor annual progress against.

All Systems GO...

- The NHS Scotland Community Benefits Gateway was awarded winner of the Highly Commended Social Value Award in this year's GO Awards, recognising the great work by the project team. Well done to all those involved!
- A total of 11 community benefits were supported in Qtr. 2 of through the gateway
- Sign-ups to our Gateway now stand at 227 for third sector organisations and 176 suppliers.
- We presented the Gateway approach on the innovation stage at the Procurex Scotland conference in October, further raising its profile with suppliers and public sector buyers alike.



Bah Humbug!

As we work through the winter months it's common that surplus stock is ordered to avoid any potential disruptions. If your role involves buying products, please do consider what is needed to avoid stock that may expire if not used.

And on a personal note, Christmas is fast approaching and, although we don't want to be a Scrooge, it's often a time where waste is overlooked.

There's plenty of resources out there with helpful hints and tips but please do consider the following:



Reduce – Buy less and buy better! Choose quality over quantity! Buy less, buy second-hand and buy local!

Reuse – Many Christmas products have a very short lifespan. The following items could be swapped to reusable ones:

Reusable wrapping – switch to gift bags or fabric wrapping - if using wrapping paper, go for a paper based - the shiny and glittery kinds are not recyclable

Reusable crackers – ditch the cheap plastic toys and fill crackers with gifts your guests will enjoy

Repair – Repair or replace any broken fairy lights rather than buying new

Avoid – Do you really need it? Will the recipient use it? If not, go without!

If you have any stories you would like to share, please let your local SPSSG rep know or drop a note to NSS.SPSteeringGroup@nhs.scot