



Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation

2025-2028 Strategy

Vision

Enabling an environmentally sustainable future for transplant services in the UK

Mission

Providing the UK transplant community with the data, training, resources, strategies and tools to improve environmental sustainability in their service delivery, and to increase the priority of environmental sustainability in UK transplantation as a whole.





Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation (ESIT) Working Group Strategy

Key document acronyms:

ESIT: Environmental Sustainability In Transplantation

ES: Environmental Sustainability

Strategy Summary

There is a clear need for transformation of all NHS service to an environmentally sustainable footing

The ESIT working group will

- 1) Raise awareness and increase engagement around ES in transplant services
 - a. Grow the ESIT network of environmental champions equipped to promote change
 - b. Educate transplant professionals at all levels, and share best practise
 - c. Represent ESIT in national and international forums
 - d. Develop tools for professional, Trusts and services to use in ES in transplantation
- 2) Influence long lasting positive change
 - a. Review clinical pathways to identify opportunities for change
 - b. Develop dashboard metrics for use by transplant units
 - c. Develop and embed appropriate ES aspects in OTDT/NHSBT centre activity reporting
- 3) Collaborate with partners
 - a. Set up a multi-agency collaboration on ES in transplantation
 - i. Including, but not limited to: professional (BTS¹), sustainability (CSH²) and industry partners
 - b. Leverage funding for activities in all strategic arms
 - c. Source educational opportunities in ES for ESIT members
 - d. Provide consultative support both internally (NHSBT) and externally where appropriate

This is a living strategy that will evolve over time as we continue to develop our thinking. Our progress against our strategy, including any updates we make, will be published on our ESIT webpage.

Key workstreams

- Developing a network of green champions in transplantation
- Review of clinical pathways
- Toolkit and dashboard development
- Development of ES reporting to centres
- Setting up multi-agency Taskforce



Strategy in full

The need for change

All human activity is climate relevant; the climate emergency faces all health services with the need to assess, plan, and adapt, adopting the most sustainable practices available. On 1 July 2022, the NHS became the first health system to embed net zero into legislation, through the Health and Care Act 2022. This places duties on all NHS organisations to contribute towards reaching environmental targets and reducing our collective impact on the economy, with two key overall targets:

- For emissions directly controlled by the NHS (the NHS Carbon Footprint), to reach net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032
- For emissions the NHS can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), to reach net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039.

With around 4% of the country's carbon emissions, and over 7% of the economy, the NHS has an essential role to play in meeting the net zero targets set under the Climate Change Act (Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service).

In 2022/23, the NHS facilitated almost 4,600 transplants, and in 2023 there were over 7,000 patients waiting for a transplant. The clinical transplant community has an important role in contributing towards environmental sustainability matters and embedding improvements within clinical practice.

Within transplantation there are serious challenges – organ shortages, growing transplant waiting list, and significant workforce shortages, alongside growing costs of service delivery. As innovative solutions and technologies are identified to support transformation within transplantation and deliver much-needed widespread improvements, the ESIT group will focus minds to ensure environmental sustainability is a golden thread throughout all transformations, making use of the most innovative environmental sustainability solutions at the same time.

As a group we strongly support preventive healthcare and improving population health, as this, in itself, unlocks improved environmental sustainability. However, there will always be a need for transplantation in the UK, and ESIT is essential to ensuring that we, as a transplant community:

Minimise our impact on the environment

Embed sustainability into clinical practice

ESIT will influence positive change to achieve these aims through raising awareness, providing educational resources, benchmarking and reporting of sustainability aspects for transplant units, and leveraging funding for clinical pathways analysis across donation, retrieval, transplantation and post-transplant care.



Who We Are

The NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) Working Group on Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation was formally convened in March 2023 by Prof. Derek Manas (Medical Director for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation) with Dr Matt Welberry Smith (Consultant Transplant Physician, Leeds) and Mr John Callaghan (Consultant Transplant Surgeon, Oxford & Coventry) as co-chairs. The group initially aimed to provide the organ transplantation community with a straightforward guide for Transplant Units to use to move to more environmentally sustainable practice, which resulted in the publication of a 'top tips' document to facilitate rapid initial actions, available at <https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/33713/top-tips-on-making-transplantation-green-in-your-unit.pdf>.

The group has now evolved into the Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation group, which is focused on establishing and nurturing a network of environmental sustainability focused transplant colleagues, whilst also providing guidance and leadership at a national level, to facilitate improvement in sustainable practice in transplant services.

Our members volunteer their time out of concern for the future and to help shape a sustainable transplant future. ESIT is comprised of transplant professionals from across the UK, across the multidisciplinary team, and across the entire pathway from organ donation to post-transplant care.

Our Vision and Mission

Vision

Enabling an environmentally sustainable future for transplant services in the UK

Mission

Providing the UK transplant community with the data, training, resources, strategies and tools to improve environmental sustainability in their service delivery, and to increase the priority of environmental sustainability in UK transplantation as a whole.

To deliver our mission and vision, we will focus on improving understanding of environmental sustainability within transplantation, using an evidence-based approach, and will ensure the tools and knowledge we share are accessible and clear to understand, so that colleagues feel empowered to implement long-lasting positive change. We want environmental sustainability to be considered a core priority for transplant centres and retrieval teams, and we aim to support the transplant community to embed environmental sustainability priorities as business as usual within clinical practice.



Strategic Priorities

The Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation (ESIT) group is an activated group of likeminded individuals who are focused on supporting transplant centres to achieve positive change and embed improvements to environmental sustainability in clinical practice. The group are committed to:

- Embedding sustainable clinical practice.
- Continually identifying opportunities for positive change, and ensuring change opportunities are made accessible for transplant colleagues to implement.
- Keeping a light shining on environmental sustainability within transplantation.
- Championing environmental sustainability within transplantation at a local and national level.

To deliver our vision we have set out 3 strategic priorities, in relation to environmental sustainability:



Raise awareness and increase engagement to improve understanding and knowledge in relation to environmental sustainability



Influence long-lasting positive change and making change accessible through the development of toolkits, metrics and other resources.



Collaborate with partners to maximise opportunities for improvement and drive innovation



Strategic Priority 1: Raise Awareness and Increase Engagement

Through raising awareness and increasing engagement we will realise our vision of embedding environmental sustainability as standard within transplant centres. We will relentlessly advocate for change and, using an evidence-based approach, we will share information related to environmental sustainability to drive interest and enthusiasm in the community. Our focus will be at both a local and national level, to improve understanding and knowledge of environmental sustainability in transplantation in as many arenas as possible, as the more people that understand the importance of change in this sphere, the closer will be to delivering against our vision.

To deliver, we will:	Our impact will be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Grow and nurture a well-equipped network of champions, fostering diverse membership across the transplant pathway throughout the UK.</i> • <i>Share best practice, learning, and knowledge via a calendar of regular webinars and education opportunities.</i> • <i>Make use of national and international forums to raise awareness of environmental sustainability matters. This may include conference attendance, abstract submission, award entries, and Board paper submissions.</i> • <i>Ensure we have the correct ESIT membership, to provide the expertise and insight required to support the implementation of our strategic priorities.</i> • <i>Promote additional opportunities for shared learning, as per events held by ESIT partners.</i> • <i>Develop a transplant-centre ESIT toolkit for all transplant-focused colleagues to use, , and work with Trust Boards / Health Boards, and Commissioners, to embed this an expected part of transplant service development.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledgeable and activated environmental sustainability champions successfully implementing change at local grassroots level.</i> • <i>A strong and diverse ESIT membership, informing plans and development of tools, ensuring they are fit for purpose.</i> • <i>Regular dissemination of ESIT updates to maintain engagement and enthusiasm.</i> • <i>Improved understanding of ESIT matters at a national level, with growth in support and increased transparency of ESIT-related action on a top-down basis.</i> • <i>Celebration of successes within ESIT and recognition of achievements at all levels.</i> • <i>Embedding ESIT-related matters as a core priority within transplant centres.</i>



Strategic Priority 2: Influence Long-Lasting Positive Change

To deliver our vision and embed sustainable clinical practice we must continually identify opportunities for positive change. Additionally, fundamental to driving and influencing change, we must ensure that change opportunities are made accessible for transplant colleagues to implement and provide clear information on how to implement change locally, and what the impact will be. We will build on the publication of the ‘top tips’ document and will shine a light on where ES change can be achieved to equip our transplantation community with the tools to implement this change and achieve success. Areas of focus for ESIT will be across the whole pathway in the long term, but immediate priorities will include solid organ pathways, transplant centre-level activity, organ donation, and retrieval. The range of actions that we take together can cover a broad range including reducing emissions from travel, improving logistics, energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling and plastic reduction, and other actions. In conjunction with strategic priority 1, we will ensure we celebrate our colleagues for implementation changes also and share this best practice with the wider transplant community. These actions can deliver real and impactful change to clinical practice, reducing the carbon footprint of transplantation services, whilst also increasing patient and staff satisfaction with the transplantation community.

To deliver, we will:	Our impact will be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake clinical pathway review and analysis for solid organs to identify opportunities and ‘hotspots’ for change and share with transplant centres for implementation. Following this project, we will repeat this process across the donation and retrieval clinical pathway. • Develop, publish and maintain an ESIT ‘gold standard’ performance dashboard, with ESIT metrics that transplant centres can sign up to and self-assess their local performance. • Work with NHSBT colleagues to augment the data items within the registry, to incorporate key ESIT data parameters. • Develop a research strategy and identify opportunities to increase ESIT research, to develop new evidence and foster innovation, supporting research into ESIT that influences the clinical community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of clear information regarding the impact of current clinical practice on ESIT, at transplant centre level, alongside helpful tools to deliver positive change, for the ESIT network to champion and implement. • Transparency regarding individual transplant centre level progress against ESIT metrics. • Enhanced understanding of ESIT with an improved underlying data source and publication of additional ESIT data and analysis to influence change. • Generation of much-needed additional evidence to improve ESIT.



Strategic Priority 3: Collaborate with Partners

We share our passion around delivering environmentally improvements to ESIT with many other partners. To maximise our efficacy and make use of every opportunity to deliver value and reduce our carbon footprint it is essential we collaborate with partners across sectors and throughout the UK. We can influence positive change within industry by updating our working practices and by engaging providers to take ESIT as seriously as we do.

To deliver, we will:	Our impact will be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify funding strategies for the ESIT group, to support delivery against strategic priorities (e.g. development of digital training resource).</i> • <i>Work with key partners in ES in the transplant space, including the British Transplant Society, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, and industry partners to create a joint multi-agency Taskforce for ESIT, leveraging funding opportunities to develop the analyses needed to inform our key strategic priorities</i> • <i>Work with NHSBT internal key partners, such as the Transport Taskforce and Green Taskforce, to influence widespread change and improved knowledge.</i> • <i>Provide consultative support to key areas of work that impact on ESIT on an ongoing basis.</i> • <i>Engage industry and influence key providers to adopt sustainable options.</i> • <i>Identify an opportunity for ESIT Whole Group members to undertake ESIT training, to enhance their understanding and expertise, enhancing the group's potential contributions.</i> • <i>Develop and overview of education opportunities available within ESIT and work with partners to ensure this is complete and as far-reaching as possible.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improved understanding for both the ESIT group and across collaborative partners of the way we can improve ESIT</i> • <i>Funding streams to undertake necessary work in ESIT that cannot be delivered by the ESIT whole group alone</i> • <i>Support of key internal NHSBT projects when appropriate</i> • <i>Ensure every available resource is used to maximise understanding and knowledge in relation to ES.</i> • <i>Key transformation workstreams will maintain ESIT as a core pillar of their work, and the required expertise will be available to them to inform positive change.</i> • <i>Ensure key providers, and industry partner working in the transplant space, are aware of the importance of ESIT to the transplantation community and the actions to be taken to deliver improvements.</i>

Delivery Roadmap

Our ambitious strategy relies on group members who volunteer their time for this group. We have therefore thought carefully about delivering our roadmap through to 2028, to make best use of our members' time. An overview of the timeline for implementation of our strategic priorities provided in the roadmap below.

ESIT 2025-2030 Implementation Roadmap

Key: Activity Milestones

