Imagining a net zero NHS of the future

Use this interactive hypothetical scenario to encourage thinking and discussion about the possible future of our health system

This is not a prediction or vision for the future, but is designed to highlight questions for us all to think about today...

Welcome to 2036.

The effects of climate change are becoming ever starker.

The NHS is just four years away from its 2040 net zero target. Good progress has been made, but there are still big obstacles to overcome if it is to reach that goal.

Experience an imagined scenario of one day in the NHS in 2036 as:

- a patient
- a senior manager of a hospital
- a member of the public

and explore the potential challenges and opportunities for future health care in a changing climate.

Home appointment

It's a sweltering summer morning in June 2036, during yet another heatwave. A drone from the NHS Medicines Delivery Service has just delivered this month's prescription with the latest low-carbon medication, ahead of a scheduled call with the pharmacist.

Answer the call from your pharmacist

Hospital boardroom

This morning's news that the government is clamping down on hospitals failing to meet their carbon budgets has raised difficult questions for the senior management team of this hospital. They are meeting to review progress and discuss ways they can meet the newly tightened net zero targets.

Join the call

Public debate

The host of radio show Speak Your Mind takes calls from listeners about the government's new plans for tackling climate change. The callers express a range of opinions about the impact of net zero policies on their care and whether the NHS and government are moving fast enough.

Hear what people think

Reflection

Use this interactive scenario to support your thinking and action on net zero. Here are some questions for you to consider:

- Which elements of the three scenarios did you find desirable? Which did you find undesirable?
- Where are there shared benefits between net zero and other health system priorities?
- What are the biggest changes needed to achieve net zero?

We encourage you to think and discuss these questions with others.

Download our slide pack for a suggested structure for using this scenario as part of a workshop.

About the scenario

This interactive scenario was created by the Health Foundation and The Liminal Space.

This scenario is not a prediction of the future, or a vision for what a future NHS should be, but is designed to highlight a range of questions for us all to think about today.

By imagining the possibilities, we can think about the future health system that we are working to achieve and what we need to do now to get there.

Contact us if you would like to use this feature or any of the videos.