



Isle of Man
Government

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Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2025

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Introduction

In 2019, a Climate Change Emergency was declared by the Isle of Man Government and a commitment was made for the Isle of Man to be “Net Zero Carbon” by 2050. This Action Plan details how the Department of Health and Social Care (“**DHSC**”) will contribute to the Isle of Man becoming “Net Zero Carbon”. This action plan will provide a framework for progressing projects and activities to address our climate change responsibilities and contribute to future reporting.

The DHSC supports health and social care delivery in the Isle of Man, making sure people have access to safe, effective and high-quality care. We do not directly provide any health and social care services.

As a small team of regulators, policy makers, researchers and administrators – the DHSC:

- develops strategy, policy and legislation
- regulates health and social care services based on the island
- strategically commissions health and social care services from Manx Care
- monitors and assures Manx Care’s performance in the delivery of services

This plan links to the [DHSC’s plan for 23 – 24](#) which sets out the Department’s objectives for the next 12 months, which include:

- publishing a Climate Action Plan (this document)
- embedding sustainability governance standards into our work programmes, strategic plans, policies and commissioning activities using climate impact assessment tools.

In delivering health and social care services, Manx Care has the responsibility to report on its carbon emissions and take action as a public body.

Our aims and actions

1. Identifying and understanding our emissions

The first assessment of the DHSC’s carbon emissions was undertaken in 2023. The [report](#) identifies sources of emissions such as electricity consumption, heating/cooling systems, transportation and waste generation. This assessment shows that the DHSC’s carbon emissions are estimated to be 10,986 kgCO₂e. This has been sourced using available energy data and will serve as a baseline to track progress.

We will be able to make better decisions and target actions when we have a higher level of confidence in our energy data.

ACTION: Seek clarity on the responsibility for reporting on the DHSC estate emissions to ensure that nothing is missed or double counted in the Government’s reporting for the 24 – 25 public bodies report.

2. Raise awareness about climate change and the importance of carbon reduction

The DHSC is limited in scope and direct action that can be taken to reduce emissions, as it is a small Department of around 40 staff, with an office owned and managed by the Department of Infrastructure.

The DHSC already displays posters in communal areas to raise awareness of opportunities for reducing emissions and energy use such as switching off lights and heating when rooms are not in use and turning off equipment at the end of the day. The DHSC also uses recycling bins in the communal kitchen.

In order to better understand how the DHSC can take climate action through its work it intends to provide carbon literacy training to its officers. Education, raising awareness, sharing knowledge and showcasing best practice are key to making informed decisions.

Carbon literacy training provides public servants and politicians with the tools to lead by example in how they procure, run and govern operations and clearly communicate the rationale for behaviour change in a way that resonates with the public.

ACTION: Encourage officers to become carbon literate by arranging carbon literacy training in the office and allowing all staff the time attend.

ACTION: All officers within the strategy and commissioning team to attend carbon literacy training to support completion of climate change impact assessments.

ACTION: With an aim to continuously seek opportunities to further reduce carbon emissions and improve sustainability practices, this Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

3. Health and social care strategy and policy

The DHSC sets the long term vision and strategy for health and social care services and undertakes health and social care policy development.

The DHSC is trialing the Government's climate impact assessment tool to be used for completing impact assessments for sustainability and environmental implications of any new strategies, policies and for changes to existing strategies and policies.

ACTION: DHSC to trial the climate impact assessment tool on the strategic programmes set out in the Island plan and the Department plan. This will be for a 6 month period from February to July 2024 with feedback for improvement to be provided to the Council of Ministers.

ACTION: To complete 5 impact assessments as part of the trial.

4. Strategic commissioning and Manx Care Mandate

The DHSC researches and develops long-term strategies to ensure appropriate and effective health and social care services are available to meet the needs of the Island within the resources we have available. Through the Mandate to Manx Care the DHSC develops the specifications which describe the health and care services to be delivered and the expected standards. Manx Care then has operational independence in terms of delivery of the services.

One of the DHSC's priorities is sustainability, which includes people being able to access services as close to home as possible. The Mandate to Manx Care reflects the DHSC's priorities; however, health and social care delivery is wide ranging and delivered across multiple sites, including within the UK for patients who receive care not available on Island, this will of course create a larger carbon footprint.

ACTION: The DHSC and Manx Care will work together and align future climate action plans to ensure strategic priorities and mandated objectives address our climate change responsibilities.

ACTION: DHSC to trial the climate impact assessment tool on any newly developed service specifications during the 6 month trial period. This will ensure that the service specifications developed as part of the mandate support Manx Care in taking action to improve its carbon footprint.

5. Estates management

The DHSC is undertaking a large piece of work to develop an estates strategy and review all land and buildings owned by the DHSC and used by Manx Care under the Licence and Agency Agreements between DHSC and Manx Care.

Additionally, the DHSC is seeking to develop a number of capital schemes that will improve the health and social care facilities. It will be important that any new buildings are net zero compatible.

In line with the DHSC's sustainability priority, the Mandate already directs Manx Care to be meticulous in the management of its assets and consumables.

ACTION: Complete the estates strategy to review, and consider any climate actions, in respect of all land and buildings owned by the DHSC by December 2024

ACTION: Work with the Department of Infrastructure and the Manx Utilities Authority to adapt existing buildings to be more sustainable

ACTION: Use the climate impact assessment tool on any new capital schemes to ensure that new buildings take into account fair change objectives;

ACTION: Dispose of assets responsibly when they no longer meet a strategic need

6. Transformation Programme

The care pathways and service delivery project, which is part of the Health and Care Transformation Programme, aims to create well-designed plans for the management of a patient's specific health condition. These plans ensure that services delivered are coordinated, efficient, based on best practices, and ultimately provide quality outcomes and experiences for our community.

ACTION: DHSC to use the climate impact assessment tool on any new care pathway developed to ensure that there is consideration of environmental and sustainability implications, including solutions to offset carbon emissions if the recommended care pathway is likely to raise carbon emissions.

7. Measuring success and future reporting

A report on progress against the actions set out in this action plan will be included in the 2025 – 2026 action plan due to be published in March 2025.