

The Climate Crisis is a Health Crisis:

HSE Climate Action Strategy 2023 – 2050

Energy Transition Summit 19th Sept 2023



1. Healthcare and Climate Action

Healthcare's role as an emitter



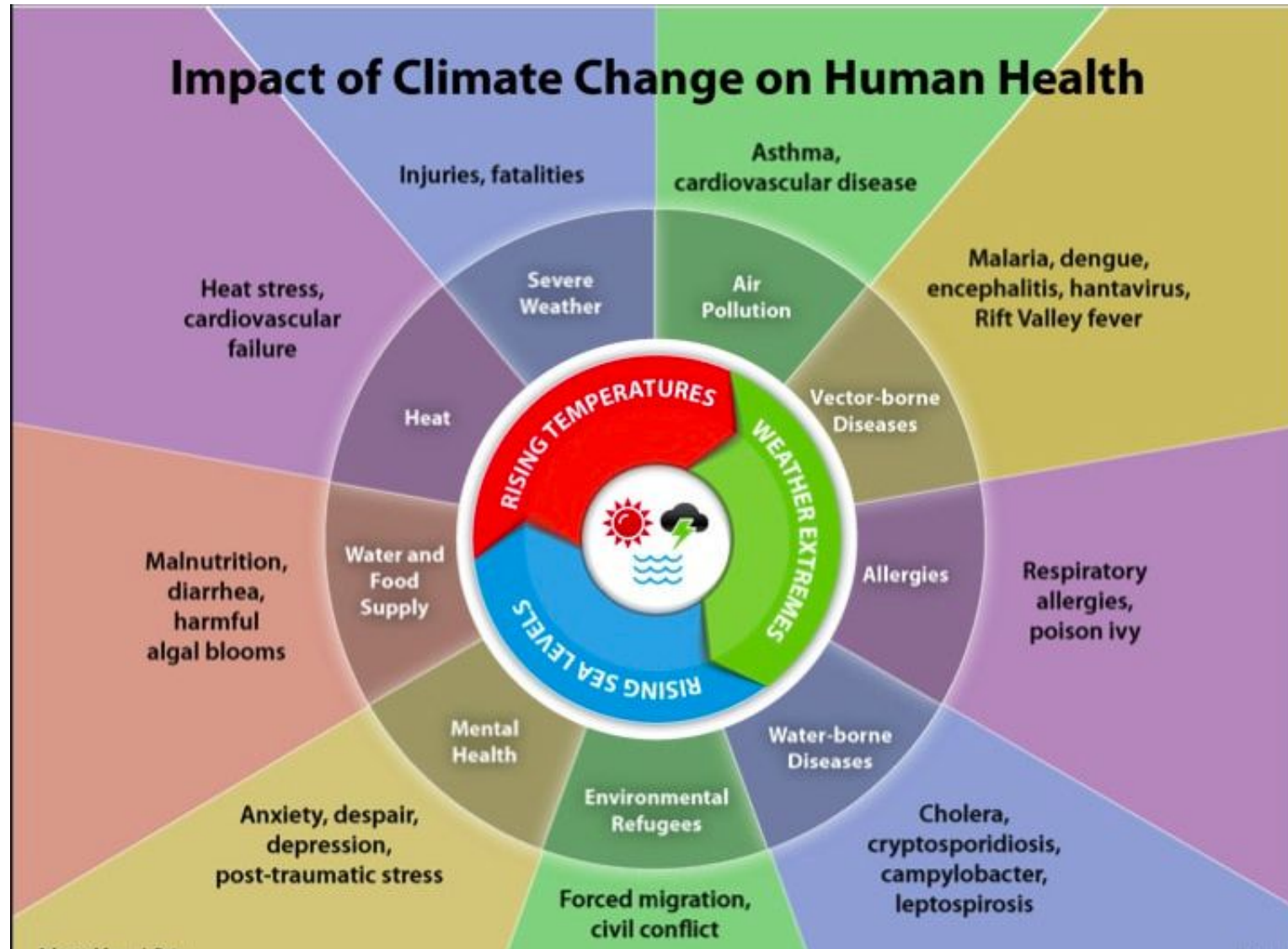
If the global health care sector were a country, it would be the 5th largest emitter on the planet.

a new report:
**HEALTH CARE'S
CLIMATE FOOTPRINT**





1. Healthcare and Climate Action






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Healthcare has unique emission sources with extremely high global warming potential as outlined as follows:



7 hours of anesthesia with desflurane (2l/min) =
15.700 km car ride



1 metered aerosol =
280 km car ride

½ ton difference of CO₂e between metered & dry powder inhaler = difference between a veg & meat diet

Global health care climate footprint = annual GHG emissions of
514 coal plants



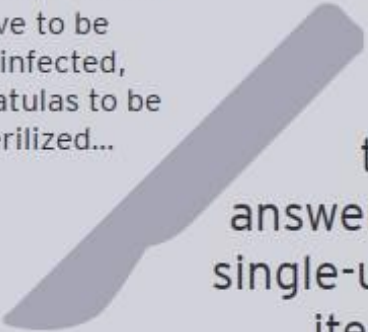
0,56t CO₂e

Average European health sector carbon footprint per capita*


One box of gloves and 8 incontinence pads used per day per patient



Spoons would have to be disinfected, spatulas to be sterilized...

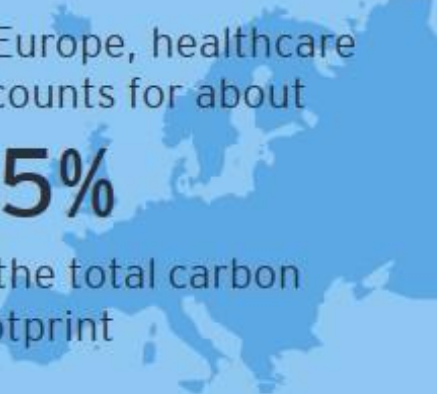


the answer is single-use items



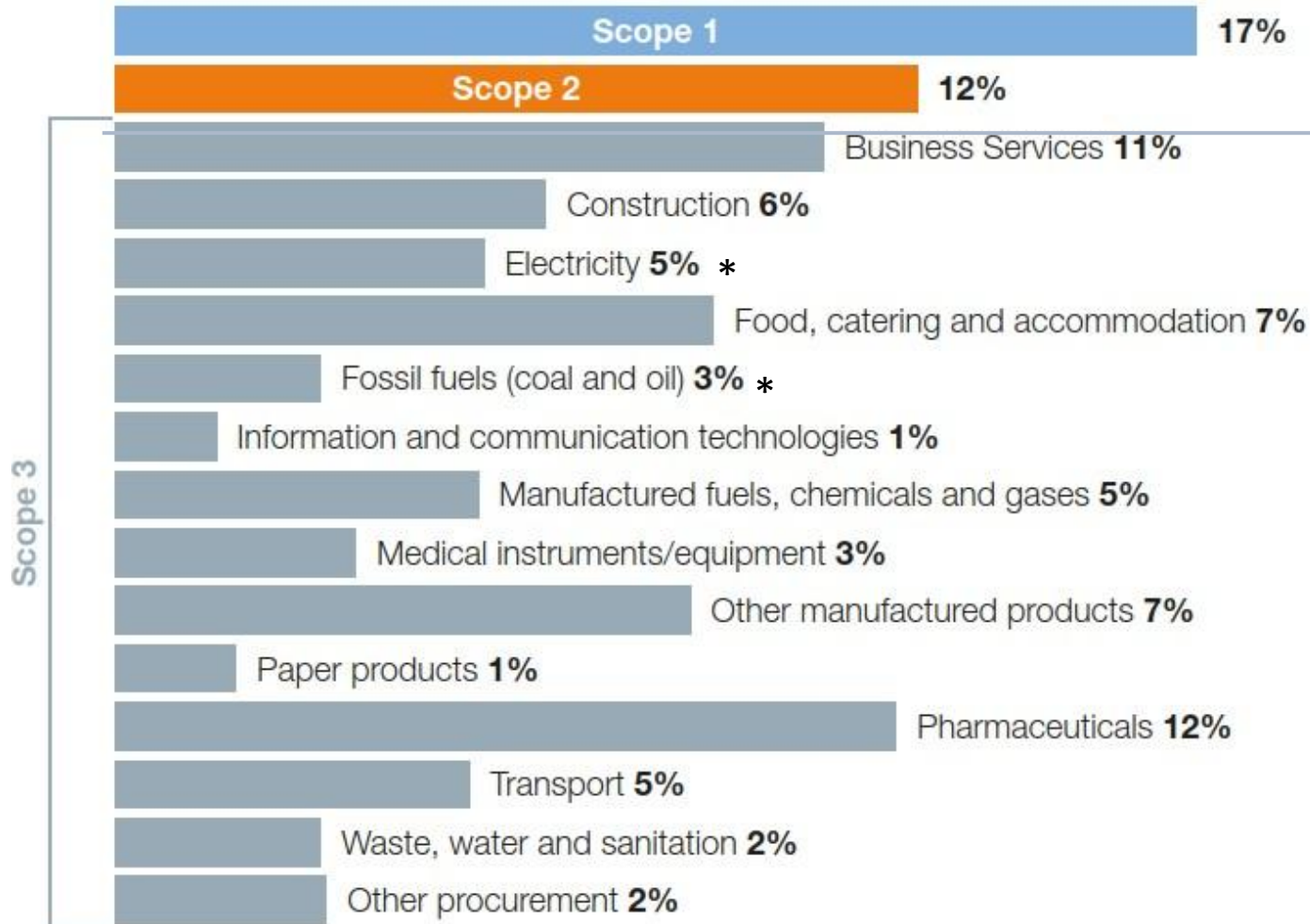
Throwing away one plastic surgical gown equals the GHG effect of washing it 20x

In Europe, healthcare accounts for about
~5%
of the total carbon footprint





1. Healthcare and Climate Action



Scope 1: direct energy emissions created by the business itself. Owned buildings and assets (on-site fossil fuel use, HSE fleet vehicles).

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the electricity a business uses to operate. Owned buildings and fleet

* Direct and Indirect emissions associated with leased buildings are treated as Scope 1 & 2 in Ireland

Scope 3: emissions created by other entities to service the business.

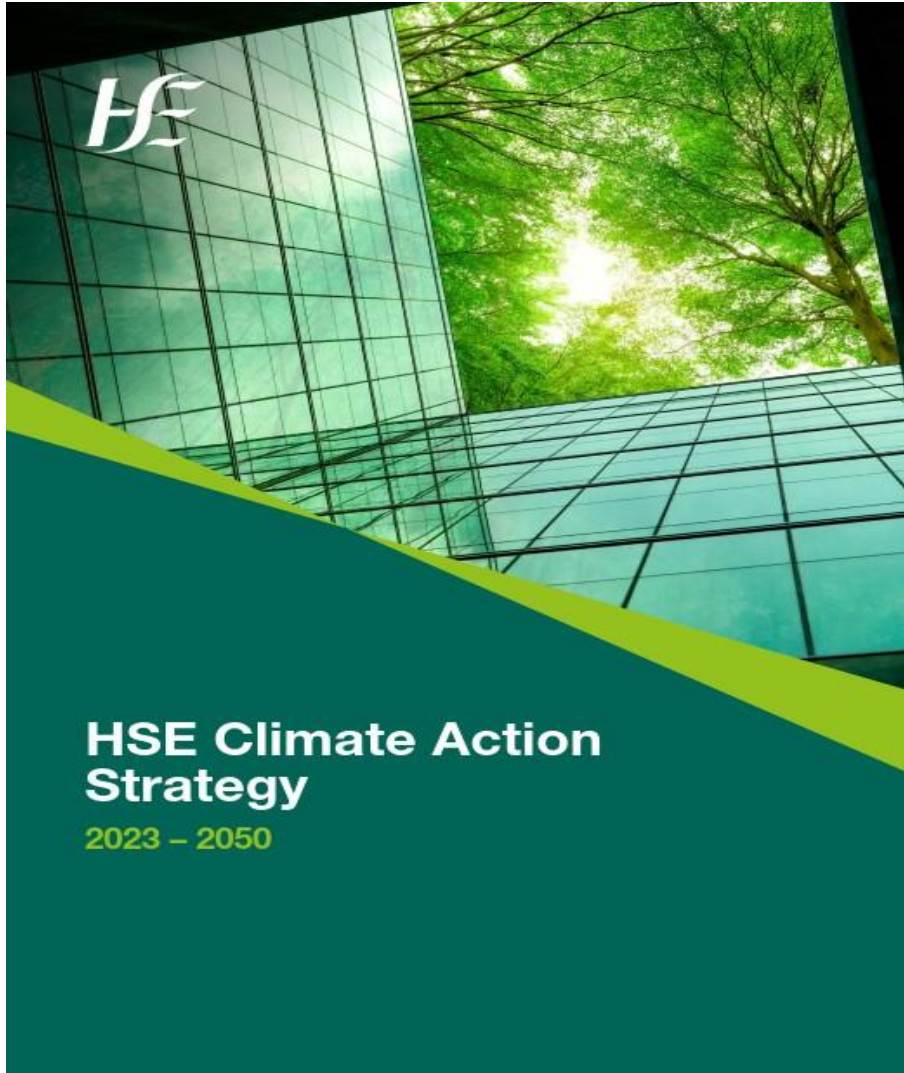
Scope 1 & 2 emissions

Scope 3 emissions





2. HSE Climate Action Strategy



Vision Statement:

The HSE is committed to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050, delivering healthcare which is environmentally and socially sustainable





2. HSE Climate Action Strategy

Across **our six priorities areas of focus** will focus this year on **10 strategic objectives** to help deliver our Strategy

Each objective output will be a baseline, road map for where we want to get to with an implementation plan

We WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY BASELINING AND DEVELOPING GUIDANCE TO :

- 1 Reduce our energy related GHG emissions
- 2 Better utilise and promote our green spaces
- 3 Decarbonise our fleet
- 4 Promote low carbon and active travel initiatives
- 5 Align purchasing decisions with our decarbonisation and sustainability goals
- 6 Baseline our supply chain emissions
- 7 Develop greener models of healthcare delivery
- 8 Reduce and manage waste
- 9 Conserve and reduce water usage
- 10 Protect and promote the health and welfare of the public

AND TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION WE WILL:

- A Set up a Communication and Training Group
- B Measure and report on progress at regular intervals



2. To Reduce our Energy related GHG Emissions

HSE Capital & Estates led by Peter Smyth have developed our HSE Infrastructure Decarbonisation Roadmap

Addresses Scope 1 & 2 Energy Emissions



3 Key Areas

- **Establishing Energy Management Teams at Significant Energy Users and progression of Minor Capital Energy Retrofit Works (LED lights , Rooftop PV , Heat Pumps etc)**
- **Adapted and implementing an Energy Efficient Design and Carbon Zero Design methodology for HSE funded Capital Projects**
- **Progressing a Deep Energy Retrofit programme for existing buildings**

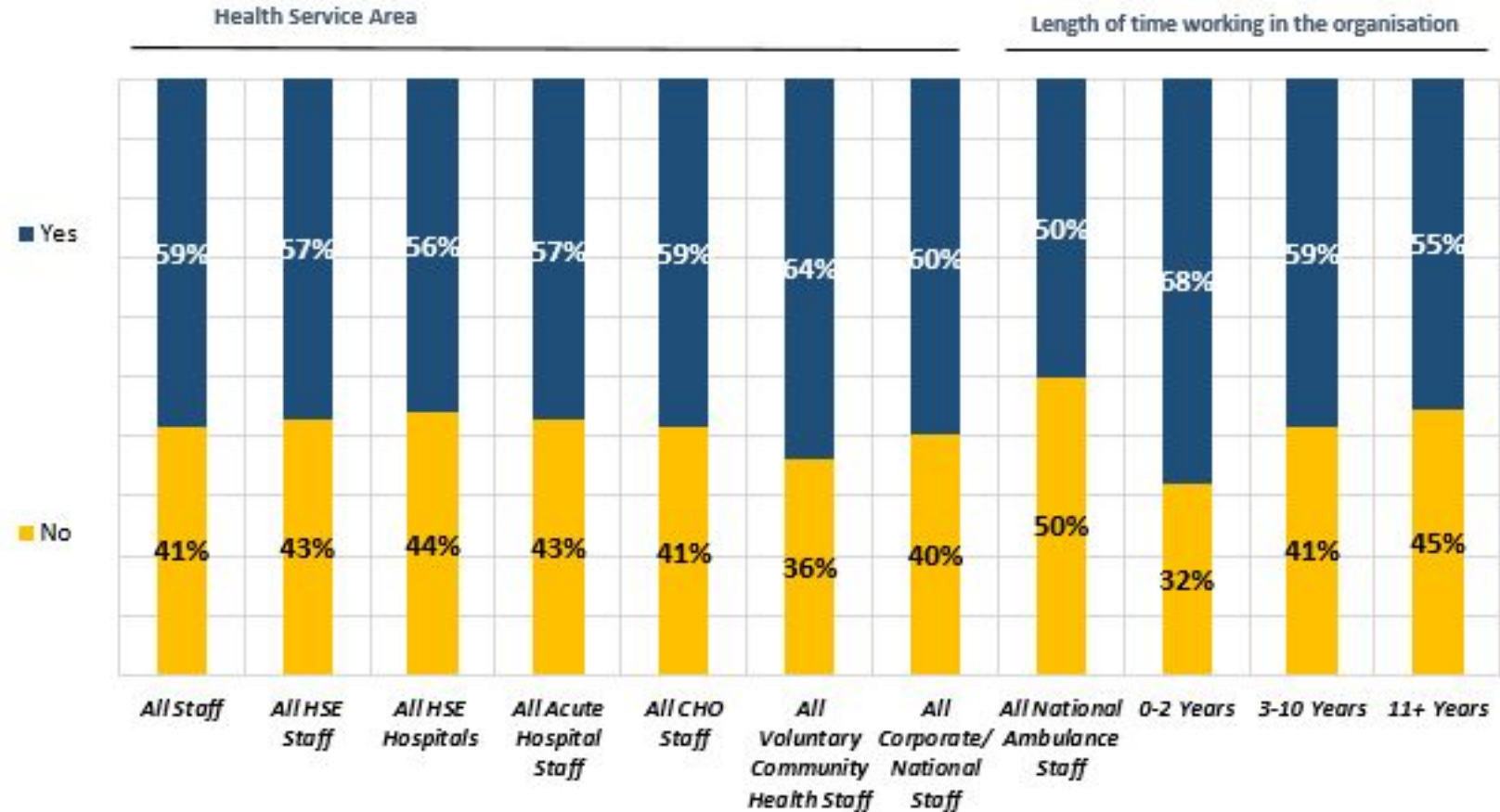
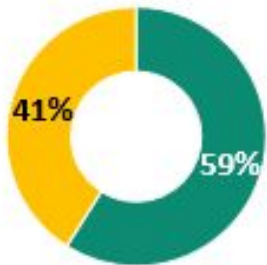


4. Key priority – Focus on Staff

HSE Staff Survey 2023 6 in 10 are interested in being involved in activities to support positive climate action. Interest is highest among voluntary community health staff and those who are working in the Health Service for less than two years.

Interested in being involved in activities to support positive actions

■ Yes ■ No



Q. The HSE is soon launching a Climate Action Strategy - are you interested in being involved in activities to support positive actions?

Base: All respondents: 23,170

New question introduced in 2023. No Core Norm or 2021 data available.



4. Key priority – Focus on Staff



COVID19 Learning –

A clear common purpose galvanised staff organisation

- Extraordinary level of support & volunteerism into the health service
- Massive mobilisation of health care staff, management and leaders to new roles to combat the pandemic
 - QI skills to mould intelligent responses to the challenges
- Resilience – high danger of burnout – Supports for staff through Occupational health
- Fast paced – new services introduced in matter of days - CAN DO
 - Comfortable with mistakes, learn and change quickly
- Compassion and Kindness never so important and easily lost





4. Key priority – Focus on Staff



- The HSE looks forward to the significant role it will play in tackling the climate crisis
- Our 130,000 workforce is central to the successful development and delivery of this Strategy
- We will support staff and service users and communities to act as sustainability and climate action activists
- Most sustainable healthcare is no healthcare at all!! - prevention





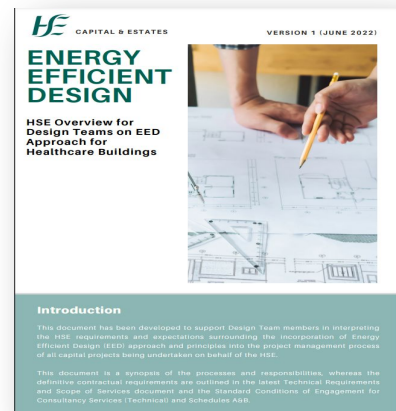
5. Example of achievements to date

Achievements to date - Buildings:



- Identified the c. 150 Significant Energy Users (SEU) , which account for c. 80% of healthcare energy use and carbon emissions.
- 112 local Energy Management Teams in place at SEU's
- Progressed shallow energy retrofit engineering works programme with 22,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) reductions - 6% of Health total energy emissions
- Developed a Health Energy Efficient Design guide, training and implementation programme for all HSE Design Team members and Estates Capital Project Managers
- Completed the Stage 1 Designs for Deep Energy Retrofits at 10 Pilot Pathfinder sites as part of a partnership programme with SEAI with works to commence early 2024.

At the end of 2021 Health has achieved 9% of the energy emissions reduction target of 51% by 2030 set out in Irelands Climate Action Plan





4. Example of achievements to date

Achievements to date – Greener Models of care:



- In the National University of Ireland Galway, the review and repair of nitrous oxide (N₂O) piping leaks has led to a c. 80% reduction in CO₂e from N₂O.
- At a national level, 20% of anaesthetic departments that used desflurane in 2019 have ceased its use completely.
- HSE Green Healthcare Programme has resulted in many examples of improvement practices and cost reduction through practice change. For example, Midlands Tullamore Hospital produced 0.5 kg less clinical waste per bed per day, saving €26,000 per annum compared to the average acute facility.



5. Conclusions

- Climate change is well under way and requires leadership in all organisations and urgent action
- The HSE Ireland's largest employer has a significant responsibility and opportunity for leadership
- Our staff care about the environment and we must support them all to act now
- Alliances and partnerships for change will be key
- We will seek a multi-organisation commitment to joint action
- Lots of good work done much more to be done

Contact us!



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Thank you



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service