



United Kingdom

HEALTH SECTOR EMISSIONS FACT SHEET

Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization

Key facts for 2014 for the United Kingdom (NHS and private sector)

Health care spending as % of GDP:	9.7%	Health care emissions as % of national total:	5.4%
Proportion of emissions from domestic economy:	44%	Health care per capita emissions (tCO ₂ e) ¹ :	0.66
Health care gross emissions (MMt CO ₂ e) ¹ :	42.5	Rank among 68 nations in study, per capita emissions:	16
England: 35.7	NHS in England: 27.3²-28.6¹	Rank among 68 nations in study, gross emissions:	7
Scotland: 3.4	Wales: 2.1	Northern Ireland: 1.3	

Topography: The United Kingdom's health care climate footprint³

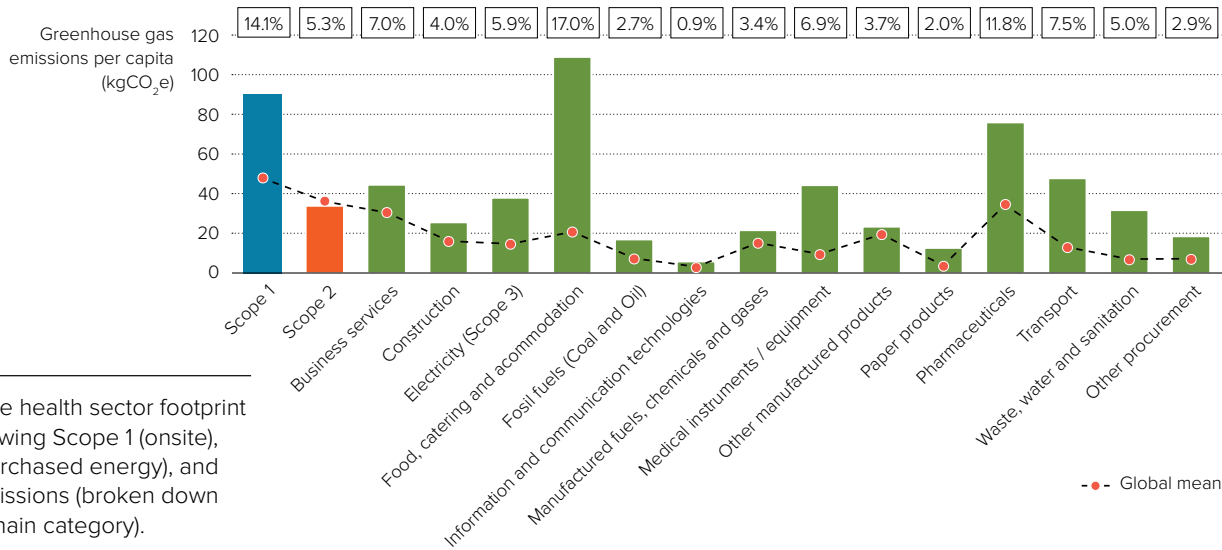


Figure 1. The health sector footprint in 2014, showing Scope 1 (onsite), Scope 2 (purchased energy), and Scope 3 emissions (broken down by supply-chain category).

Trajectories: Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities

The Road Map establishes trajectories that require a steep or steady decline in emissions from the wealthiest and biggest polluting health care sectors, while allowing room for an increase in emissions that peak between now and the end of the present decade in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite the differences, achieving any one of these trajectories will require immediate action by all health systems to change course toward zero emissions.

The United Kingdom is assigned to the steep decline trajectory, which requires immediate, aggressive action to implement a rapid and deep decrease in emissions.

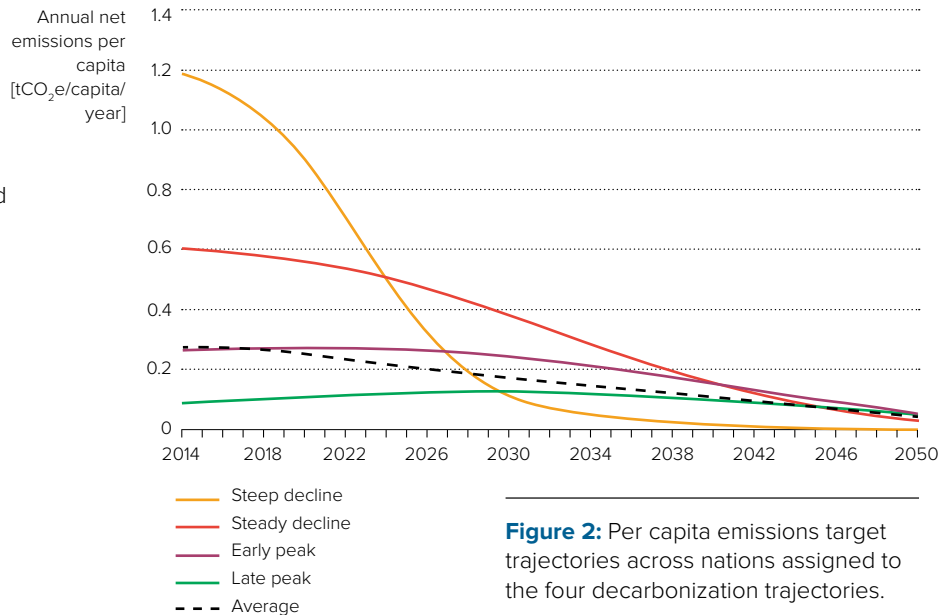


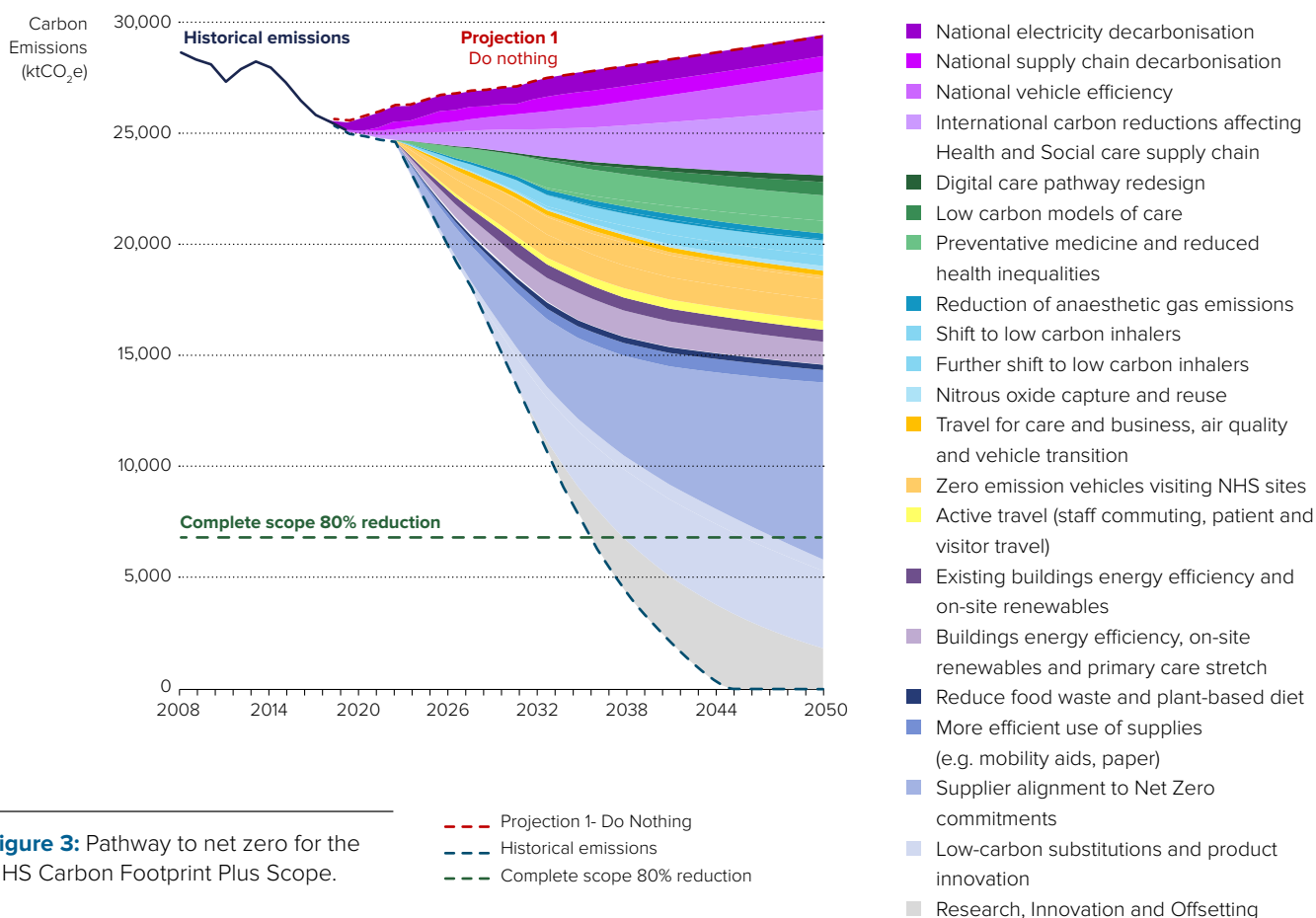
Figure 2: Per capita emissions target trajectories across nations assigned to the four decarbonization trajectories.

1 National footprint data is based on modelling performed by HCWH and Arup, using the WIOD input-output database and national health expenditure data for 2014. For more information on this study please see the Road Map report, Annexes, and fact sheet guides available online: healthcareclimateaction.org/roadmap

2 Includes the results from the work published in the NHS net zero plan. Reference: Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service. (2020). NHS England. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/publication/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service/>

3 Annex 1 highlights in detail the comparison between the categories in this international modelling study for the UK and NHS England modelling.

NHS England Roadmap to Zero emissions⁴



Driving change: Recommendations for achieving zero emissions health care

The following are a set of overarching, high-level recommendations for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each nation, based on its specific health care climate footprint, as well as its health development priorities, will need to develop a more specific and customized approach like the one outlined for NHS England.

- 1. Include health care decarbonization as part of the Nationally Determined Contribution** to the Paris Agreement based on the NHS England net zero plan.
- 2. Commit to and take action for zero emissions health care:** Make a public commitment to achieve net zero, climate-resilient health care by 2050 or sooner and establish a baseline, national roadmap, and detailed action plan.
- 3. Continue to link zero emissions with health equity and climate resilience:** Align achieving Sustainable Development Goals, as well as COVID-19 response and recovery, with cost-effective, climate-smart health care.

- 4. Promote climate and health policy action:** Engage with the health care supply chain to require zero emissions energy, buildings, transport, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and industry. Incentivize innovation. Support the implementation of climate commitments and policies in the wider economy and society that reduce air pollution, protect public health from climate change, and foster health care decarbonization.
- 5. Communicate and activate:** Lead by example. Chart a course to zero emissions, resilience, and health equity. Train health professionals as climate leaders. Mobilize the sector's ethical, economic, and political clout to influence and accelerate climate action in other sectors of society.

* For a full set of recommendations and specific actions see Chapters 6 and 7 of the Road Map as well as Appendix 3.

⁴ Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service. (2020). NHS England. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/publication/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service/>