

Net zero healthcare

Strategies for sustainable healthcare during the climate emergency

The climate emergency is forcing the medical community to think beyond care for individual patients - expanding our duty of care to protecting the Earth's natural systems on which intergenerational health and wellbeing depend. This graphic presents twelve strategies out of more than 100 presented in two papers published in *The BMJ* for the COP26 climate conference in 2021. It uses the metaphor of a stylised town to visualise what these changes could look like. Such changes are now needed in towns and cities across the world.

1 Clean energy transition

Renewable energy sourcing and low carbon grids

2 Warning systems

Heat and air quality index alerts delivered via mobile devices

3 Low carbon prescribing

Mandate low carbon products, packaging, and logistics, from low carbon suppliers with visible carbon reporting and net zero targets

4 Battery power

Use battery power to expand electricity supply from renewable sources and reduce the need for fossil fuelled generators

5 Distributed health care

Offer multidisciplinary consultations, co-locate providers and allied health staff to minimise patient travel

6 Device reprocessing

Implement medical device reprocessing programmes, keeping materials in use at highest value

7 Primary health shift

Shift from hospital-centric care to community-based health promotion and disease prevention

8 Encourage active transport

Provide safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and encourage patients and staff to use it

10 Efficient energy use

Use of systems such as LED lighting and lighting controls

11 Encourage healthy eating

Provide healthy plant-based diet options, reusable containers, and minimise waste

9 Telehealth

Optimise video conferencing and accelerate shift to telehealth

12 Move to electric vehicles

Electrify vehicle fleet, and improve support structures for electric vehicles such as charging points