



SPRING
ENVIRONMENTAL

Cobalt Health Carbon Footprint and Reduction Plan

February 2023

Cobalt Health Carbon Footprint and Reduction Plan

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1. Cobalt Health Carbon Reduction Plan Summary

1.1. Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

Cobalt Health is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

1.2. Baseline Carbon Footprint Year

Cobalt Health has chosen the 2021/22 financial year as the baseline year against which progress will be compared.

1.3. Baseline carbon footprint

Footprint Breakdown	Scope	UK Carbon Footprint "Locational Based" (tonnes CO2e)
Emissions from fuels used in stationary combustion	1	69.8
Emissions from fuels used in owned/operated transport	1	7.7
Fugitive Emissions	1	11.9
Emissions from purchased electricity consumption	2	164.4
Emissions from the fuel used in personal / hire cars for business use	3	63.5
Leased Assets	3	50.6
Water	3	0.9
Waste	3	2.9
Fuel + Energy (WTT, T&D)	3	45.5
Staff commuting	3	54.7
Purchased Goods and Services	3	2,154.2
Capital Goods	3	1,404.7
Downstream Transport	3	407.2
Total		4,438.0

This baseline carbon footprint covers all the required categories of PPN 0621, which forms part of the public sector procurement requirements for contracts above £5m per annum. The only exception is upstream transport, which is not relevant to Cobalt Health's operations. Cobalt Health is a service-based

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organisation and is not receiving deliveries of goods to incorporate into products. In the baseline year, Business travel emission calculations were limited to staff travel in private cars. Flights, train and bus travel will be included from 2023/24.

1.4. Carbon Reduction Activities

The reduction activities have been developed to cover the next three years. We have actions which cover scope 1 and 2 emissions from buildings and scope 3 emissions from staff commuting and business travel, downstream transport and purchased goods and services. The actions cover all the required elements for successful carbon reduction initiatives by highlighting actions that need to occur across data management, staff, technology and the management system. The carbon reduction plan will be subject to the processes laid out in our ISO 14001 management system.

Scope 1 and 2 – Buildings Plan

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Monthly gas meter readings	Data analysis and building model	Monitoring and feedback
	Electricity sub-metering		
Staff	Scanning staff engagement and training	General staff training	Monitoring and feedback
Technology	MRI and CT low power mode usage	Heat recovery feasibility study	Heat recovery implementation (subject to feasibility)
	Secondary glazing	Solar PV feasibility study	Solar PV installation (subject to planning)
	CIC insulation		
	BMS / Boiler flow temperature modifications		
System	Develop policies for a minimum equipment and energy training standard for staff depending on roles.	Develop a process for assessing new capital equipment acquisitions and integrating existing systems.	Monitoring of the system and updating based on experience to date

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Scope 3 – Staff Commuting and Business Travel

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Data collection for the full business travel category	Expansion of commuting survey to include the impact of EV sal sacrifice scheme	Monitoring and feedback
Staff		Engagement with Finance / Payroll teams to implement EV sal sacrifice	Monitoring and feedback
Technology		Linton House EV charger feasibility	EV Charger installation (subject to feasibility)
System	EV Salary sacrifice scheme - feasibility	EV salary sacrifice scheme implementation	Monitoring of the system and updating based on experience to date

Scope 3 – Downstream transport

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Engage with the provider to improve footprint methodology	Monitor and iterate	Monitor and iterate
Staff		Allocate monitoring and data collection responsibilities.	Monitor and iterate
Technology			
System	Engage with the transport provider and review alternatives regarding decarbonisation to develop a decarbonisation action plan.		Implement transport action plan.

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Scope 3 Capital Goods and Purchased Goods and Services

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data		Refine methodology relating to significant contributors (staffing, equipment rental, generator fuel, water and waste), including the potential to use specific data rather than generic database figures.	Implement updated data collection options.
Staff			Allocate monitoring and data responsibilities.
Technology			
System	Implement a process for integrating energy efficiency into mobile scanner design.	As the methodology is improved, reduction opportunities to be identified (e.g. alternative suppliers, methods of working) Agree and implement a reduction plan.	

1.5. Declaration and Sign-Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed following PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded following the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard¹ and use the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported following SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported following the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of Cobalt Health

Malcolm MacKeith

..... Date: 12/04/2023

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2. Introduction

Cobalt Health is a medical charity providing diagnostic imaging to support the NHS. The charity operates from its Head Office at Linton House in Cheltenham, with a further site at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Both of these sites provide MRI and CT scanning. In addition, support to the rest of the UK is provided through mobile scanners.

Malcolm MacKeith asked Spring Environmental (SEL) to:

- Develop a carbon footprint which covers April 2021 to March 2022 financial year.
- Undertake a review of the Linton House HQ to identify cost, energy and carbon reduction opportunities.
- Review other carbon footprint sources for opportunities to reduce the operational footprint.
- Develop a carbon reduction plan for implementation during the 2023/24 financial year.

Based on our conversation with Malcolm MacKeith, Cobalt Health is not yet big enough to fall under legislation such as Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) or the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS), which are reserved for "large" organisations. Large is typically defined by having 250 or more staff on the payroll (irrespective of contract type) or through financial performance. The financial performance criteria are a turnover in excess of £44.845m and a balance sheet in excess of £38.5667m. There are slight definition differences for ESOS and SECR criteria, so checking as turnover or headcount approaches those thresholds would be worthwhile. It is possible to be caught under SECR but not ESOS, for example.

A significant driver for the carbon footprint and reduction plan is the knowledge that public sector bodies require a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) as part of any tender that exceeds £5m in value. This document forms the carbon footprint with the Carbon Reduction Plan to follow.



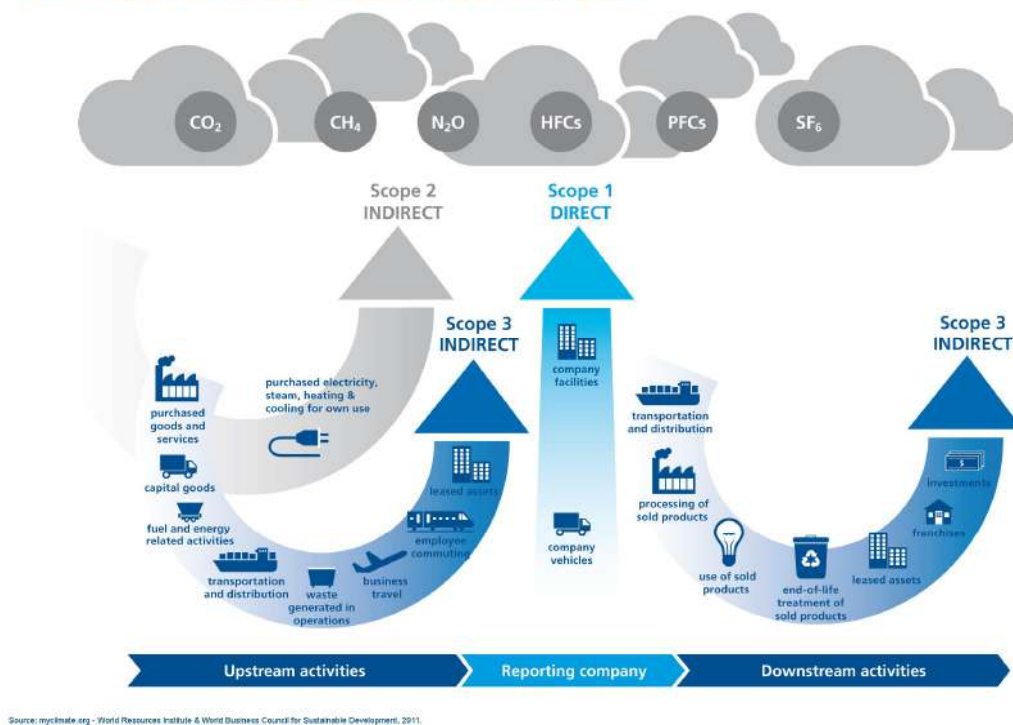
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Successful carbon reduction strategies recognise a requirement for four core inputs: people, information, technology and a system to coordinate between each element. Each element is dependent and will affect the other, and optimisation requires coordination between each.

This CRP aims to develop a solid action plan addressing each aspect to ensure cost and carbon reductions have the desired impact in the short and long term. In the long term, Cobalt Health is committed to being Net Zero in its operations by 2050.

3. A brief introduction to carbon accounting

Overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain



Scope 1 carbon emissions are emitted from owned or controlled sources. For most organisations, including Cobalt, this means emissions from burning fuels (transport and building) and refrigerant releases from air conditioning.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions that result from the generation of purchased energy – for most organisations, this is solely electricity, but can occasionally include purchased energy vectors such as steam.

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Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions in the company's value chain, such as procured services, business travel, etc. These are typically harder to measure than scope 1 or 2 because no physical consumption unit exists. Still, for many organisations, they can represent the most significant element of the total value chain carbon footprint.

It should be noted that the public sector requirements for Carbon Reduction Plans require reporting against scopes 1, 2 and the scope 3 categories of waste management, upstream and downstream transport, Business travel and employee commuting. These are discussed further in the scope section below, as some are irrelevant.

When developing carbon footprints, it is usual that calculation methodologies evolve. In the baseline year, the organisation will find out which categories are the biggest sources of emissions and, in future years, may move from generic industry data to incorporating specific data from suppliers. This is possible in the first year, but it can result in the first year's footprint taking a very long time by chasing specific data, which later turns out to be a small contributor.

4. Carbon Footprint

4.1. Scope

The scope of the CRP covers all the operations where Cobalt analysed the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's scope 1,2 and 3 categories and determined the relevance of the category to Cobalt's activities. A summary of these can be found in Table 1.

GHG Protocol – scope and category	Expected to be relevant?	Calculated in 21/22?
Scope 1 -Fossil fuel use in company facilities	Yes	Yes
Scope 1 – Fossil fuel use in company transport	Yes	Yes
Scope 1 – fugitive emissions	Yes	Yes
Scope 2 – imported energy consumption (electricity)	Yes	Yes
Scope 3 – Business travel	Yes	Only from the use of private vehicles for business

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GHG Protocol – scope and category	Expected to be relevant?	Calculated in 21/22?
Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services	Yes	Yes
Scope 3 - Capital Goods	Yes – when purchasing scanners, mobile units	No
Scope 3 - Fuel and Transport related activities	Yes	Yes
Scope 3 - Transport and distribution (upstream and downstream)	Yes	Yes
Scope 3 - Waste generation in operations	Yes	No
Scope 3 - Staff Commuting	Yes	Yes
Scope 3 - Leased Assets (upstream) (i.e. where Cobalt is leasing from another organisation)	Yes - Birmingham	Yes
Scope 3 - Onward processing of sold goods	N/A – Cobalt does not sell goods.	
Scope 3 - Use of sold goods	N/A – Cobalt does not sell goods.	
Scope 3 - End of Life treatment of sold products	N/A – Cobalt does not sell goods.	
Leased assets (downstream) (i.e. where Cobalt is leasing assets to another organisation)	No	
Franchises	N/A - Cobalt is not a franchisor business.	
Investments	N/A - Cobalt has no joint ventures or investments in other companies outside the group.	

Table 1 GHG Protocol category - assessment of relevance

4.2. Calculation basis

The carbon footprint has been calculated on an operational control basis. If Cobalt acquires or disposes of any entities, the carbon footprint will need to be re-baselined to ensure the footprint can be compared from year to year on an apples-to-apples basis.

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5. Calculated Carbon Footprint

Cobalt's carbon footprint between April 2021 and March 2022 is found in Table 2 below.

Footprint Breakdown	Scope	UK Carbon Footprint "Locational Based" (tonnes CO2e)
Emissions from fuels used in stationary combustion	1	69.8
Emissions from fuels used in owned/operated transport	1	7.7
Fugitive Emissions	1	11.9
Emissions from purchased electricity consumption	2	164.4
Emissions from the fuel used in personal / hire cars for business use	3	63.5
Leased Assets	3	50.6
Water	3	0.9
Waste	3	2.9
Fuel + Energy (WTT, T&D)	3	45.5
Staff commuting	3	54.7
Purchased Goods and Services	3	2,154.2
Capital Goods	3	1,404.7
Downstream Transport	3	407.2
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Table 2 Cobalt carbon footprint

The carbon footprint shows that, as with many service organisations, most of their carbon emissions sit within their purchasing activities. For example, purchasing scanners and associated capital equipment is the largest single estimated source of emissions during the year.

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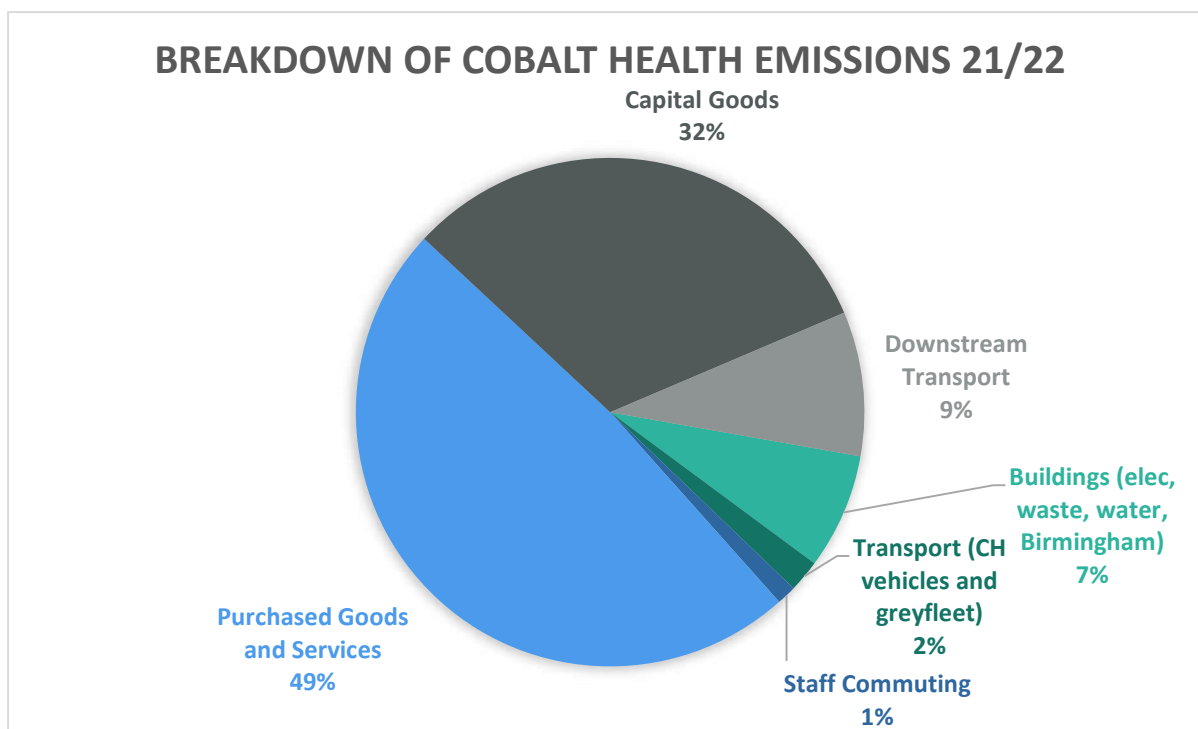


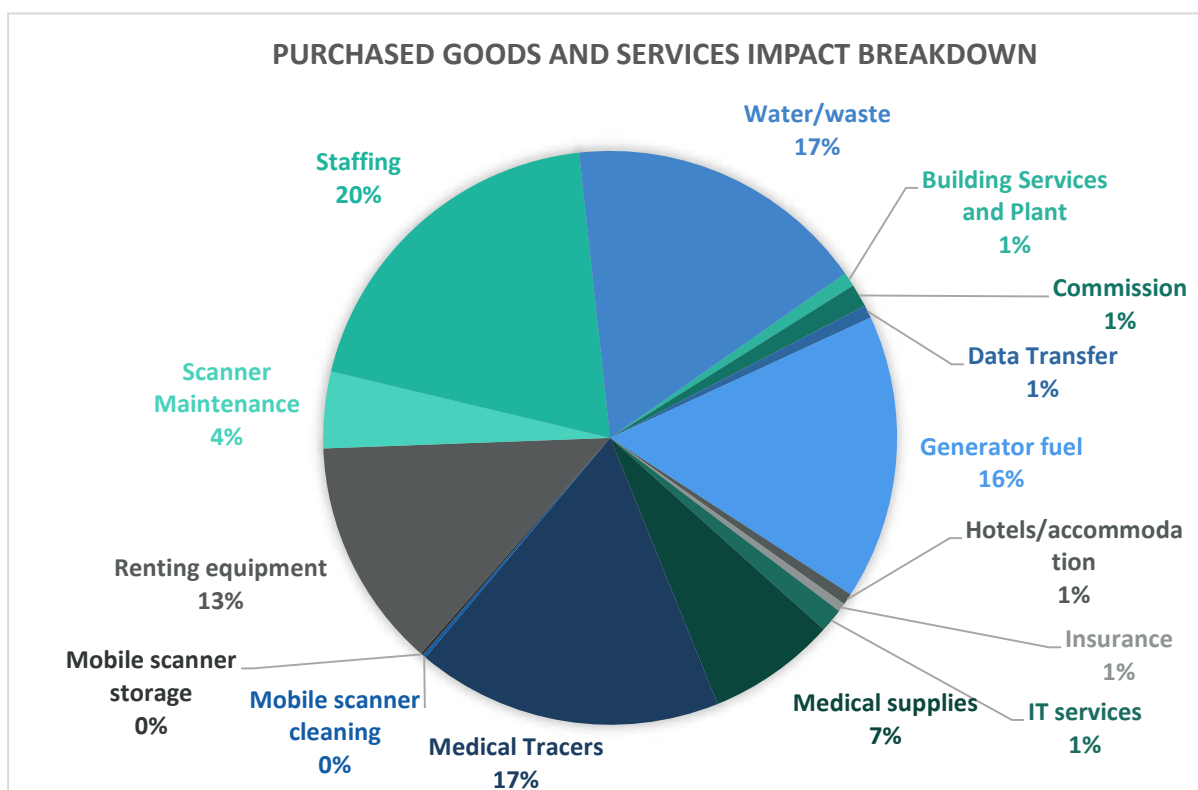
Figure 1 Simplified breakdown of emissions by area

Grouping the individual GHG categories into more accessible categories shows that non-capital purchased goods and services is the largest single category of emissions, with buildings, transport and staff commuting responsible for 10% of the total emissions.

The calculations of capital and purchased goods and services use the Exiobase database, which segments the world economy into different sectors and products. While it is internationally recognised as a database that, by its design, does not cut-off environmental impacts, its major weakness is that the sectors can be quite broad. For example, the cost of scanner purchasing was combined with the Exiobase category “Medical/precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks”. This means there is an underlying uncertainty regarding the true impact of manufacturing the scanners. A review of academic literature and other databases demonstrates that the environmental impact of scanner production is not publicly known. All MRI lifecycle assessment studies found excluded the production impact. However, it is reasonable to assume that the high-specification materials and intensive Research and Development requirements to develop such a machine will be intensive.

Significant contributors to the Purchased Goods and Services footprint include the purchase of staffing, waste treatment and medical supplies including tracers.

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The data provided to SEL to calculate the buildings and transport categories is considered to be very accurate because accurate gas and electricity consumption data and transport mileages were available. Wherever feasible, it is preferred to use physical units in carbon footprints unless the collation of physical data is impossible, for example, where services are delivered.

6. Carbon Footprint Interpretation

As with many service organisations, Cobalt's most significant source of emissions relates to purchasing goods and services. This is also one of the most difficult areas to decarbonise as the level of control Cobalt has over its supply chain will always be lower than within its own buildings. Similarly, the purchased goods and services footprint could be viewed as the lower and preferable alternative to replacing mobile scanning with fixed scanning with the additional requirement for buildings and high embedded emission equipment such as MRI scanners.

The significant contribution of capital equipment to the 21/22 carbon footprint also needs consideration as to whether the level of capital purchases is consistent from year to year. Unlike financial accounting where capital items are depreciated across many years, the GHG protocol requires capital items to be fully accounted for in the year of purchase. For organisations that purchase expensive items infrequently and with significant embedded emissions, such as MRI scanners, this can mean the year-to-year carbon emissions profile can rise and fall significantly. GHG Protocol advice is to be transparent in public reporting where significant capital purchases result in elevated emissions compared to adjacent years.

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Although the building's emissions are relatively small overall, it is an area where significant change appears possible based on the energy audits.

Using Exiobase spend-based data for the most significant emission sources means there is an underlying level of uncertainty within the carbon footprint. All carbon footprints have a level of uncertainty, although this can be reduced by using data in physical units and integrating supplier-specific data into the carbon footprint. However, the need to get very accurate data for the first year of a carbon footprint can mean the exercise takes full-time staff many months. The method chosen by Cobalt and the Spring Environmental team is to accept that the calculation methodology will be improved and iterated over time to reduce uncertainty and help demonstrate the impact of carbon reduction initiatives.

7. Carbon Footprint Reduction Planning

The carbon reduction actions have been split into two sub-categories, which reduce scope 1 and 2 building emissions and address scope 3 emissions. We identify where we need to improve data management, people, technology and system management where relevant. This will allow us to ensure that reduction activities are implemented effectively, and the impact can be accurately calculated. As Cobalt Health is a relatively small organisation with limited resources, our plans are spread over 3 years to ensure the actions are manageable whilst maintaining our service levels.

7.1. Scope 1 and 2 – Building Emissions

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Monthly gas meter readings	Data analysis and building model	Monitoring and feedback
	Electricity sub-metering		
Staff	Scanning staff engagement and training	General staff training	Monitoring and feedback
Technology	MRI and CT low power mode usage	Heat recovery feasibility study	Heat recovery implementation (subject to feasibility)
	Secondary glazing	Solar PV feasibility study	Solar PV installation (subject to planning)
	CIC insulation		

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Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	BMS / Boiler flow temperature modifications		
System	Develop policies for a minimum equipment and energy training standard for staff depending on roles.	Develop a process for assessing new capital equipment acquisitions and integrating existing systems.	Monitoring of the system and updating based on experience to date

Cobalt Health had an energy audit undertaken on the headquarters site in Cheltenham in late 2022 into January 2023. The energy audit identified several opportunities and areas for investigation, covering all the axes of Data, Staff, Technology and Management systems.

Data Collection and Management

2023/24

The energy audit identified that gas is billed quarterly, resulting in a poor coefficient of determination compared to degree days. By improving the frequency of meter readings to monthly, it is expected that a stronger relationship between outdoor temperature and gas energy use will emerge. Once this stronger relationship emerges, it will help staff ensure that gas is being used efficiently by early identification of excess consumption and demonstrating the impact of improvement projects.

There is a large baseload consumption for electricity, which investigations since the energy audit has raised further issues. For example, MRI scanners and CT equipment were thought to be being placed into low power modes overnight, but this is not reflected in the half-hourly data. Consequently, a sub-metering exercise is being undertaken to track electricity consumption across the whole site for two weeks. This will help understand the consumption of the various major consumers, including MRI scanners, CT scanners and associated equipment such as the cooling circuits.

2024/25

Following the 2023/24 data actions, we will be able to build a regression-based building energy model that allows the site to predict and compare actual energy usage as each month goes by and ensure that improvement targets are being achieved.

2025/26

The data collection and energy monitoring process will continue as implemented in 2024/25.

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Staff Engagement

2023/24

During 2023/24, the focus will be on engaging with the MRI and CT scanning staff once the potential for using low-power modes has been revealed. The scanners and their associated equipment are expected to be the largest single consumer of energy on the Cobalt Health site. However, given the expense and criticality to Cobalt Health, successful implementation will require meaningful engagement with staff.

2024/25

During this year, we will focus on engaging general staff with energy efficiency. The energy audit noted relatively easy reduction opportunities for general staff, such as ensuring that thermostatic radiator valves are set consistently, and windows are not opened while the heating is on.

2025/26

During 2025/26, the main activity for staff will be to ensure standards do not slip and continue to improve via the monthly energy monitoring process.

Technology

2023/24

The activities for 2023/24 are aimed at reducing both electricity consumption and gas consumption for heating. As outlined above in the sub-metering paragraph, it is expected that MRI and CT scanners are expected to be the most significant consumers of electricity both when active and out of operational hours. The half-hourly data used for the energy survey suggested that the scanners are not being switched to their lowest power modes. The sub-metering exercise will help understand the quantity of electricity being used. From this point, along with datasheets from the scanning equipment manufacturers, we can determine and implement the actions required to reduce MRI and CT scanner electricity consumption.

The remaining actions aim to reduce gas heating consumption by improving the thermal envelope of the building and the efficiency of heat generation by fully utilising the condensing functionality of the installed boilers.

2024/25

Once the "low-hanging fruit" to reduce energy consumption has been implemented in 2023/24, the opportunities for reduction become practically harder and more costly to implement. For example, implementing external wall insulation is not considered feasible due to the grade II listed status. Therefore, the focus switches to generating renewable electricity and utilising waste heat.

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Installing solar panels on the south-facing CIC roof will fall foul of the following permitted development requirement:

"The panels must not be installed on a listed building or on a building that is within the grounds of a listed building, or on a site designated as a scheduled monument."

As a result, the first part of this project will be to engage with the Cheltenham Borough Council using their pre-application conservation surgery. Following feedback from the surgery, a specification will be drawn up for solar installers to quote against to ensure compliance with the guidance provided. It is not expected that significant deviations from a standard installation will be required as the panels will not be visible from the main street frontage and will be installed on the CIC building, which is much more modern. However, given that the chillers are visible from the roof of the CIC, the addition of the solar is likely to manifestly change the visual aspect. If the Cobalt Health Board approves the business case, a G99 application to the electricity network operator (National Grid) will be submitted along with the listed building consent, as both can take some time to be approved. Once approval has been received by the planning authority and the network operator, a solar installer will be instructed. As the scale is below 50kW, the installer will have to be MCS certified.

MRI and CT scanners emit almost all of their input electrical energy as waste heat, which is currently released to the atmosphere by air-cooled chillers. Ideally, the amount of heat released will reduce due to the MRI / CT scanner reductions in 2023/24. Still, it is expected that will remain a significant quantity of waste heat. Given the expense and criticality of the scanners, this project is to understand the feasibility of heat recovery from the scanners to be used in the existing building heating systems. The project will need to determine the quantity of heat available for recovery, the timing of heat availability versus heating demand, along with practical engineering considerations such as the size of any buffer tanks, the ability of the water source heat pump to manage the sharp spikes in heat output when scanning and where the equipment can be located given the CIC rooftop is already congested.

2025/26

The actions for 2025/26 are dependent on the outcomes of the feasibility studies for solar and heat recovery. The goal is for implementation, although the heat recovery project due to its complicated nature and the need to keep the scanning functioning may extend in 2026/27.

System

2023/24

Cobalt Health runs an ISO 14001 environmental management system, which provides an existing methodology to develop, store, train and distribute procedures. During 2023/24 a set of minimum standards will be developed to ensure that energy-using equipment such as lighting, computers, and

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office equipment meets minimum standards such as Energy Star. The process will also identify when and where staff will receive energy training which will be rolled out as part of the staff training mentioned above during 2024/25.

2024/25

During 2024/25 we will extend the basic minimum purchasing standards to include a process that incorporates energy consumption for major capital projects such as new scanners. The procedure will prompt staff to consider the relative energy consumption of potential equipment and ancillary systems and whether outputs such as waste heat can be utilised during the project planning phase.

2025/26

The system's actions are expected to monitor implementation via actions such as internal audits and iteration based on experience.

7.2. Scope 3 – Business Travel and Staff Commuting

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Data collection for the full business travel category	Expansion of commuting survey to include the impact of EV sal sacrifice scheme	Monitoring and feedback
Staff		Engagement with Finance / Payroll teams to implement EV sal sacrifice	Monitoring and feedback
Technology		Linton House EV charger feasibility	EV Charger installation (subject to feasibility)
System	EV Salary sacrifice scheme - feasibility	EV salary sacrifice scheme implementation	Monitoring of the system and updating based on experience to date

The major projects to reduce the impact of commuting and business travel are expected to be implementing EV charging facility at Linton House and giving staff access to an EV salary sacrifice scheme. An EV salary sacrifice scheme enables staff to access electric and low-emission vehicles at a reduced cost as a result of PAYE tax and National Insurance reductions. Employer national insurance contributions are also reduced under this scheme.

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Data

2023/24

During the baseline carbon footprint exercise, it was not possible to fully complete the GHG Protocol “Business travel” category. This is because the data was not available from the expenses management system in a usable format. As a result, the only part calculated as part of the baseline was staff using private cars for business trips. As part of the improvement actions for 2023/24, a system will be implemented to capture the information required so that the full category can be calculated as required by PPN 0621.

2024/25

On the assumption that an EV salary sacrifice scheme will be implemented, the commuting survey exercise will need to be expanded to quantify the impact of the EV salary sacrifice scheme on commuting patterns compared to the baseline commuting survey.

2025/26

It is expected that no significant changes will be required for data management and so the processes developed in the 2023 – 2025 period will continue to be used.

Staff

2023/24

No significant actions or change is expected from staff during 2023/24 beyond implementing the data collection for business travel discussed above.

2024/25

Subject to an EV salary sacrifice scheme being approved by the Cobalt Health board, significant personnel connected to the effective implementation will need to be trained and engaged. The key roles for salary sacrifice schemes are team members who approve an employee's application and payroll, who must remove the monthly cost from the employee's gross salary and send the payment to the scheme provider.

2025/26

It is not expected that there will be any significant changes to existing processes during 2025/26.

Technology

2023/24

No significant actions are expected regarding the technologies used at Linton House in 2023/24.

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2024/25

Linton House has a significantly larger electrical supply capacity than a typical office building of a similar size, so it is expected that it will be able to accommodate an electric vehicle charger in the car park. However, as with the solar project, it is not permitted to install electric car charge points within the curtilage of a listed building without consent. Therefore, we propose to include this element in the engagement with the local conservation officer when discussing the solar project. This will minimise the costs of engagement. Following the feedback from the conservation officer, further actions will be to receive quotations from a local installer. It is expected that black post-mounted chargers will be suitably muted to be allowed by the planning authority. The installer will help specify the number and charge speed the site can feasibly accommodate.

Another significant element of the electric car chargers will be to plan for the administration of the use by staff and visitors. Currently, it is not a taxable benefit to be able to charge your personal vehicle while at work. However, it is up to the business to decide whether to charge. However, it could also be a way to raise a small amount of revenue for Cobalt Health as long as the price is set above the electricity supply and management costs.

Once the Cobalt health board has agreed upon the business case and outline parameters, listed building consent will be applied for, and further quotations will be gained.

2025/26

Subject to the approval from the Cobalt Health board and receiving listed building consent, we anticipate that the EV chargers will be installed at Linton House.

System

2023/24

During 2023/24, we will review the EV salary sacrifice scheme providers to understand the risks of providing staff access and any conditions imposed by the scheme providers. During the feasibility study, we will also internally agree on the parameters for staff participation, such as any minimum salary or length of employment.

2024/25

Subject to the approval, we expect the EV Salary sacrifice scheme to be made available to staff in 2024/25. As outlined above in the staff section, there will be an initial training requirement for staff with specific responsibilities such as payroll plus activities to communicate availability.

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2025/26

No significant change is expected during 2025/26 except for continuing the existing schemes and the administration of the EV charge points.

7.3. Scope 3 Downstream transport

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data	Engage with the provider to improve footprint methodology	Monitor and iterate	Monitor and iterate
Staff		Allocate monitoring and data collection responsibilities.	Monitor and iterate
Technology			
System	Engage with the transport provider and review alternatives regarding decarbonisation to develop a decarbonisation action plan.		Implement transport action plan.

Transport of the mobile scanning units is a significant contributor to Cobalt Health's overall carbon footprint, but a third party manages the transportation function. Data was not forthcoming from the transportation provider during the baseline exercise. Cobalt Health does not own or operate the lorries, so no technology actions exist.

Data

2023/24

To improve the accuracy of the carbon footprint, ideally, we would receive data from the transport provider, which reports the number of litres of fuel consumed moving Cobalt's mobile scanners. This should be possible as most transportation companies have telematics equipment installed which provides information on distance and fuel consumption by day or journey. This exercise is to work with the transport provider to find out what data they can provide, and the processing Cobalt Health will need to undertake.

2024 – 2026

No improvement to the data systems is expected beyond continuing the existing processes.

Staff

2023/24

No staff-related actions or changes are expected during 2023/24.

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2024/25

Once the new calculation methodology has been agreed upon, the approach will need to be transferred from the sustainability specialist to a nominated staff member to ensure the required data continues to be collated.

2025/26

No improvement to the data systems is expected beyond continuing the existing processes.

System

2023 - 2025

As part of the engagement with the transport provider to improve the data collection methodology, we will also explore improvement opportunities and how the transport provider plans to improve its operations' sustainability. This engagement is expected to be a slow process because the transport provider may not have its own sustainability strategy. However, the outcome of this stage is to have a defined set of actions that both organisations can take to reduce the carbon footprint of scanner transport.

2025/26

2025/26 is expected to be the year in which the transport carbon reduction actions begin to be implemented.

7.4. Capital Goods and Purchased Goods and Services

Component	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Data		Refine methodology relating to significant contributors (staffing, equipment rental, generator fuel, water and waste), including the potential to use specific data rather than generic database figures.	Implement updated data collection options.
Staff			Allocate monitoring and data responsibilities.
Technology			

Cobalt Health Carbon Footprint and Reduction Plan

System	Implement a process for integrating energy efficiency into mobile scanner design .	As the methodology is improved, reduction opportunities to be identified (e.g. alternative suppliers, methods of working) Agree and implement a reduction plan.
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Due to the number of actions across the other buildings and transport sections above, no actions are planned for 2023/24.

Data

2024/25

The main objective for this category is to move from using generic lifecycle assessment database figures for major contributors to more specific data. This is expected to involve a deeper examination of the spend items and the suppliers to refine the data approach. Capital goods were a significant contributor during the baseline year, so it will be a focal area in all years of significant investment by analysing information provided by equipment manufacturers. For example, Siemens provides details on the weights of each material used in an MRI scanner which would allow an estimate of the embedded emissions.

2025/26

Once the updated data collection approach for big contributors has been decided in 2024/25, this revised approach will be implemented in 2025/26.

Staff

2025/26

Once the revised data collection approach has been agreed upon, it is anticipated that staff will need to modify how data is collected compared with previous years. This activity includes providing updated data proformas and training where necessary.

System

2023/24

Purchased fuel for the generators in the mobile scanners is one of the largest sources of emissions within the purchased goods and services category. Therefore, a key action is ensuring that energy and carbon efficiency are included in the design of future mobile scanners, which is registered within the ISO 14001 management system.

Cobalt Health Carbon Footprint and Reduction Plan

2024 - 2026

During the course of refining the data collection methods and engaging with key suppliers, it is normal for reduction opportunities to be identified during this process. The collation of reduction opportunities is expected to be a slow process given all the other opportunities delivered in this three-year timeframe. We expect implementation to begin in 2026/27 unless rapidly implemented opportunities are noted in 2024/25.



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ABOUT US

Spring Environmental is an environmental and sustainability consultancy that can support an organisation or an individual project from concept to delivery.

Our team can deliver work covering sustainability strategy, lifecycle assessment, environmental permitting, environmental impact assessment, ISO standard development and energy projects.

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