

# Clean Air Framework Facilitation Report

ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE NETWORK – NORTH EAST  
AND NORTH CUMBRIA

## Introduction

This report will outline the work that has been done to understand the position of NHS Trusts in the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) region on the road to NetZero with specific reference to air quality. The purpose of the data collection presented below is to gauge a benchmark of where each trust is in order to address gaps and provide solutions to move them forward with the Clean Air Framework. The AHSN has played a facilitation role in the project alongside, Clare Winter and James Dixon to deliver on the Clean Air Framework.

## Methodology

To begin we (**The AHSN**) reached out to all eleven North East and North Cumbria NHS trusts to introduce the project of the Clean Air Framework. The eleven Trusts are:

- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- Cumberland, Northumbria, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- North Cumbria integrated Care Foundation Trust
- Northeast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Following an initial introduction to the identified sustainability leads, a questionnaire was formed comprising of questions directly related to or inferring that of the subheadings headlining the ICS Trust Tracker (See document attached) which was produced as part of the CAF by Global Action Plan. The Questionnaire formed the basis of an interview style meeting. Any questions that were not answered within the meeting were sent out in summary emails and the questionnaire itself to be completed by the Sustainability lead when in receipt of the missing information.

Finally, following receipt of the questionnaire's, we completed the trust tracker provided shown in Figure 1.

| Trust name                             | Website info on | Pollution  | Renewable       | Fleet charging | NHS Forest                   | Home working | Green Plans    | Deflurane      | Bike deliveries | Procurement     | Procurement    | Green Travel | Miles     | Website         | Sus training   | Clean Air     |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
|  | AP              | monitoring | energy contract | facilities     | collab and planting progress | policy       |                | removal %      | available       | manager trained | team trained % | Plan         | hierarchy | travel guidance | travel         | Hospital      |
|  | 2.07            | 3.01       | 3.06            | 3.06           | 3.09                         | 3.10         | 5.07           | 6.01           | 6.03            | 6.05            | 6.06           | 7.01         | 7.06      | 7.10            | 7.13           | 8.05          |
| Newcastle Hospitals                    | Yes             | Yes        | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Yes            | Yes            | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            | Yes          | Yes       | Yes             | Yes            | Getting There |
| Northumbria                            | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Yes            | Yes            | Yes             | Not Applicable  | Yes            | Yes          | No        | No              | Getting There  | Starting out  |
| Gateshead                              | No              | No         | No              | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Yes            | Yes            | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            | Yes          | No        | Yes             | Yes            | Starting out  |
| North East Ambulance Service           | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes             | No              | No             | No           | No        | No              | Not Applicable | Starting out  |
| South Tyneside and Sunderland          | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Yes            | Yes            | No              | No              | No             | No           | No        | Yes             | No             | Starting out  |
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | No             | No             | No              | No              | No             | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
| North Cumbria Integrated Care          | No              | No         | Yes             | No             | Yes                          | Yes          | No             | No             | No              | No              | No             | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
| County Durham and Darlington           | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | No             | Yes            | No              | Yes             | Yes            | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
| North Tees and Hartlepool              | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | No             | No             | No              | Yes             | Yes            | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
| South Tees                             | No              | Yes        | Yes             | Yes            | No                           | Yes          | No             | Yes            | No              | No              | No             | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
| Tees Esk and Wear Valley               | No              | No         | Yes             | Yes            | Yes                          | Yes          | Yes            | Not Applicable | No              | No              | No             | No           | No        | No              | No             | Starting out  |
|  | No              | 10         | 9               | 1              | 1                            | 1            | 5              | 3              | 7               | 6               | 6              | 8            | 10        | 8               | 7              |               |
|  | Yes             | 1          | 2               | 10             | 10                           | 11           | 5              | 6              | 4               | 4               | 5              | 3            | 1         | 3               | 2              |               |
|  | Not Applicable  | 0          | 0               | 0              | 0                            | 0            | 1              | 2              | 0               | 1               | 0              | 0            | 0         | 0               | 1              | 0             |
|  | No answer       | 0          | 0               | 0              | 0                            | 0            | 0              | 0              | 0               | 0               | 0              | 0            | 0         | 0               | 0              | 0             |
| Average                                | 9%              | 18%        | 91%             | 91%            | 91%                          | 100%         | 50%            | 67%            | 36%             | 40%             | 45%            | 27%          | 9%        | 27%             | 20%            | 42%           |

Figure 1 Clean Air Framework Trust Tracker Matrix

This then formed a Likert Scale to show the benchmark of trusts and visualised the current gaps/areas shown in Figure 2

# CLEAN AIR FRAMEWORK TRUST TRACKER

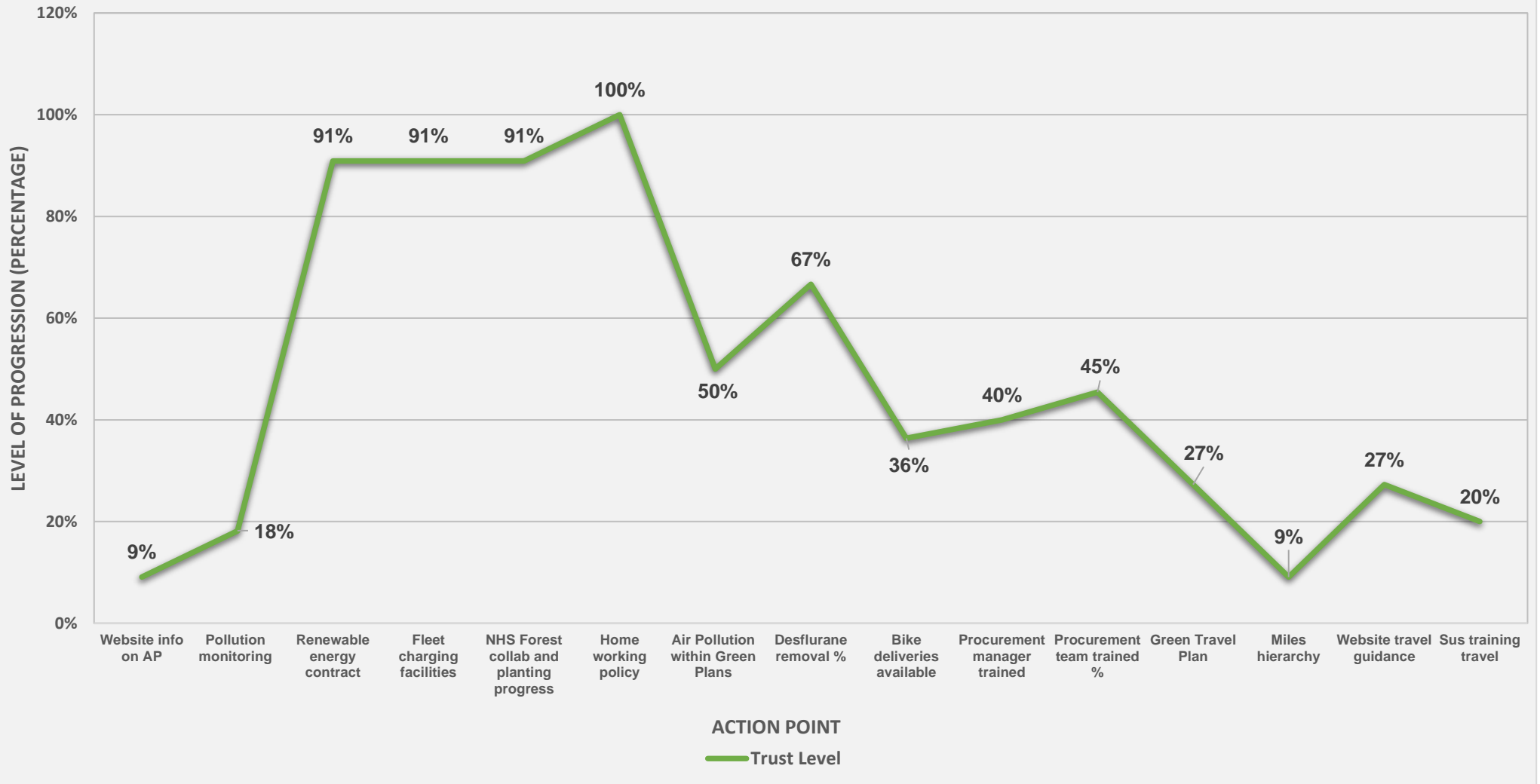


Figure 2 Clean Air Framework Likert Scale

# Results

Figure 3 Trust Current Roles Data



Figure 4 Trust Team Size Data

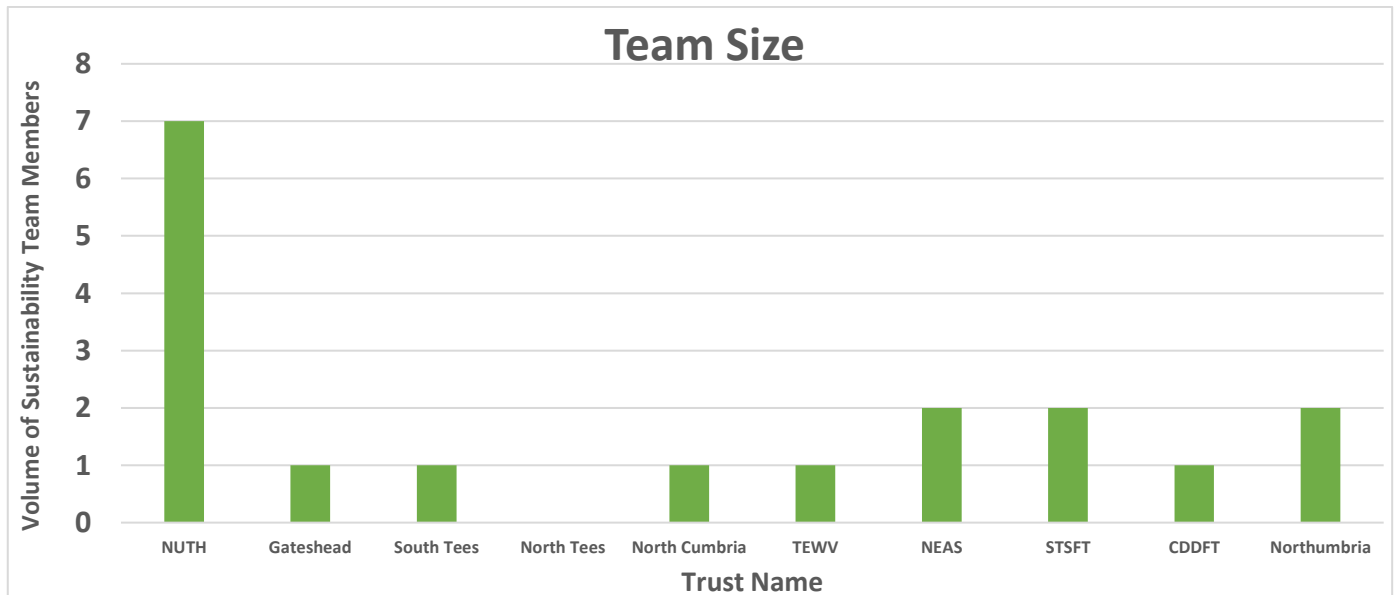


Figure 5 Trust Challenges Data



## Key Findings

| Finding  | Potential Solutions   | Trusts Already Implemented   | Solution Complexity   | Resource  |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| E-Learning Sustainability Module                   | Pre-existing module has been rolled out within CDDFT And endorsed by a Clinician. It is building a Net Zero NHS available on ESR – they have achieved an 87% completion rate                      | CDDFT  | Easy to access, Implement – process can be adapted as best practice   | <b>Project Officer/co-ordinator</b><br><br><b>6-12 Months</b><br><br>Communication with multiple trusts, Governance coordination, Individual trust procurement/ adoption policy adherence |
| Website Travel Guidance                            | Review of current guidance given at each trust, this links to the ICS travel survey launching in Jan 2023   | Gateshead – Staff Introduction pack, Not Patient travel  | Would require resource to compile best routes, forms of transport however, easily implemented across trusts.    | <b>Sustainability Leads/Project Manager/ Academics/Trust IT and Estates</b><br><br><b>3-6 Months</b>  |
| Website Information on Air Pollution               | ICS/AHSN To develop standardised infographic/info pack around air pollution to be implemented on all trust websites   | None   | Requires ICS/AHSN Resource, buy in from trusts – high impact and far reaching once in place                     | Understanding of transport links and routes in and around trust areas, IT Governance, expertise in pollution and air quality.   |
| Lack of Infrastructure for active and green travel | Find solutions to help trusts access EV charging points both compact and can accommodate low wattage capacity.<br><br>Hygiene facilities and incentives for those who chose to cycle/walk to work | All trusts have some EV Charging points but struggle to accommodate continual growth of staff access EV Vehicles through salary sacrifice.<br><br>South Tees have implemented shower and changing facilities within hospitals for staff to go about there working day in a hygienic way if they choose an active method of | Expensive, long procurement protocols/policy which could affect appointing a vendor. Lack of available funding. | <b>Project Manager, Estates and Facilities Teams</b><br><br><b>1-3 Years</b>  |

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  |   | travelling furthermore, both south tees and North Tees have installed a large amount of bike storage (NT also for electric bikes coming soon) to enable staff to store there bikes safely whilst they are on shift.                   |   |  |
| <p>Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education of procurement staff around carbon literacy</li> <li>• Importance of NetZero when procuring goods and services</li> <li>• Knowledge to review and influence new tendering frameworks to align with the NetZero Targets of the trusts green plan and region.</li> </ul>   | <p>Work with NHS Supply Chain's Sustainable procurement Framework, to adopt similar practices in a regional sustainable procurement framework to be used in Foundation Trusts</p> <p>Collaborative procurement through a ICB team</p> | <p>NUTH are working to build Government and Central NHSE&amp;I mandate on social value into procurement processes.</p> <p>Newcastle Hospitals were the first Acute Trust in the country to achieve CIPS Ethical Procurement Mark.</p> | Trust buy-in, specifically – agreement to follow a standardised procurement framework. Each trust utilises a different tendering process. Lack of Procurement Training in sustainable awareness therefor, lack of understanding in the importance of adjusting and unwillingness to change current processes. | <p><b>Project coordinator, Procurement teams.</b></p> <p><b>6-18 Months</b></p> <p>Governance Clearance, Trust communication and Buy in.</p> |
| <p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear and cohesive relationship between innovation and sustainability teams within trusts to ensure the 2 are working hand in hand</li> <li>• A general welcoming approach to accepting and implanting innovation as it arises (goes with senior buy in)</li> <li>• Efforts to allocate funding from the board</li> </ul> | <p>Work with AHSN To monitor flow of innovations that can help improve energy efficiency in trusts to reduce cost of Renewable energy tariffs and enable those using renewable energy can continue through the COL crisis</p>         | All   | Continue with AHSN Facilitation, invitations to ICS Regional meetings to deliver upcoming innovations to regional contacts.   | <p><b>Innovation Lead, Sustainability Lead, AHSN Facilitator</b></p> <p><b>1-3 Months</b></p>  |
| <b>Funding</b>   | Link in with local authority to find  | All   |   | <b>Project Manager, Finance Teams,</b>   |

|  |  |            |  |   |
|--|--|------------|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For staffing to enable trusts to manage sustainability within estates, waste, innovation</li> <li>Sustainable projects/products to implement into trusts</li> </ul>   | <p>potential opportunities (Facilitated by the AHSN)</p>   |            |  | <p><b>Procurement and Trust Board</b></p> <p><b>1 – 3 Years</b></p> <p>Horizon Scanning, Application, Approval, Receipt.</p>                    |
| <p><b>Senior Buy In</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This includes all senior management from care group director to executive board.</li> <li>Buy in equates to: Investment and approval of attempts to implement sustainable practices. Funding signed off to sustainable projects put forward should it be available. An advocate to speak to executive board members about the need and value of implementing such practices and integrate it into every aspect of decision making.</li> </ul> | <p>Intervention from ICS to deliver regional strategy to all Senior trust boards and seek alignment to help sustainability leads have input from those who can directly impact sustainable practices</p> | <p>All</p> |  | <p><b>Project Coordinator, Project Manager, Sustainability Leads</b></p> <p><b>6 – 12 Months</b></p> <p>Education, Evidence based approach.</p> |

### Trust Grouping

Each trust within the NENC Region is carrying a different capability to implement change than others be that through resource, finance or support. The groupings below represent from high to low the capabilities of each trust to roll out measures within the Clean Air Framework. This is to demonstrate those trusts that may need extra support on their journey to Net Zero:

#### High Capability

Newcastle Hospitals

Northumbria

NEAS

Sunderland & South Tyneside

#### Medium Capability

CDDFT

Gateshead

CNTW

#### Low Capability

North Tees

North Cumbria

TEWV

South Tees (PFI)

## **Impact Analysis**

The analysis of the below is based on the findings of a Phase One baseline data collection exercise and is a starting point to build and develop on.

### **Toolkit for Website information on Air Pollution**

The toolkit would be A uniform collection of documents to be uploaded on each trust website. 10 of the 11 trusts explored were without this information on both staff and public websites. Newcastle hospitals have a page dedicated to the climate emergency they have declared on a public facing website. The impact of an ICS, GAP developed toolkit would provide a standardisation across the region in terms of the messaging and data being disseminated by trusts, and received by website visitors (Patients, stakeholders and companies looking to access the NHS). This would help the ICS/GAP in policing the changes that are implemented within local trusts and would give the baseline a more levelled off view as all trusts would be moving at the same pace, in the same direction. In terms of actioning this solution, taking the ownness away from the trusts using ICS, GAP and the AHSN NENC to drive the development and spread and adoption of this toolkit removes the extra weighting that would be placed on trust employees such as; sustainability leads to implement. Having this information freely available on a public facing website improves the audience visibility and goes far reaching with minimal effort and cost.

**Scope of adoption:** Far reaching, can inform a large demographic at one time

**Cost:** Minimal capital - resource and consultation costs

**Impact Rating:** **High**

**Barriers of Spread:** **Website traffic, Reluctance to read information.**

**Barriers of Project:** IT Compliance, Governance

### **E-Learning Sustainability Module**

Education allows people to make more informed and conscious choices. The NHS Currently employs around 80,000 staff within the Northeast and North Cumbria region. To reach the scope of employees that is required, a digital based option would be the most time efficient and cost effective. The theme running through the Clean Air Framework is to not re-invent the wheel and encourage sharing of solutions where possible. To develop a digital training module would be timely, and costly in both finance and resource. By utilising a pre-existing resource, this provides equality to the roll out of sustainability learning. Trusts such as **North Tees, South Tees, Gateshead, North Cumbria, TEWV and CNTW** all have an existing issue with resource allocated to sustainability and no specialised budget. This also encourages staff to put forward innovative ideas and see them implemented, spread and adopted since the e-module proposed has been endorsed by a consultant within the NHS.

**Scope:** Full NENC NHS Workforce

**Cost:** No capital costs – roll out, resource

**Impact Rating:** **High**

**Barriers of Spread:** **Trust Governance, Positioning of module within staff areas**

**Barriers of Project:** IT Compliance, Governance, Resource to drive project

### **Creating the link between Sustainability and Innovation Teams**

Innovation and sustainability go hand in hand. In order to become sustainable whether it be doing something more efficiently to reduce a step in a process or developing a reusable over single use product, the process of innovating and creating new ways of working is what contributes to sustainability. Therefore, it is vital that the innovation teams within the NHS are linked in with the sustainability team. This also allows for sustainability to be a huge factor in the decision making of projects being progressed within Innovation.



**Scope:** Internal Trust relationships – could be spread region wide, to allow for spread and adoption of innovation. Also, far reaching to individual trust networks.

**Cost:** No cost

**Impact Rating:** High

**Barriers of Spread:** No set forum for all stakeholders to be in communication, there are independent forums e.g. innovation forum and sustainability forum.

**Barriers of Project:** Sharing of information in relation to IP

The above solutions would assist both the lower capability trusts as well as, pushing higher capability trusts even further. However, the impact on the lower capability trusts is anticipated to be greater and an enabling factor in reducing barriers to them implementing sustainable practices by having extra resource, finance and support.

### **Next Steps**

To conclude this report, the AHSN Proposed the following steps in order to continue the momentum of the overall Clean Air Framework roll out. It is anticipated the listed actions below will be executed between the periods of **Q4 22/23** and **Q1 23/24**.

- Assist the ICS in prioritising challenges identified through the Trust Tracker Data exercise, in order to source potential solutions that can be implemented efficiently with high impact.
- Utilise the AHSN Network to promote the Clean Air Framework, spreading awareness across all NHS Trusts nationally.
- Establish and communicate the value of Sustainable healthcare solutions set forward by the NENC ICS.
- Solution based pilot testing high impact, low effort solutions to build an evidence base for pushing further actions on the clean air framework.
  - Short Term: Work with Global Action Plan to develop a toolkit for NHS Trust Websites to provide information around the importance of air pollution. Utilise this solution as a starting point of a continual delivery of actions to integrate the clean air framework in the NHS NENC.
  - Medium Term: Plan and Deliver workshops with NHS and Industry to 1) Identify/Recognise unmet needs 2) Understand/Hear about potential solutions that may already exist to rectify the unmet needs set out in step 1 3) Allow Industry to propose and create unmet need solutions once presented with them.

### **A Final Note**

It is important in this instance to highlight that the proposed projects set out in this report do not mean trusts are compliant with the Clean Air Framework. Subsequently, executing and ticking them off allows them to act as enablers opening the doors to further sustainability projects.

