



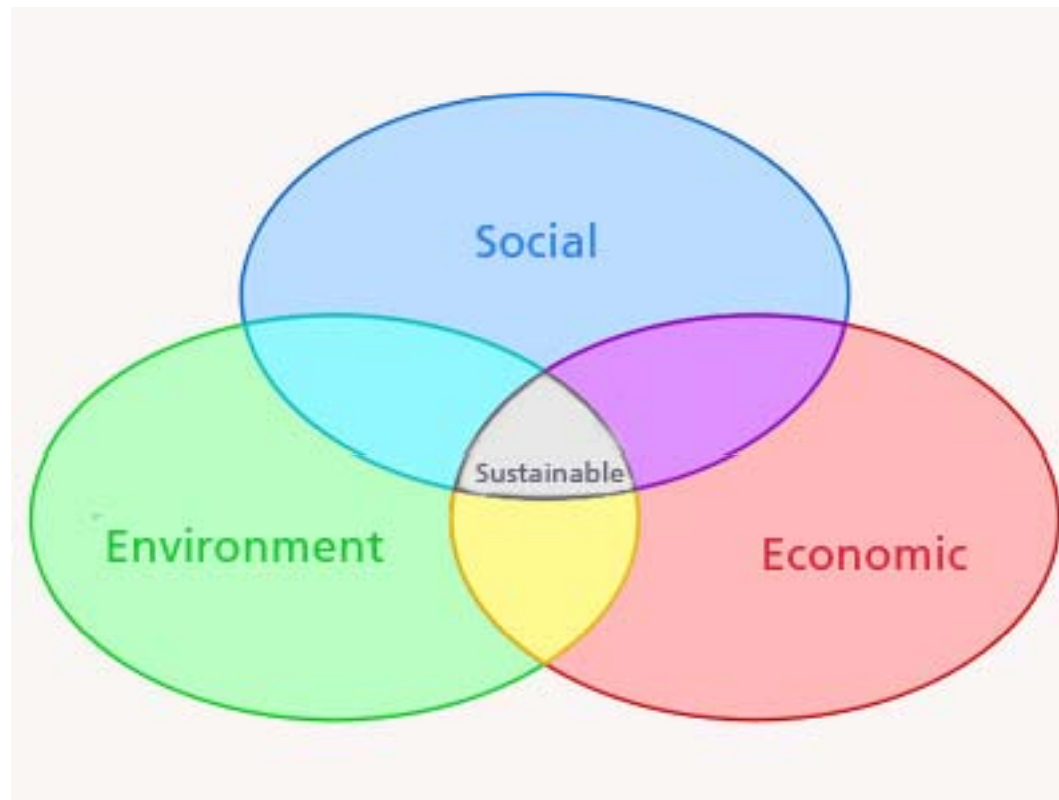
The Environment and Sustainability in Healthcare – Consumer Perspective

Dr James Smith, NHS Sustainable Development Unit, England

Environmental sustainability in healthcare - a consumer perspective from England

- What do we mean by sustainability and why does it matter in healthcare?
- What is happening in the English health system?
- What might a sustainable healthcare system and medical devices industry look like?

What do we mean by sustainability?



Source: Barbier, 1987

Why do we want a sustainable health system?

- Huge potential harms
- Injustice



Reasons for actions

- Health effects of unsustainable actions
- Financial savings
- Reputation
- Regulation / Legislation
- Opportunity to create a better system – win / win situations

- Distractions and opportunities – healthcare reforms, focus on cost savings

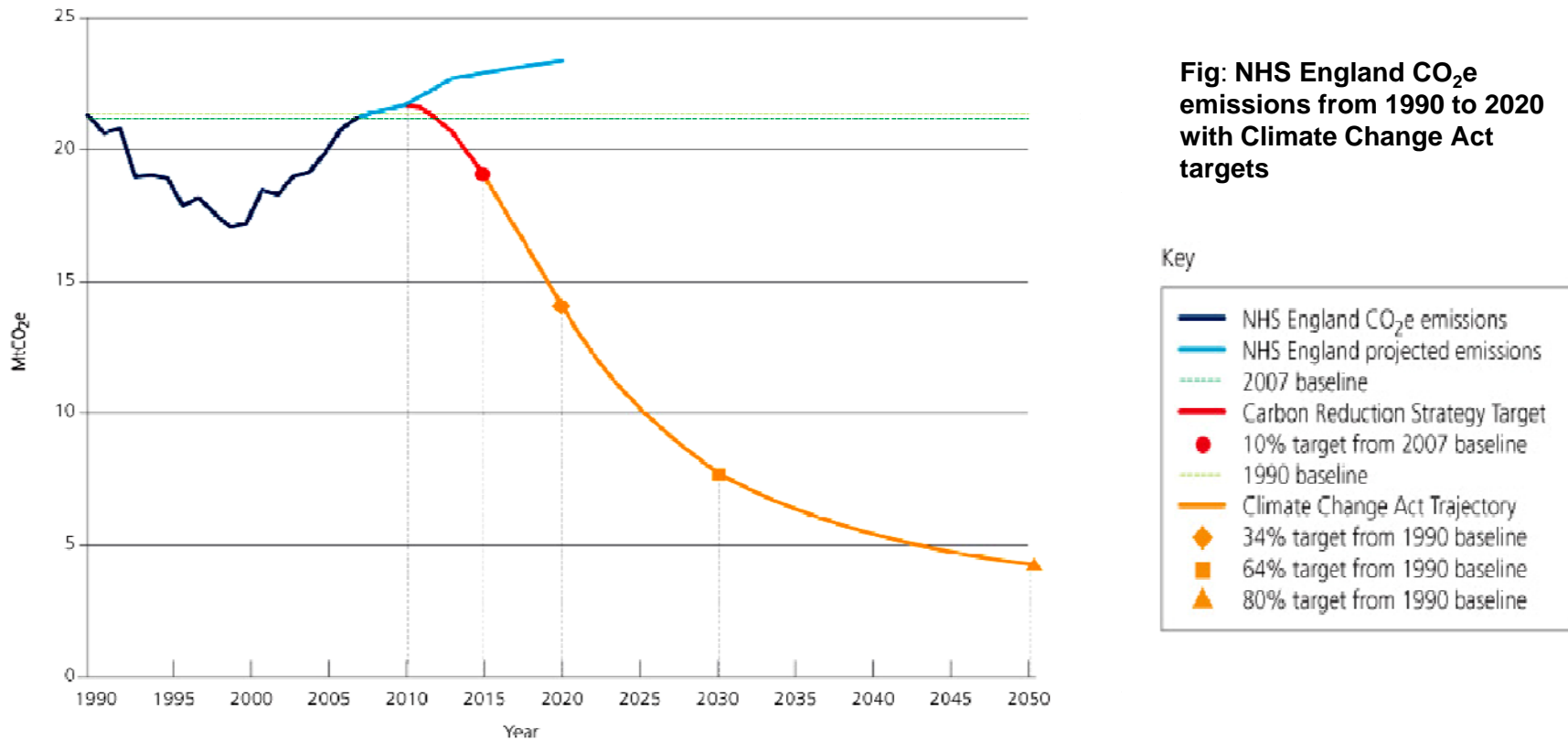
Win – wins

- For **people and populations**
 - More physical activity, better diet, improved mental health, less road trauma, less air pollution, less obesity/ heart disease/cancer, more social inclusion...
- For **patients and the healthcare system**
 - More prevention, care closer to home, more empowered / self care, better use of drugs, better use of information and IT, better skill mix, better models of care

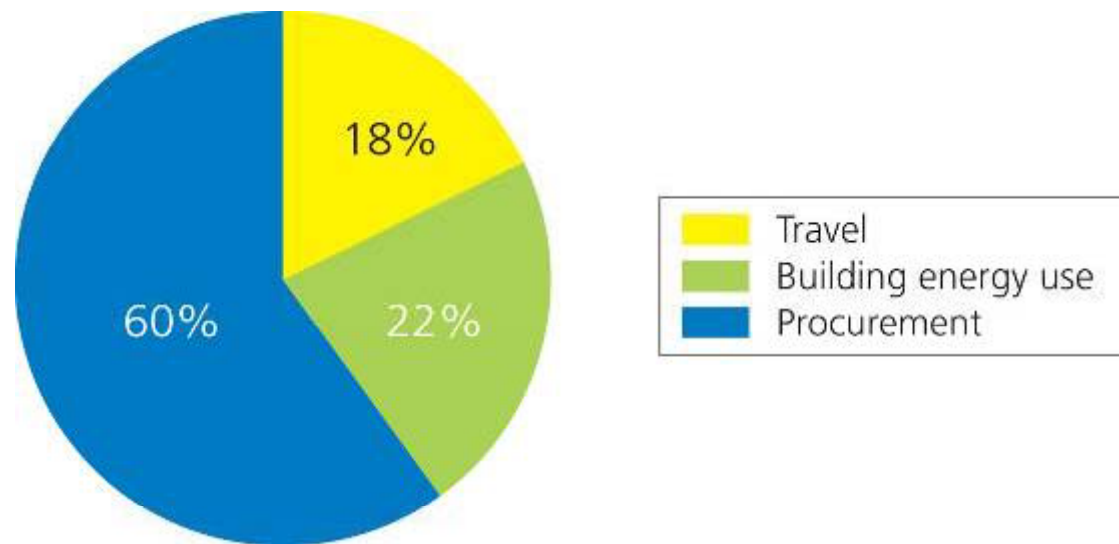
Role of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit

Develops organisations, people, tools, policy and research to help the NHS in England fulfil its potential as a leading sustainable and low carbon organisation.

Carbon Footprint – NHS England



Carbon Footprint – NHS England



Source: NHS Carbon
Reduction Strategy 2009



NHS
Sustainable
Development Unit



Sustainable Development Unit

Fit for the Future

Scenarios for low-carbon healthcare 2030

September 2009



 **forum for
the future**
action for a sustainable world



NHS
Sustainable
Development Unit





Vision for a sustainable MedTech system

- Clinically effective
- Safe
- Affordable
- Minimal environmental footprint
- Maximising of wider social benefits
- Appropriate for population needs
- Appropriate for models of care

How can we achieve this?

- Research
- Collaboration
- Openness / Transparency
- Innovation
 - Incremental – e.g. improved energy efficiency
 - Transformational – e.g. changing business model / payment systems

Pharmaceuticals / Med tech issues

- Level of understanding environmental effects
 - Company level
 - Product level
 - Care pathway level
- Industry standards for environmental footprinting

Conclusions

- Environmental sustainability is an important issue for all healthcare systems.
- There is likely to be increased demand for lower environmental footprint products in the future.
- Collaboration will be necessary to develop a meaningful transparent system.
- Innovation will be necessary to drive both incremental and transformational changes.
- There are great opportunities to build trust in industry and build better relationships across the whole healthcare system.

Questions?

- What are the drivers / barriers to having more environmentally sustainable medical devices?
 - Within industry
 - In the wider healthcare system / healthcare providers
- What are the key questions we need to collaborate on?
- How should we collaborate to develop an EU/global industry standard for environmental footprinting?

Further information

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