PHILIPS

The Royal College of Radiologists

Shaping the future
of sustainable radiology

The NHS's commitment to achieving net zero by 2040 has made sustainability a key priority across all departments. As a resource-intensive field, radiology plays a crucial role in reducing healthcare's environmental impact.

To identify opportunities for sustainable transformation in radiology, Philips partnered with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) to host a collaborative workshop focused on decarbonising radiology departments.

The session brought together 33 professionals - radiologists, radiotherapists, clinical oncologists, and NHS policymakers - to discuss strategies, challenges, and opportunities for driving the green agenda and to develop a strategic roadmap for the next three to six years.

Tackling shared challenges in greening radiology

During initial discussions, attendees shared their readiness for achieving net zero and highlighted key obstacles, including limited leadership support and tight budgets. Balancing the growing demand for diagnostic services with sustainable practices adds further complexity, emphasising the need to tackle these barriers collectively.

How prepared do you feel towards achieving net zero?[1]

- 45% feel ready and enthusiastic
- 50% do not feel empowered and are under-resourced
- 5% feel neutral

What challenges do you have towards achieving net zero?

- Lack of leadership and collaboration
- Lack of resources and financing
- Department has different priorities
- Compromising quality

1. Survey of 33 attendees at the event

Creating opportunities for change

Focus groups were formed to discuss current practices and opportunities for decarbonising radiology, radiotherapy and clinical oncology across the following areas:

- **Workforce and system leadership**

- **Supply chain, procurement and medicines**

- **Sustainable models of care and travel and transport**

- **Digital transformation**

The outputs were then reviewed as a larger group and organised into a proposed roadmap for the next three to six years. Additionally, the group discussed the importance of establishing a sustainability group, which Dr. Qaiser Malik took on as a personal commitment.
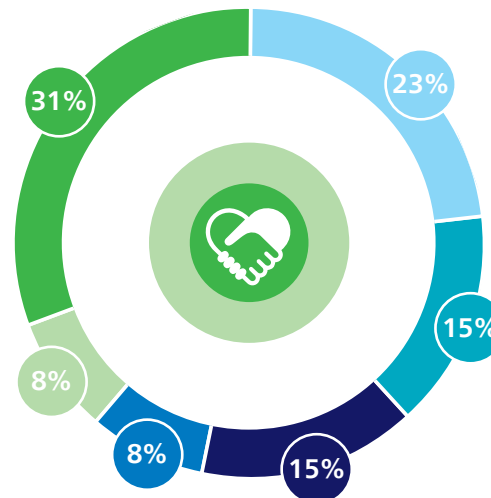
Roadmap

From shared challenges
"Getting the context"

...to key solutions
"Input for the roadmap"

From shared challenges	...to key solutions		
Lack of engagement	Set up an **RCR Sustainability Group**	**Raise awareness** and promote sustainable practices locally	Engage and participate with **green network**
Lack of leadership guidance for organisational change		**Engage with leadership** to embed sustainability in the trust strategy and discuss feedback	
Lack of financing		**Apply for funding** to do research and translate results into sustainable practices	
Lack of resources (time & support)		Embed (or integrate) sustainability with **quality, productivity and waiting time improvement theme**s leading to **higher leadership engagement**	

Commitments

Finally, delegates considered what commitments they could make personally towards delivering greener services:

- **I will help set up an RCR Sustainability Committee"**
- **I will continue to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices locally"**
- **I will engage with leadership to embed sustainability and discuss feedback"**
- **I will embed sustainability in quality improvement projects"**
- **I will apply for funding to research and translate sustainable practices"**
- **I will engage and participate with green networks"**

Donut chart values: 23%, 15%, 15%, 8%, 8%, 31%