

The five goals of the Green Deal for Sustainable Healthcare

The climate crisis is the greatest threat to public health. Climate change and environmental pollution are leading to ever more and different healthcare challenges. Take infectious diseases and heat stress, for example.

In the Netherlands, the healthcare sector is responsible for **7%** greenhouse gas emissions, **4%** of waste and **13%** of raw materials usage. In other words, through the delivery of care, the sector is contributing to the climate crisis. It is this paradox that healthcare sector is keen to resolve.

The healthcare sector is therefore working on 'sustainable care'. Agreements on this have been made in the [*Green Deal Working together towards sustainable healthcare*](#). This Green Deal has five goals.



1. Promote health among patients, clients and employees

Actions include:

- A healthy, varied, more plant-based and sustainable diet
- Applying new knowledge and experience in the field of health promotion



2. Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of healthcare on climate and vice versa

Actions include:

- Embedding sustainable healthcare and Planetary Health in all healthcare study programmes
- Actively contributing to the social debate around the relationship between human behaviour, climate change and environmental pollution, a healthy lifestyle and health



3. Reduce CO₂ emissions by **55%** by 2030 and to be climate neutral by 2050

Actions include:

- Large healthcare providers draw up a board-approved roadmap containing a strategic sustainability plan for their premises by 1 July 2023 at the latest
- Reducing emissions from transport movements of personnel



4. Reduce the consumption of primary raw materials by **50%** by 2030 and maximise circularity in healthcare by 2050

Actions include:

- Choosing 'reusable' rather than 'disposable' where possible
- Circular procurement as point of departure for procurement policy for materials, equipment and food



5. Reduce environmental harm caused by (use of) medication

Actions include:

- Appropriate prescribing and appropriate dispensing of necessary medicines
- Continuation of the Dutch chain approach on medicinal residues in water

What is a Green Deal?

Green Deals are agreements between the Dutch Government and other partners for the implementation of sustainable plans. The *Green Deal Working together towards sustainable healthcare* is facilitated by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and supported by the healthcare sector.



Green Deal