

# Scottish (Managed) Sustainable Health Network (SMaSH)

## Report

### Sustainability Briefing: Transport

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## What is the link between sustainable development and health?

United Nations - Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development: "Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature." (Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development - <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm/>)

What are the benefits from sustainable development?

Health gains from sustainable development are:

- Social
- Environmental
- Economic

(WHO. Measuring Health Gains for Sustainable Development - [http://www.who.int/hia/green\\_economy/sustainable\\_development\\_summary1.pdf](http://www.who.int/hia/green_economy/sustainable_development_summary1.pdf))

## What drives the work of SMaSH?

The Scottish Government outcomes set the direction of travel for the economic sustainable development agenda:

- Greener
- Safer and stronger
- Wealthier and fairer
- Healthier
- Smarter

It is important to ensure a balance between social, economic and environmental harm/return.

## What are the elements of sustainable development related to climate change?

- Buildings - energy consumption
- Transport
- Procurement
- Water
- Waste
- Biodiversity
- Natural environment and greenspace

What are the links between health and the sustainable development elements?

## Transport

Air pollution contributes to the deaths of over 29,000 people across the UK with over 2000 people being affected in Scotland. The impact is greatest on more vulnerable people – children and the elderly. Much of this pollution arises from road traffic which is increasing year on year.

The NHS contributes to this pollution and has a duty to minimize the impact through greener, fairer, healthier, safer and smarter service provision. This can be achieved by a combination of initiatives:

- Provision of services close to population centres.
- Services linked to good public transport services.
- Facilities to support sustainable transport options – cycling and walking routes.
- Use of technology to reduce travel e.g. home working, telecommunications systems to support patient consultation.
- Use of green fleet – electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Car sharing initiatives
- Financial penalties for car use – parking fees, punitive travel reimbursement
- Local procurement to reduce transport miles.

The benefits are:

- Social – increased personal contact (public services, walking), improved fitness and well being (walking, cycling), increased health (reduced air pollution).
- Environmental – reduced air pollution, reduction in traffic noise.
- Economic – development of new technologies.

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