

Hope Orchard Case Study

Name of Trust, Project Lead and Location

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Dr Helena Clements, King's Mill Hospital

Theme

Greener Buildings (Outdoor spaces both within and outside the Trust)

Challenge

The Hope Orchard was initiated and led by Sherwood Forest Hospital's Climate Action Team to link the importance of planetary health on human health. On Monday 22 March, Sherwood Forest Hospitals planted fruit trees on each of their sites (King's Mill Hospital, Newark Hospital and Mansfield Community Hospital) as part of a commitment to a lower carbon future.

The hospital trust was joined in the movement by schools, public sector partners, individuals and the Woodland Trust all planting fruit trees as part of a co-ordinated day of proactive climate change action.

Dr Helena Clements, consultant paediatrician and climate change clinician at Sherwood Forest Hospitals said:

"The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on all communities, and as we start to emerge from the crisis we need to look forward to a healthy greener future for our communities. It is fantastic that so many of our partner organisations have taken on the challenge to get involved with planting trees on their sites, and I can't wait to see the pictures of the trees on the day."

Approach

The initiative brought together various parties from across the county to make a positive impact on both climate change and wellbeing, and promote the association of healthy food (fruit in this case) with health and the environment. We asked participating organisations to share their news using Twitter [#HopeOrchard](#). As well as Sherwood Forest Hospitals, other organisations taking part included Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust at their Spring Meadow site, and the Woodland Trust who planted 20 crab apple trees.

Emily Moore, Youth Development Manager at the Woodland Trust's Young People's Forest at Mead said:

"This is a lovely initiative by the Climate Action Team at Sherwood and one the Woodland Trust is happy to support by planting crab apple trees at the Young People's Forest at Mead. The last year has shown us the value of connecting with nature for our health and wellbeing, yet many people do not have access to quality green spaces. It is vital to protect what we have and encourage the creation of more, not just to aid our own recovery but that of the wider environment."

John Brewin, Chief Executive at Nottinghamshire Healthcare, said: *"We're delighted to take part and create a joint Hope Orchard with our health and care partners. It's a great initiative and demonstrates our continued commitment to sustainability and creating green environments for our staff and patients."*

"We're planting our trees at Spinney Meadow, a therapeutic green space with woodland, orchards, livestock and wildlife at our Wells Road base. As a Trust we are passionate about sustainability and the environment, and have a strong belief in the positive impact of green spaces on our patients."

Solution

The scheme included a diverse range of participants particularly from the Mid-Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership, local NHS Trusts & East Midlands Ambulance Service. It also reached out to nearby councils, schools and colleges including; Yeoman Park Academy,

Northfield Primary School and Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School amongst others. Through NHS colleague connections trees were planted as far afield as Huntingdon and Wales.

Mansfield Building Society provided financial support for Northfield Primary School to purchase trees, Holly Smith, presented the cheque to the school and said, *“To see the children excited and engaged in a project that means so much to the wider community was fantastic.*

Lessons learned

The initiative was a great success overall with 67 trees being planted, in 31 different locations, even though the country was still in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Climate Action Team plans to launch phase 2 of Hope Orchard during Winter 2021 – hopefully to tie in with the COP26 conference in November. We hope to publicise the Hope Orchard further and combine the resources of our Communications team with the Sustainability Lead we now have in place to drive the initiative forward for continued future success, at the time of initiating the Hope Orchard no one within the trust held a Sustainability role, and Climate Action Team members participated in co-ordinating the event alongside their current roles.

The Climate Action Team are proud of the cross organisational engagement this scheme evoked, as well as via individuals within the trust, which demonstrates that climate action can be inclusive and promote collaboration across the ICS and a shared vision.

This initiative is an example of linking climate health and the environment and could be extended further for example linking food growing and allotments, exercise, healthy plant based diet, and carbon reduction. This scheme could be rolled out across all ICS partners across Nottinghamshire and the Midlands.

Impacts – Carbon Savings

Whilst it is considered that a typical tree can absorb around 21 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year, this figure is only achieved when the tree is fully grown - saplings will absorb significantly less than this. Over a lifetime of 100 years, one tree could absorb around a tonne of CO₂. Reference: <https://www.viessmann.co.uk/heating-advice/how-much-co2-does-tree-absorb#:~:text=A%20typical%20tree%20can%20absorb,around%20a%20tonne%20of%20CO2.>

So whilst the hope orchard can't demonstrate any actual carbon savings at the moment, we can assume that over the next 100 years, the first phase of the initiative will result in around 67 tonnes of carbon emissions being absorbed.

Illustrative Attachments



**Hope Orchard
Planting at
King's Mill
Hospital**



Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



CLIMATE
ACTION

Mid-Nottinghamshire
Integrated Care Partnership
Creating happier, healthier communities together



Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Hope Orchard



SHERWOOD HOPE ORCHARD

Join us in planting a fruit tree as a commitment towards a healthy low carbon future for our children and the planet. On Monday 22 March we will plant fruit trees on each of our Sherwood Forest Hospitals sites and we invite colleagues across the NHS, social care and education partners to do the same time to create joint 'Hope Orchard'. The COVID pandemic has impacted on all communities, and as we start to emerge from the crisis we need to look forward to a healthy greener future for our communities. The Climate action team at Sherwood is creating a 'Hope Orchard' to link the importance of planetary health on human health.

Help us blossom

We'd love to know how many organisations are joining in so please let us know at: sfh-tr.communications@nhs.net if you plan to plant a tree on the 22 March. Please also send us your photos and comments, and of course shout out about it on your own networks!



21 March
International Day of Forests



UN WATER

22 MARCH
WORLD WATER DAY

