

Commissioning and adoption stage

Delivering a net zero, sustainable, health service guide

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Delivering a net zero, sustainable, health service

The NHS in England is aiming to become a net zero carbon national health service in response to the profound and growing threat to health posed by climate change. This was embedded into the NHS through the Health and Care Act 2022. To support this, the NHS has committed to:

- reaching net zero by 2040 for the emissions the NHS controls directly
- reaching net zero by 2045 for the emissions the NHS influences, through the goods and services it buys from partners and suppliers

The NHS has set out the Net Zero Supplier Roadmap to help suppliers align to its net zero ambition between now and 2030. If you intended to supply your innovation to the NHS, you need to consider several of the milestones in the supplier roadmap. This includes the first milestone, implemented in April 2022, that added a minimum of 10% weighting for net zero and social value in all NHS procurements.

Since April 2023, for all new contracts above £5 million per annum, the NHS has also required suppliers to publish a carbon reduction plan (CRP) for their UK Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and a subset of Scope 3 emissions as a minimum.

From April 2024, the CRP requirements have been proportionally extended to cover all new procurements. A CRP template has been published by the Cabinet Office.

Further guidance is available on these net zero requirements for NHS contexts. The NHS England Net Zero and Sustainable Procurement Team are also running a programme of webinars where you can access support. Case studies, publications and examples of best practice are available from Greener NHS.

Social value is also included in the sustainability weighting for NHS procurement. Key themes of social value include:

- supporting staff wellbeing
- supporting diversity
- COVID recovery
- reducing economic inequality

Activities can include demonstrating how you are proactively tackling modern slavery within your organisation and supply chain, and supporting your staff in volunteering support for healthcare charities. NHS England provides further information on [how social value is calculated](#) and key themes for the NHS.