

Joint Green Plan 2026-29



Healthier lives



Empowered citizens



Thriving communities

Foreword



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As healthcare leaders, we are united in our responsibility to protect and improve the health of our population, today and for generations to come. Climate change, environmental degradation and the unsustainable use of resources are no longer abstract risks; they are already shaping health outcomes, widening health inequalities and placing additional pressure on health and care services. This Joint Green Plan for Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust sets out how we will respond collaboratively and responsibly to this challenge.

Sustainability is inseparable from high-quality healthcare. The conditions in which people live, work and receive care directly influence physical and mental health, recovery and long-term wellbeing. As major employers, care providers and anchor institutions across Dorset, our trusts have a unique opportunity and responsibility to work together, across our federation and with partners across the wider Dorset system, to reduce our environmental impact while strengthening financial resilience, social value and patient care. Working at scale enables us to share learning, align priorities and maximise the impact of our collective action.

We are proud of the progress already made. Together, we have:

- reduced emissions through significant investment in energy efficiency, solar power and digital transformation
- supported greener clinical practice, including changes in anaesthesia and waste reduction
- embedded sustainability and social value into procurement decisions
- empowered colleagues, patients and partners to play their part.

We also recognise that there is much more to do. Reaching net zero, building resilience to climate impacts and embedding sustainability into every aspect of decision-making will require continued collaboration across organisations, professions and care pathways. It will demand innovation, evidence-based prioritisation and a strong focus on actions that support both environmental sustainability and better clinical outcomes.

Our shared vision is for services that are environmentally responsible, clinically effective, financially sustainable and socially inclusive—supporting healthier people and healthier places across Dorset. This Joint Green Plan provides a framework to support our teams, guide decision-making and measure progress, while remaining flexible enough to evolve as evidence, technology and partnerships develop.

We look forward to continuing this work together with our colleagues, patients, system partners and communities to turn shared ambition into meaningful and lasting change.

Classification: Official



Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service



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1. Introduction

1.1 Operational context of the trusts

The NHS is one of the largest employers in the country and contributes almost 5% of UK carbon emissions. Emissions from health operations adversely impact on our environment and have a harmful effect on our health and wellbeing. Gov.uk report that during four periods of heat in 2024, there were 1,311 heat-associated deaths in England¹. Our Green Plan sets out the actions we are taking to reduce emissions and to work towards a resilient, low-carbon and sustainable health system. The BMJ reports that 90% of NHS buildings are vulnerable to overheating, and the Dorset NHS trusts are working together to undertake a climate change risk assessment and identify mitigation measures.

The Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust healthcare services span a small, acute 350-bed Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester; the South Walks House outpatient facility; Weymouth Hospital in the west of Dorset; inpatient mental health services; community hospitals and outreach services more than 300 sites as well as working out of village halls and GP surgeries. These serve a large, mostly rural area and the conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole, the larger Hospitals of Poole, Royal Bournemouth (acute services) and Christchurch form [University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Dorset](#) and undertake a [range of services](#) for the region. While UHD is not part of this federation's Green Plan (for more information see [UHD Green Plan](#)) the Dorset trusts work closely together in ways that support patients, provide cross-Dorset services and innovate towards clinical excellence and sustainable healthcare.

Dorset County Hospital's 3,500 staff provide high-quality acute and specialist services, including district general services such as urgent and emergency care, planned and specialist care, renal services across Dorset and South Somerset, maternity and paediatric services, care for long-term conditions, frailty and end-of-life care, and links with five community hospitals.

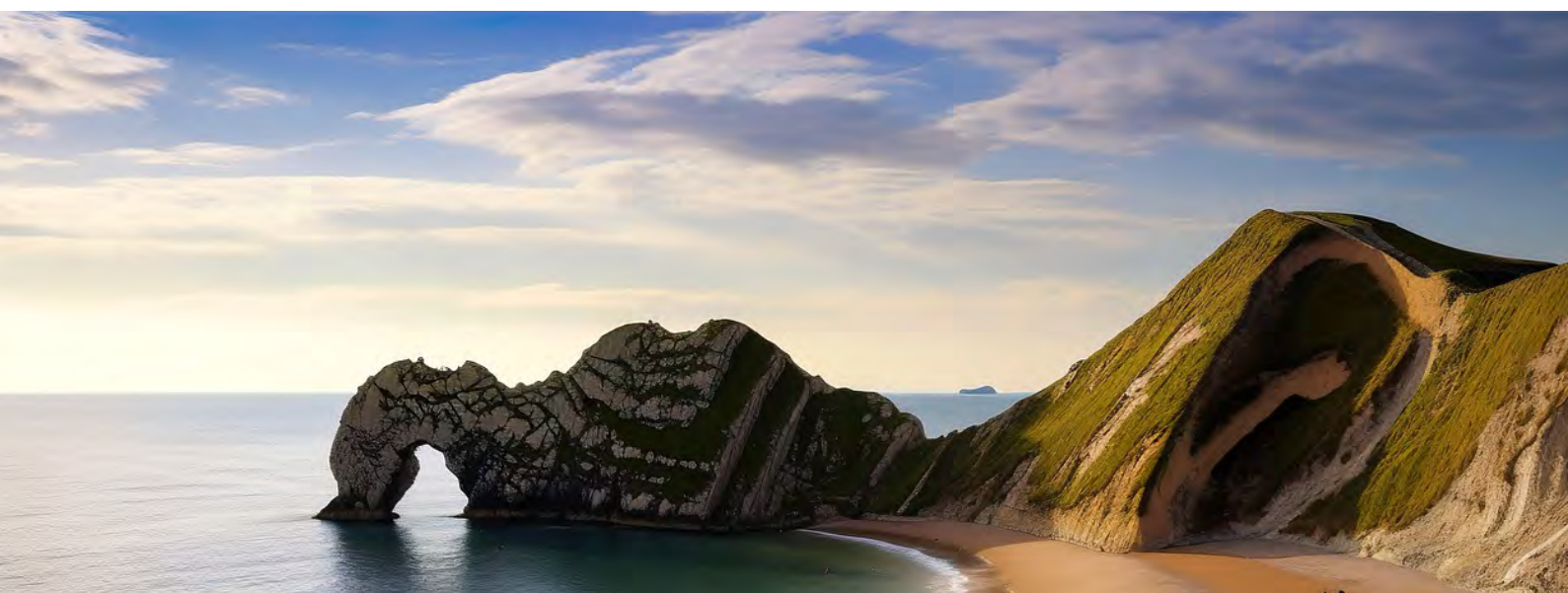
Dorset HealthCare encompasses around 7,000 staff across a wide range of services and specialisms and runs Dorset's 12 community hospitals. All host a range of outpatient clinics, some have inpatient beds and a number also have minor injuries units (or, in Weymouth's case, an urgent treatment centre). Responsible for all of Dorset's NHS mental health services, Dorset HealthCare provides adult inpatient mental health services at several sites around Dorset. These are for people who are struggling with severe mental health issues. The aim is to provide person-centred care and treatment, focused on recovery, to allow people to return home as quickly as possible. With University Trust status, DHC works with Bournemouth University for innovation in care and clinical excellence, and both trusts work with the university on training and placements for clinical staff.

We are part of Our Dorset Integrated Care Partnership, with the county's NHS organisations, BCP and Dorset Councils, Police, Fire and partners in the community and voluntary sector, supporting resident populations of 380,000 people in the Dorset Council area and 400,000 in Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch.

The Dorset resident population has a smaller-than-average proportion of under-fives and a higher-than-average proportion of over-65s, the highest of any unitary authority in England. This can increase pressure in different ways across both age ranges of care. The population forecast indicates that the next 25 years will see an increase of 50% in the current number of over-65s. Dorset Council reports that early years lay a foundation for health and wellbeing, with 64% achieving good levels of development. Dorset residents generally have better health outcomes than the England average; however, health inequalities can sometimes be less visible amongst more affluent areas and dispersed populations. These inequalities show a 10-year life expectancy difference between the most and least deprived areas, alongside higher levels of mental health issues, substance misuse and childhood obesity that disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities. This presents a key challenge to health and wellbeing, with levels of lifestyle-related conditions higher amongst those living in deprivation.

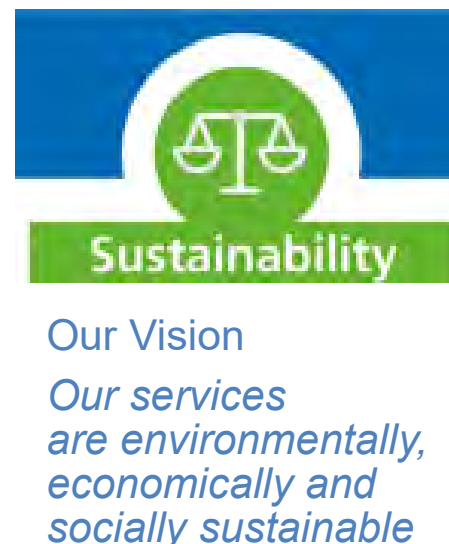
The trusts are regarded as Anchor Institutions. They are significant employers in the area, procuring a wide range of goods and services and undertaking staff and business travel. Therefore, we have opportunities to make a meaningful impact on the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the local population, and the ways we work have a key role to play in the movement towards net zero carbon. Our Social Value pledges recognise that people's health is influenced by the environment they live and work in. Dorset has an above-average number of residents aged 16+ reporting high life satisfaction, and many comment that natural, cultural and recreational activities play an important role in safer and stronger communities.

Within or close to 'Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' internationally important natural and wildlife areas, geological icons including the famed Jurassic coastline, Durdle Door and Chesil Beach and a myriad of beaches, coves, cliffs, bays, harbours and the South-West coast path with a large range of walking, riding and cycling trails. These attract significant seasonal visitors. For Dorset as a whole, the population increases through approximately 30 million visitors a year, with about 4.7 million visiting Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. This increases demand in urgent care, primary care, public health services and emergency transport, while creating intense working periods and potential inequalities in healthcare access. There is greater use of transport and water, increased congestion and environmental stress, and potential impacts on sensitive habitats, including the risk of wildfires, air pollution, carbon emissions and litter, such as spikes in single-use plastics and food waste. It highlights the need for clear communication on sustainability messages and robust strategies.



1.2 Working together, improving lives – sustainability pillar

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust missions are working together, improving lives.



Sustainability is 1 of our 4 key objectives: that **our services are sustainable environmentally and financially and we make best use of resources**. Committing to reducing carbon, take opportunities to positively contribute to our local environment, minimise our negative impact on public health and the environment and uphold our [social value pledges](#), recognising that we are significant employers and through our use of travel and infrastructure and the purchase of goods and services, how we carry out our functions can contribute to healthier environment, communities and populations we serve as a significant factor in people's health and wellbeing.

We have made progress in **minimising our negative impact on public health and the environment** and measuring our impact through sustainable models of care and digital innovation. Increasing and maintaining 25% of our outpatient activity delivered virtually, alongside the implementation of sustainable models of care. Infection Prevention and Control led "gloves off" initiatives while Procurement introduced reusable tourniquets. Estates and Facilities teams across both trusts have undertaken **large-scale transition to LED lighting**. **Ward staff, housekeeping, waste and portering teams** across the hospital are improving **segregation of waste to reduce costs and carbon emissions**.

Net Zero Clinical transformation initiatives included wood cast trials in hand therapy to reduce plastic and energy consumption, while anaesthesia practitioners have worked with estates teams on a more focused provision of medical gases, removing a nitrous manifold and setting up a Greener Theatres Group. **Food and nutrition** services across both trusts have removed single-use plastic cutlery and cups, in Damers restaurant there is a 20p discount if you bring in your own cup and a take back scheme which has reduced the contamination of recycling loads from non-recyclable wax-lined cups. We have a late plates scheme for staff and are measuring food waste. Improvements have been made to **greenspaces**, and we are hosting a Centre for Sustainable HealthCare Dorset Recovery Ranger funded by National Lottery Communities. Sustainability Leads are working with NHS colleagues in Dorset, SWAST and UHD, other public sector organisations include Dorset Councils Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, Dorset Police, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service

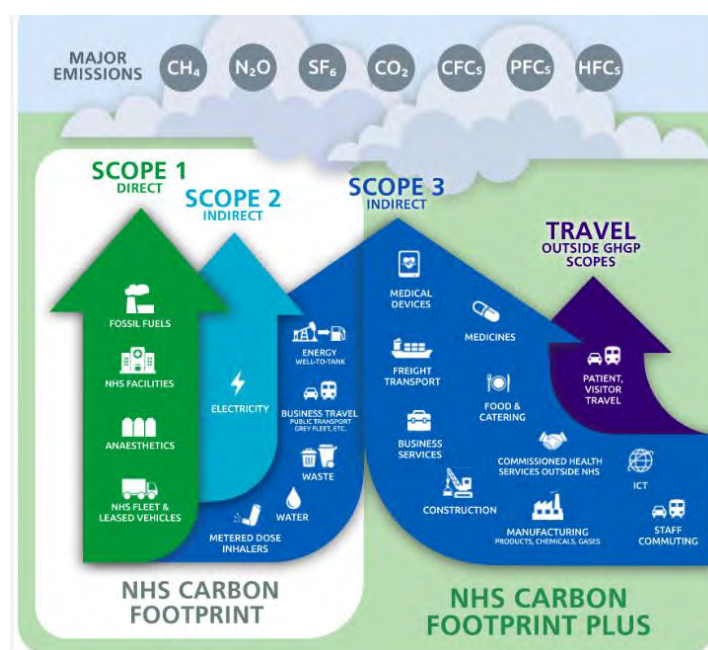
and Bournemouth University, with **sustainability and social value** delivery partners. This Joint Green Plan for the two trusts focuses on **areas where we can make the greatest impact on emissions that we directly control, and maps a route to net zero**, even where all solutions and funding arrangements are not always fully defined. While many actions are shared across both trusts, some are trust-specific or site-specific, with all contributing towards common objectives. These SMART actions set out ways to reduce carbon and our impact on the environment with metrics alongside actions for us to play our part alongside all NHS trusts in working toward net zero targets and reducing the likelihood of the most devastating impact of climate change. We can see the impact of extreme weather events already taking place and taking steps to strengthen our adaptation plans, working across Dorset with a **Climate Change Risk Assessment** for health care, as we face increasing climate extremes, concurrent droughts, intense rainfall, storm events, with buildings not adapted to heat extremes, cold and flood events.

1.3 Our NHS Net Zero commitment:

- For the emissions we control directly (the NHS Core Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032.
- For the emissions we can influence (the Net Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039.

The Health and Care Act 2022, passed in July 2022, embedded carbon reduction targets for the NHS into UK law. This legislation requires that NHS Foundation Trusts have regard to the Environment Act 21 target areas, including air quality; water; biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste reduction.

The diagram below shows the elements that make up the NHS carbon emissions, carbon “footprint”. The **“NHS Core Carbon Footprint”** (shown by the green arrow) includes carbon emissions that are directly produced with building energy, water, waste processes, anaesthetics and inhalers and business travel. The **“NHS Footprint PLUS”** (shown by the blue arrow) includes the other emissions associated with products and services that the NHS purchases.

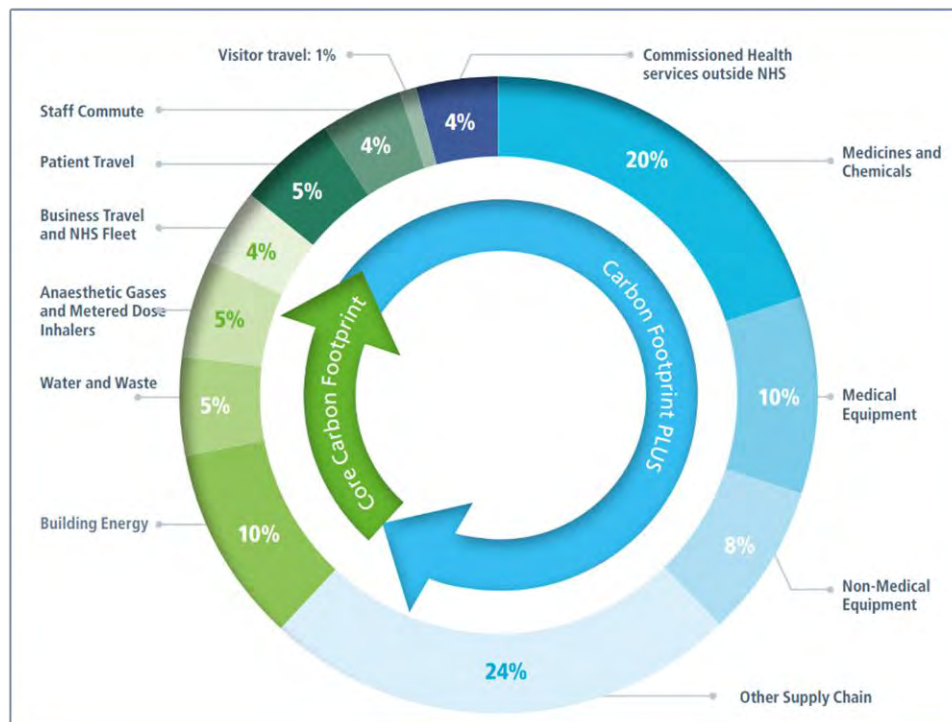


2. Aims, objectives, outputs and outcomes

2.1 Aim

In 2020 the NHS became the world's first health system to commit to achieving net zero and taking action to reduce the future impacts of climate change. The Trusts' Green Plan set out actions across both trusts over a three-year period. The refresh of the first Green Plans and the development of the first joint Green Plan must now **set the course to the first target of an 80% reduction of emissions it controls directly by 2030 and indirect emissions by 2036.**

Carbon emissions chart: NHS England 2023



2.2 Objectives

1. Committing to **reducing carbon**
2. Taking opportunities to **positively contribute to our local environment**
3. **Minimising our negative impact** on public health and the environment
4. Upholding our **social value pledge** and developing the joint social value programme
5. **Everyone a sustainability/green champion**, supported by **empowering** sustainability group members or green leads, green teams, staff and volunteers with toolkits, innovation support, administration, procurement and feedback.

2.3 Outputs

1. **Leadership vision**, through green plan focus leads and focus area specialists, at the top of the organisation on sustainability green teams
2. A **raft of steps and actions**, supported by strategic decisions to map a route over the next five years to the first NZC target of reducing 80% of emissions under our control directly by 2028-2032
3. Methods to **monitor and measure our progress**, including our carbon footprint for energy, waste, water, fleet and anaesthetics, as well as carbon footprint plus metrics covering staff commute, medicines and food and nutrition

2.4 Strategy in action

The Green Plan objectives 1-4 are drawn from the joint ***Working together, improving lives, (2024)*** where **Sustainability** is 1 of 4 pillars of the Federated trusts strategy and further aligned with NHS England Net Zero targets, including Delivering a Net Zero NHS Strategy, NHS Clinical Waste Strategy and Five years of greener NHS: progress reporting.



sustainability

What we want to achieve	How we will measure progress
Releasing time to care through improved processes, skill mix and digitally enhanced technology	• Productivity and effectiveness metrics • Digital plan metrics
Sustainable models of care that optimise use of the available resources	• Dorset per capita spend on health and care • Financial balance • Number of resilient services
Using our size, scale and reach to make a positive difference to the economic and social wellbeing of Dorset	• Progress against our social value pledge
We minimise our negative impact on public health and the environment	• Green plan metrics

3. Our Green Plan's progress since 2022

3.1 Our key achievements

- ✓ travel information and discount schemes on the staff intranet 'staffnet' and a Green Travel Plan for South Walks House, as well as a range of travel plans for Dorset HealthCare.
- ✓ Significant progress in replacing lighting to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) across both trusts, with 90% achieved in DCH, and DHC 95% through NHSE/GBE grants of £62,000 and £1m respectively.
- ✓ Dorset HealthCare was awarded £1m through an NHSE/GBE Grant in spring 2025 to install Solar PV arrays at 6 of its sites. The Trust already has Solar PV at 5 sites, and this will take the total to 11 sites.
- ✓ New builds striving towards the Net Zero Carbon Hospital Standard, with the two New Hospital Programme Sites at DHC meeting the NHS national standard and BREEAM requirements and DCH achieving BREEAM 'Very Good' for the South Walks House outpatient's facility refurbishment.
- ✓ Digital transformation across Dorset to reduce the need for paper records, printing and postage, with 20% of outpatient appointments delivered remotely.
- ✓ Sustainability and social value in tenders weighted at 10% of decision to buy goods and services.
- ✓ Removal of the nitrous oxide manifold and adjusting clinical practice to reduce the use of desflurane, a useful but high greenhouse-impact gas.
- ✓ Establishment of Sustainability Working groups and sustainability sub-groups such as Greener theatres, Greenspaces and the energy decarbonisation plan task and finish group.
- ✓ Sustainability included in job descriptions and staff having a sustainability focus as part of their specialist area, such as Infection Prevention Management.
- ✓ Achievement of the NHSE 60/20/20 clinical waste targets, reducing both cost and carbon emissions.
- ✓ Catering paper cup take back scheme, recycling station and a food waste baseline.
- ✓ Nature-based wellbeing page on staffnet and presentations to wellbeing coaches and lunchtime walks.

3.2 A good neighbour

Both trusts work with Dorset Council on sustainability, cycling and e-bikes, with e-bikes located outside South Walks House and Williams Avenue and around Weymouth. We are working on sustainability issues and opportunities with the Public Sector Decarbonisation and Ecology Group (PDSEG), organised by Dorset Council, Dorset national landscape and Public Health Dorset and take part in climate partnership meetings with Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council.

3.3 ecoearn Platform

Dorset NHS Partners have commissioned a staff engagement platform to help promote net zero carbon reduction activities and other sustainability and wellbeing behaviours. ecoearn has the facility to track the environmental difference made and can provide individual, team, Trust-wide and Dorset-wide impact data with all Dorset NHS staff able to join, act and potentially win moderate prizes.

3.4 Dorset NHS Liftshare

A matching journey application for all NHS staff across Dorset to help find people to share journeys, reduce costs and carbon emissions and enable access, for example when cars are in for an MOT, with a guaranteed ride home via taxi or public transport in the event of unexpected issues with the other car sharer.

3.5 Staffnet low carbon travel options

A range of information is now available on staffnet for staff discounted travel, public transport and active travel and we are getting a better picture of staff commuting through an annual staff travel survey. We would like to extend this to all sites and add detail to websites.

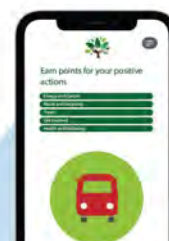
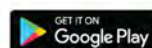
3.6 Delivery partners

Dorset County Hospital was one of the trusts selected to run an 'Active Hospitals Project' from October 2021 to April; 2023, with 15 projects and 50 members of staff trained in behaviour change and physical activity and identifying trends in occupation and activity levels.

We are working with Centre for Sustainable HealthCare and NHS Forest to host a Dorset Recovery Ranger from 2025 to 2027. Their role is to engage staff, patients and visitors with NHS greenspaces through nature-based activities to improve wellbeing and increase the amenity and biodiversity of our greenspaces. The role sits within the Sustainability team and working closely with Arts in Hospital team, the Greenspaces group and external partners such as Dorchester Men's Shed, Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB and Nature Buddies to deliver greenspace improvements and nature wellbeing activities. This role works on some creative therapies with the Arts in Hospital team.



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Trust with
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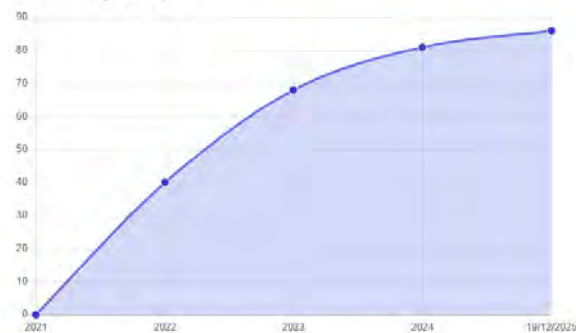


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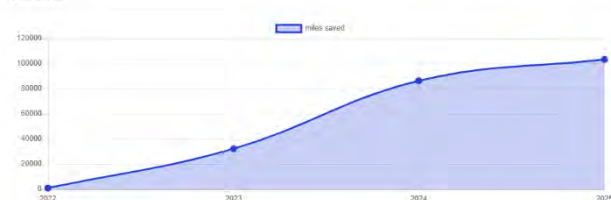
Dorset NHS Liftshare

ecoearn

Membership growth



Miles Saved



Historic savings

12 month forecast



Money savings

£11,694



CO2 reduction

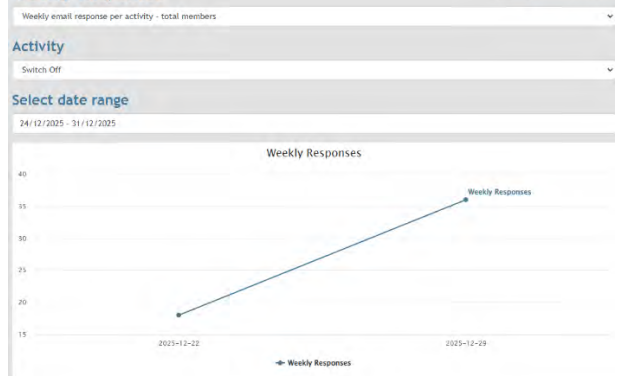
8.00 tonnes



Miles saved

40,063 miles

Weekly Responses



tCO2e avoided last financial year
14,461 tonnes (Dorset County Hospital)

- 94 members added
- 80 added a journey available to share
- 21 members confirmed as sharing
- 27 staff induction coffee breaks
- 250 engagements with ecoearn or Dorset NHS Liftshare

- 17 new members added in 24/25 from DHC and DCH
- 20% hike in the membership growth in FY 24/25
- Main events: Mindful tech challenge, Festive food waste, Junk and Sustainable Festive season combined with Staff Bulletin and Staffnet pages. Previous joint initiatives – Bike week and Big Garden Birdwatch
- The Dorset trusts have worked on a more NHS specific, repeatable version, reducing costs to each trust, with an estimated 74.5 tCO2e avoided in 24/25 through staff eco actions.



4. Focus areas

These are the different areas of focus we used to define our Green Plans in 2022. For the joint refresh in 2025 we have looked at these again with a renewed emphasis on suggested areas of focus for the greatest impact on emissions we directly control. These are taken from NHS England Green Plan guidance, which refers to the *Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service strategy* published in October 2020.

This strategy outlines the NHS's commitment to reaching net zero emissions and includes the requirement for NHS trusts and integrated care boards to develop Green Plans.

The guidance was updated in July 2026 to reflect the NHS's progress and the evolving needs of the healthcare system.

The focus areas have remained broadly consistent since 2022 and reflect where the most significant impact can be made in reducing our overall impact on the environment and improving sustainability. The guidance in each area shows that we often already know what can be done, have the ability in some areas to make changes and that the path is well defined. The areas focus on how we can make our activities, services, support services, clinical activity and operation of our services greener, more sustainable while enabling the provision of good healthcare within a well stewarded environment.

These focus areas go beyond achieving Net Zero Carbon, working to develop thriving communities, reduce health inequalities, protect land and water, address poverty in a twin approach of sustainability and social value programmes in relation to working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals and as anchor institutions, influencing our community through significant levels of employment, training, use of local facilities, procurement, housing and transport to reduce health inequalities and positively contribute to the local environment.



4.1 Workforce and system leadership

Net Zero Carbon is a priority and accordingly, it is led at Board level by our Chief Financial Officer. We have a Sustainability Group whose members represent departments across the Trusts and support the coordination of Sustainability Work. The Work groups report to the Finance and Performance Committee in Common. This group has responsibility for Net Zero Carbon and is chaired and vice chaired by Non-Executive Directors, with these two roles providing representation from both trusts. The Joint Director of Estates and Facilities manages the team to ensure this Joint Green Plan is delivered, supported by Sustainability leads, a Sustainability Officer and Waste Officer. The Director of Nursing Chairs the cross-departmental Greenspaces Group, leading on actions to improve access to, and the condition and biodiversity of the grounds and courtyards.

Progress: Green Plan Focus Area Leads have been established since the last Green Plan and feed into the Sustainability Work Group. These include the Greener Theatres Group, Green travel and representation from clinical areas, food & nutrition, Estates & Facilities, Digital transformation, waste procurement and pharmacy.

Sustainability Champions set up initiatives. Engagement at staff induction coffee mornings has increased ecoearn membership. A bi-monthly e-newsletter goes out to all staff signed up as Sustainability Champions, and regular articles are published in the Staff Bulletin.

A key focus area has been training on Biodiversity Net Gain for the Trust's Sustainability, Strategic Projects and Estates & Facilities staff. The Waste officer has completed NHS Waste Manager training, and the Sustainability Manager and Sustainability Officer have completed NHS and Energy Institute Energy Management training.

The Director of Nursing participated in a Clinical Masterclass in sustainability. The team are building leadership in clinical sustainability, with suggested focus areas and is capturing actions in clinical delivery that are underway or in the pipeline, along with developing mutually supportive transformation.

Dorset County Hospital and Dorset HealthCare Sustainability Team, 2026



Workforce and system leadership actions

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound
Sustainability team, Champions and Sustainability Working Group Members who lead the plan focus areas of Estates, Facilities and Procurement to complete Carbon Literacy training.	Number who complete training. Sustainable Champions initiatives such as toolkit, e-news, teams drop ins	Dependent on manager support to take time to complete and making the case.	Informed decisions not led by external supplier statements.	NHS England has funded places for all NHS staff up to October 2026
Facilitate further the sub-groups on each of the GP focus areas, currently includes Greener theatres, Green Travel and Energy and develop clinical green leads and green teams.	Sub-groups in common in 8 focus areas plus measure, monitor and engage	Build on the trust's prior work and clarify focus	To the Green Plan focus areas	Sustainable Champions joint initiatives such as Champions toolkit, e-news and teams drop-ins
Sustainable Champions joint initiatives such as Champions toolkit, e-news and teams drop-ins, with some becoming green teams	Champions toolkit; bimonthly news	With current resources and effective joint working	To deliver objectives	Sustainable Champions joint initiatives such as Champions toolkit, e-news and teams drop-ins
Board Level Oversight of NZC and Climate Related risks following CCRA.	Board Level oversight of NZC and Climate Related risks	With current resources and effective joint working	To deliver Net Zero objectives	In place October 2026 and ongoing



Estates and facilities at the heart of patient care

4.2 Net zero clinical transformation

Embedding net zero principles across all clinical services is critical. Green plan guidance outlines five areas of focus: critical and perioperative care; mental health; urgent and emergency care; diagnostic tests and procedures and medical pathways, with a focus on acute or long-term conditions such as renal disease, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dorset County Hospital provides renal services across Dorset and South Somerset as well as a range of services for cardiovascular disease and diabetes, while Dorset HealthCare provides mental healthcare services for Dorset.

To 'Embed sustainability into clinical pathway design' engagement with Quality Improvement (QI) and transformation frameworks, together with an annual sustainability campaign is essential. This would enable QI to partner with the Joint Transformation and Improvement Team. There is also an opportunity to be part of our [Improving Together Programme](#) 'Capability Building' workstream working group to ensure sustainability and the triple bottom line are threaded through the guidance, support and training that form an integral part of the Improving Together Framework.

Progress: We set out to achieve three clinically equivalent lower-carbon emission interventions by March 2025 and exceeded this target with a wood cast trial in Hand Therapy at Dorset County Hospital, use of 'Cool sticks' or ice in Maternity instead of Ethyl Chloride spray and the rollout of reusable tourniquets. Infection Prevention and Management have led on Gloves Off initiatives, pee in a pot cardboard alternative and the Antimicrobial Mitigation plan, with IPC and IV-to-Oral switching encouraged to enable patients to go home sooner and facilitate the early removal of devices, sterilising facilities in SCBU are reducing waste. Pharmacy is working on ways to reduce waste and plastic. We have developed a Greener Theatres Group working towards the [Intercollegiate Greener Theatres Checklist](#).



Net zero clinical transformation actions

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Support the Greener Theatres Group clinicians to develop further 3 clinically equivalent lower carbon interventions and report to Sustainability group.	Achieve the refreshed Greener Theatres Intercollegiate Checklist V2.0	QI across a range of procurement, pathways or practice, supported by cross-department working and the Sustainability team	Reduction of waste, energy or travel	1-2 projects each financial year
Develop Clinical 'Green Teams'	Sustainable projects, pilots and innovation.	Developing ideas for funding application process and Quality Improvement. Share opportunities and support apprenticeships, fellowships and innovation.	Reduction of waste, energy or travel, for same or better outcomes.	1-2 proposals supported each financial year
Trial further single-use plastic reduction projects in clinical and related non-clinical (support services) environments	2 schemes across both trusts, likely to be medically suitable Durable plastic service wear in wards, Uniform recycling or tailored Theatre packs	Groundwork in place	Reduction of plastic pollution that can impact on the environment and public health	March 2028

4.3 Digital transformation

Digital technology allows us to deliver some care remotely. We currently use video consultation software to conduct virtual consultations and will support our healthcare professionals to sustain and grow this approach. We already use digital systems to reduce the use of paper records, printing and postage. We will continue to harness existing digital technology and systems to streamline our service delivery and supporting functions, while supporting the work of the [NHS Greener by Design](#) Green Digital programme launching in 2026/7.

Progress: [The previous Green Plans referred to the Home First service](#), which enables patients to recover at home or in a more local setting (e.g. care home or community hospital), reducing hospital stays and the [Acute Hospitals at Home](#) service, which enables patients who are medically stable and can safely receive the required treatment and rehabilitation in the comfort of their own home. Dorset County Hospital consistently delivers over 20% of outpatient activity week on week remotely. The South Walks House outpatient facility enables smart use of digital technologies including virtual conferencing with patients, colleagues and other experts in their field. We reviewed paper use and replacement of leased printers across the trust to achieve greater efficiency and support the procurement of 100% recycled paper, apart from the limited use of colour for accessibility and card for specific projects.

Dorset HealthCare are changing the way they communicate with patients by using texts and emails. They are maximising the opportunity for supplier takeback schemes and improving the monitoring and return rates of trust-owned digital equipment.

DCHFT is implementing the DrDoctor patient engagement platform to automate digital appointment confirmations and reminders via SMS and email, as well as integrating with the NHS App giving patients secure online access to appointment details and the ability to cancel or request rescheduling digitally. This supports improved patient experience, reduces Did Not Attend (DNA) rates, lowers administrative burden and makes progress toward a digital-first operating model. The first service went live in March 2026. Full implementation of this functionality will be completed in quarter 2 of 2026/27 with clinics onboarded by speciality. Further sustainability benefits are planned to start later in 2026 and early 2027, including the digital delivery of clinic outcome letters via DrDoctor, significantly reducing printing and postage.



Objectives

Digital technology underpins many aspects of sustainability, net zero clinical transformation, workforce, estates building energy and sustainable buildings.

1. Develop appropriate opportunities for remote patient care through technologies relevant to specific clinical pathways or services
2. Monitor and where possible incorporate developments of the unfolding Greener by Design programme
3. Sustainability and Social Value within digital strategy, including delivery plans, procurement and the sustainable delivery of healthcare
4. Align with developments of Health hubs and ways of addressing health inequalities, including digital access



Digital transformation actions

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Implement digital pre-assessment tools	Collect data on use	In progress	Avoid need for travel	Currently in development
Communicate good IT housekeeping, including channels for version control and ditch the IT junk clean ups build on ecoearn 'Mindful Tech Challenge'	Communications on top tips and reduce users near to storage limits	Management support needed, determine detail with digital services and communications	To the Green Plan focus areas	Develop by March 2026 and ongoing
Achieve or maintain at least 25% of Outpatient care being delivered remotely	Metric is collected by patient access teams	Consistently at 20-23%	Reduce need to travel	Measurable weekly data
Use improved data and analysis to optimise sustainability and adaptation reporting. Data and analysis can include NHS tools such as Greener NHS, ERIC and CCRA; in-house excel dashboards and BI data. Updating/developing local carbon footprint dashboards.	Trial climate change risk software; use of Power BI software in-house and sustainability dashboards.	In progress by existing staff resources to seek continuous improvements, Green Plan metrics of actions, feedback and reporting	Progress and feedback towards the targets to staff, leadership and public.	Ongoing including presentation in Annual Report
An effective and robust Electronic Health Record to enhance patient care and reduce waste, cost, travel by patients or staff and reduce carbon that integrates with NHS app and allows secure mobility of records across practices and co-ordinated delivery of care.	Business case statements of benefits	Signed up to the EHR transformation programme	Greener by design, can reduce paper waste, patient travel, energy, operational cost	Deliver benefits in 2028/29

Develop innovative ways to deliver care closer to home with development of Neighbourhood Health Hubs in the most deprived areas with greatest health inequalities while continue to focus on Dorset-wide service provision such as Mental Health, DHC, and renal care, DCH.	Percentage of outpatient activity delivered remotely or in neighbourhood hubs.	Developing joint opportunities in practice and Director and Board level led	Identify barriers to accessing services	March 2028
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Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
The inclusion of accessible sustainability information via a Sustainability Dashboard will be developed. This will enable staff empowerment through both visibility and access to use simple carbon measurement at an organisational and service level as well as in use within individual change projects – which links with the Clinical Transformation and Sustainable Models of Care sections.	Usage analytics and service-level access monitoring.	Supported by communications and guidance.	Supports staff empowerment through visibility of information.	Early 2027
NHS Dorset, Dorset County Hospital, University Hospitals Dorset and Dorset HealthCare are working together to see how a common electronic health record (EHR) system might be introduced across the three provider trusts and primary care networks in Dorset. This is a major step towards realising our vision of joining up our healthcare records, providing a clear picture of each person's health. It will help us improve care and avoid the need for patients and service users to retell their story as they move around our health systems.	Enables system-wide agreement and investment decision on a common EHR system. Inputs completed by September 2026. A shared system-wide vision and high-level functional requirements for a common EHR are agreed and signed off. Reduces duplication and the need for patients and service users to retell their story.	Developed collaboratively through stakeholder and clinical engagement across organisations. Ensures the Aligned with national interoperability standards and existing digital strategies. Vision and requirements agreed. The OBC clearly specifies that the EHR will support a single, joined-up patient record accessible across organisational boundaries.	EHR supports joined-up care, interoperability and improved patient and staff experience.	DHC and DCH are looking to have an EHR system in place in 2026/27, and each organisation has begun to gather information to feed into a collective outline business case (OBC).

DCHFT is implementing the DrDoctor patient engagement platform to automate digital appointment confirmations and reminders via SMS and email, as well as integrating with the NHS App, giving patients secure online access to appointment details and the ability to cancel or request rescheduling digitally.

Reduced Did Not Attend (DNA) rates significantly reducing printing and postage.

Lower administrative burden, and progress toward a digital-first operating model. The first service went live in March 2026,

This supports improved patient experience. From 2026/7, the digital delivery of clinic outcome letters via DrDoctor.

Implementation of this functionality will complete in Q2 2026/27, with clinics onboarded by specialty. Further sustainability benefits are planned to start later in 2026 and early 2027.



Staff and Volunteer Gardens group plant NHS Forest Hedgerow

4.4 Medicines

The prescribing and use of medicines make up 25% of the NHS's overall carbon footprint. Anaesthetic gases and metered-dose inhalers account for 21% of the emissions the NHS directly controls, so we focused our actions in the first green plans on these areas. As part of the Dorset Medicines Quality Safety Strategy (Section 9), we are working to meet the various requirements to improve inhaler use and adherence. Use of solid dosage forms – promoting more sustainable prescribing practices by identifying opportunities to switch from liquid to solid dosage forms.

Progress: We have worked with the ICB to develop the clinically appropriate prescribing of lower-carbon inhalers. Through the expertise of Consultant Anaesthetists, we have reduced the use of a gas desflurane (a volatile anaesthetic gas) to less than 10% of previous use. While historically helpful, it has a significant impact on the atmosphere. Clinicians and Estates have worked together to turn off the Nitrous manifold. As these gases can remain in the atmosphere for up to 100 years, smaller cylinders are now placed in areas of greatest need and used in the community by Midwives. The use of Ethyl Chloride spray in Maternity was also reduced, but limited ice making facilities for alternative cool sticks present a challenge. Anti-Microbial Plan, supported by Infection Prevention and ward staff through the initiative promotes 'making the switch' to oral medicines, shortening the time to discharge and reducing infection risk. Pharmacy have reduced clear plastic bags for cold-chain transfer of medicines.



Medicines actions

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Develop an inhaler recycling project	• Engagement • Recycle points in place • Number of recycled inhalers	Potential for engagement with Children's centre, primary care and respiratory services	Responsible disposal and supports effective use.	March 2028
Investigate ways to support Ethyl Chloride spray with reusable, low impact cold sticks for sensory testing in maternity units	Reduce in line with targets by 90% tracked through stock and use audit or procurement.	Cold sticks are readily available, cost effective and staff can be trained in their use within existing clinical governance processes. The ward layout and access to ice or fridges explore fridge free alternatives (gel packs/ insulated cold sticks in central fridge).	Supports NHS Net Zero goals by replacing ethyl chloride with reusable, low-impact alternatives in maternity care, improving environmental sustainability while maintaining safe, effective sensory testing for mothers.	2026/7
Good Nitrous cylinder use and management including testing	Use and test results	Discussions in place and testing	Management of a gas with higher equivalent to Carbon Dioxide and atmospheric persistence, to cut waste and emissions while ensuring patient care and safety	March 2026
Investigate a prescription-related project	Develop a team to consider • a pill project in one or both trusts • Your medicines matter	• Assist people and young people to consider trying tablets over liquid medicines • Encourage patients to bring their own medications to hospital • Staff order minimum needed to go home.	Less volume, less carbon - same efficacy. Whilst still focussing on maximising compliance, reducing readmission and providing patient choice. Avoids duplication and medication waste	2026/7

Potential for green social prescribing explored with Dorset Recovery Ranger	Monitor, Evaluate and Learn and wellbeing feedback	Ranger in place for 18 months	Demonstrate benefit and potentially fewer prescriptions and increased staff wellbeing	June 2025-2027
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4.5 Travel and transport

“Air pollution alone contributes to 1 in 20 deaths in the UK. Reducing emissions would support the reduction of cases of Asthma, Cancer, and heart disease.”

Dr Nick Watts – Chief Sustainability Officer NHS, 31 October 2021.

We serve a predominantly rural area with lower public transport options than larger urban areas and shift patterns can discourage active travel in winter, so emissions from staff, patients and visitor travel are likely to be significant. We have already acted on the emissions we directly control through our fleet by buying exclusively ULEV vehicles, moving supplies deliveries predominantly off site from DCH, and making changes to fleet, and the ambulance fleet. To promote alternatives for staff and volunteers, there are some areas of cycle parking, lockers and showers, these are due for a refresh to encourage active travel. We only offer car parking discount permits to those who live more than two miles away. Within a Joint Green Travel Plan and work with Public Sector Decarbonisation and Ecology Group we can explore how to further reduce air pollution from vehicle emissions with reviewing the [ICS Action for Clean Air framework](#).

Progress: We have published **low-carbon and active travel** options on the Staffnet Sustainability pages and worked with Dorset Council on highway improvements and Beryl bike suggestions. We have a Bicycle Users Group channel on Teams. Existing cycle parking will be renewed and expanded in time for the new Emergency Department & Critical Care Unit building to become operational. We conduct an annual **Staff Travel Survey** for DCH and will extend this to both trusts to gain a fuller picture of staff commuting (scope 3 emissions).



Travel and Transport Actions

	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Develop a joint Green Travel plan to support active travel and public transport of staff, outpatients and visitors	Plan, annual survey and review of travel with SMART actions, reduce single occupancy journeys	In-progress	Avoid need for travel, increase single occupancy travel, fewer cars on site and local roads	December 2026
Renew and expand cycle parking	Defined in New Hospital Project plan	Within project programme	Increase active travel	April 2027
Engage with Dorset Council and Bournemouth and Poole Council on cycle, bus groups and walking routes serving and routes within sites	Meetings and potential projects	Begun, expand, joint working	Increase active travel	December 2026
Liftshare scheme supported and communicated	Inductions, website	Ongoing	Fewer cars on site and roads	Ongoing
Site specific active travel and low carbon travel available to job applicants and outpatients	Webpages and emails	Coordinate and engagement within existing resources	Reduce single occupancy at key decision point	December 2026
Review car parking usage and revenue options	Business case	Within existing resources	Revenue, fewer cars on site	April 2026



4.6 Estates and facilities

Emissions resulting from its buildings, water and waste account for a massive 63% of the emissions the NHS directly controls. Energy efficiency is a priority for our estates and facilities management.

NHS Estates Net Zero Carbon Delivery Plan Technical Annex

Figure 4: 4-step process for minimising NHS building energy and water use. Includes indicative numbers to illustrate the scale of the challenge of decarbonising the NHS estate by 2040. These are not actuals.



Energy efficiency hierarchy

Align with hierarchy

1. save
2. supply efficiently
3. reduce emissions



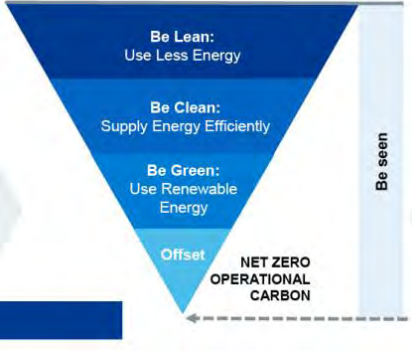
Travel and Transport Actions

Hierarchy	Actions
1. Save	Net zero principles to be embedded in all projects for both trusts. While this increases efficiency and reduces whole-life costs, it does require funding to cover the additional investment costs
	DCH has developed a Heat & energy Decarbonisation plan with details of potential interventions focused on improved air conditioning and cooling, building fabric, space heating, insulation, ventilation and hot water, funding is yet to be achieved with some previous public sector grant opportunities no longer available, while others arise via Greener NHS
2. Supply efficiently	DCHFT undertook LED replacements with Centrica CHP project, and subsequent success with 2 NEEF applications for around HS National Energy Efficiency Fund (NEEF) as part of work to install LED lights across the hospital. The Trust has received £157,000 from funding over the last couple of years which has allowed us to install nearly 650 LED light fittings at our main site.
	Dorset HealthCare was successful with NEEF funding for an extensive £1m LED lighting replacement scheme.
3. Reduce emissions	The use of renewable energy is developing, with the Solar PV on the DCH Portesham discharge lounge modular building, and as part of the New Hospital Project investment of an array on the energy centre roofs.
	Dorset HealthCare was awarded £1m by NHSE/GBE Grant in spring 2025 to install Solar PV arrays at 6 of its sites. The Trust already has Solar PV at 5 sites and this will take the total to 11 sites.
Innovation & partnerships	Enquiries on local biogas and hydrogen was initially undertaken but these technologies and supplies are developing capacity in Dorset with older CHPs adaptability requires technical and supply investigation and certifying local biogas supply in the network is difficult to quantify
	A Heat Network Development Unit (HNDU) grant equipped DCHFT to investigate ground source and geothermal technical, environmental and financial feasibility and a subsequent joint application to HNDU by Dorset Council using this initial work, was unsuccessful, but there may be future opportunities.

Estates 'Net Zero' Carbon Delivery Plan

Technical Annex



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Energy	Measure and monitor			
Decarbonisation Plan & Energy Strategy developed – keep this live with energy data and dive deeper into actions to meet decarbonisation plans Fig 1: NHS Building Standard; operational energy 	Reduce demand through behaviour	Catering behaviour change project	Reduce carbon intensity and carbon emissions from our estate (energy, water, waste): energy Increase energy security Reduce peak demand on local electricity infrastructure	March 2027 DCH
		Hot spots and lights on surveys		Autumn/Winter 2025/6 DCH
		Sustainability Champions toolkit		Winter 2025/6 (Joint trusts)
	Reports of Greener theatres team, consider as part of submetering plan	Theatre ventilation downtime IPC and Theatres, Estates teams working together.		Ongoing
	Develop a submetering plan	Building by building at DCH and site by Site DHC decarbonisation planning		March 2026
	Submetering scheme			October 2026
	Increase efficient lighting			December 2025 December 2026
	LED deliver grant fundings schemes Apply for remaining areas	Increased energy-efficient lighting		
	Renewable Generation - Solar PV			
	Grant preparation Increase renewable energy (kWh)	NHP team DCH solar scheme DHC solar scheme investigations		By completion of

Solar PV on Energy Centre
Expression of Interest details
for:-
Solar PV on one of Damers
accommodation Children's
centre
DHC across estate

Supplier appointed and review of
works ready to begin
Outline information in decarbonisation
plan, to action with Sustainability team
Solar PV scheme on energy centre as
part of New Hospital Project.
Develop scope and planning
permission if needed for a further 2
schemes and apply for funds or
purchase options.

Solar PV would
increase energy
security and
generate electricity
directly to buildings
on site

NHP Project
By October 2026
for potential
decarbonisation
funding across
Trust sites



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound
Waste	Measure and monitor			
More staff follow the waste hierarchy and best practice Fig 1: Waste Hierarchy and NHS 2030 Targets: HTM07-01 	Baseline measurement of food waste Reduce food waste from this baseline	Underway in DCH extend to wards and to DHC sites	Reduce carbon intensity and carbon emissions from our estate (energy, water, waste): Waste Protect land and water Sustainability Champions toolkit	March 2027 DCH
		Digital food ordering service		2026 DCH
		Late plates for staff		2026 DHC
	Clinical Waste targets (60:20:20) potential to reduce cost (and increase waste disposed in correct stream with lowest carbon emissions	Develop an education tool for waste streams and hierarchy		Ongoing
	Recycling increase vs general waste by volume	Sustainability Champions toolkit, recycling station information	Reduce carbon intensity and carbon emissions from our estate (energy, water, waste): Food and Nutrition Food and Nutrition, reduce waste and cost, improve patient experience Reduce waste while maintaining care Net Zero Clinical Transformation	March 2026
				March 2027
	Increase cup recycling and reduce recycling contamination – feedback from Cupround	Cupround take back scheme Reusable cup discount		March 2026
	Manage/ Projects			March 2026
	Reduce single-use plastic Procurement of reusable tourniquets Business case for fabric, washable theatre caps Business case for theatre packs Recycle uniform	Ward hosts and durable service wear – business case		October 2026
		Widespread use of reusable tourniquets – roll out IPC		

		Greener theatres explore Facilities explore		October 2026
	Circular economy			
	Build on 75% equipment and furniture rehomed	Joint rehoming, a repair pilot	Opportunities for circular economy principles into the full life-cycle of the procurement 'Applying net zero and social value in the procurement of NHS goods and services' on the GreenerNHS website.	March 2027
	Life cycle considerations NHS Supply Chain webpage (https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/sustainability/waste-and-the-circular-economy/) NHS staff via the NHS Central Commercial Function Hub on the Future NHS website	Life cycle considerations with procurement and projects Uniform recycling explored		March 2027

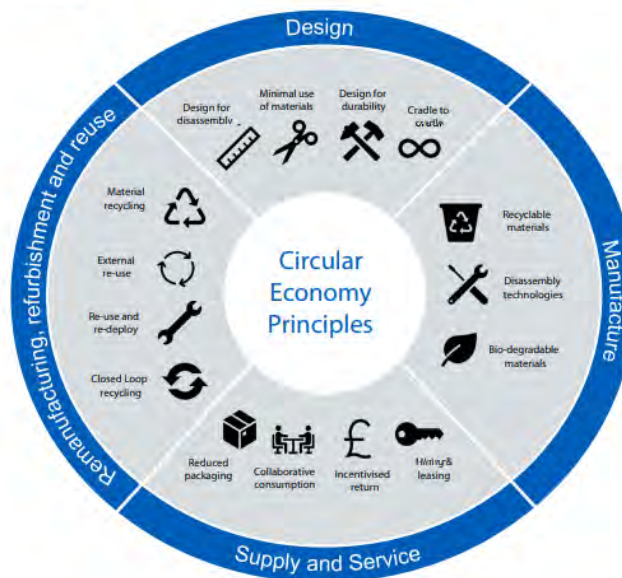


4.7 Supply chain and procurement

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust collectively spend over £277 million annually on goods and services. This scale of procurement provides a significant opportunity to reduce environmental impact and influence suppliers to adopt more sustainable practices. With 66% of the NHS carbon footprint arising from purchased medicines, equipment and services, action in this area is essential. The trusts are working with the [NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap](#).

This will be linked with Digital Transformation to enable guidance and education for staff, enabling them to be informed of the carbon footprint, alongside the costs of materials and equipment, both within procurement and during use (e.g. printers and photocopiers). This will also support the adoption of sustainable, circular-economy-led choices in the ordering, use, reuse and disposal of physical resources.

Circular economy



Objectives

1. Improve efficiencies through continuous improvement on wider decision making, reducing duplication and better use of resources.
2. Net Zero: Meet NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap requirements and achieve net zero across the supply chain.
3. Social Value: Ensure procurement strengthens local economies and supports wider determinants of health.
4. Modern Slavery: Eliminate modern slavery risks across the NHS supply chain, domestically and internationally.
5. Optimising Sustainability: Ensure sustainability requirements are applied in a way that maximises benefits and remains strategically aligned.

Progress: In 2024 we updated our Sustainable Procurement Policy, setting out what we meant by sustainable procurement and increased from 5% to a minimum 10% weighting towards sustainability and social value in tender award criteria to maximise local investment and increase local employment and reduce associated carbon emissions, minimising our impact on public health and the environment. We have adopted the Government's 'Taking Account of Carbon Reduction Plans' (PPN 06/21)

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Clarify examples of sustainability and social value in our tender process	Clear guidance	The policy is in place and this is an adjustment	Ensure local and other suppliers can understand what the requirement is and focus social value and environment to our core objectives and focus supporting service delivery and reducing health inequalities	Quarterly and annually
Rehoming scheme is first call for furniture items and developed across both trusts, circular economy is considered more widely	* Investigate and enact further return and reuse programs for suitable equipment.		Reduce costs, waste to landfill and carbon, maximise life of available resources, develop repair capacity. This relates to the object that we make best use of resources'	2027
Procurement managers consider Carbon Literacy training for staff which helps embed carbon impact information into procurement processes, alongside costs, and promote circular economy approaches	3 members of staff complete training Assess all new products for environmental impact and re-use potential	Leadership commitment	Awareness specific to role around Life Cycle Analysis, Carbon reduction and circular economy, trusts joint strategy objective 'our services are sustainable environmentally and financially'	Funded until October 2026
Develop more sustainable supply chain and decisions on procurement in relation to NZC and environment	Engage with Dorset HealthCare's suppliers to complete the Evergreen Assessment and increase their maturity level Embed Net Zero Supplier Roadmap including adopting new methods for reporting on supply chain carbon emissions and environmental progress.	In progress and requirement	NZ Supplier Roadmap https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2024/04/NHS-Net-Zero-Supplier-Roadmap-2024.pdf https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-commercial/sustainability/evergreen/	Ongoing

4.8 Food and nutrition

It is estimated that food and catering services in the NHS account for approximately 6% of the NHS' Carbon Footprint Plus. A healthy balanced diet, with reduced ultra processed foods that are high in sugar, salt and fats is also a low-carbon diet. Healthier, locally sourced food can improve wellbeing while cutting emissions related to agriculture, transport, storage and waste across the supply chain and on NHS estates. This can support local suppliers as part of the Social Value. Plant based options can provide nutrition with reduced carbon impact, and these options are regularly provided across both trusts. Many staff are in shared housing or hospital accommodation with reduced opportunity to grow vegetables.

Clinical practice, in particular with Dieticians and Occupational Therapists, work is taking place with ward staff/inpatients and community patients to empower them to make informed sustainable, healthy choices in meal planning, preparation and consumption.

Progress: A baseline of food waste is collected at Dorset County Hospital. We have instigated a restaurant recycling station and are researching initiatives to reduce food waste, this includes an electronic ordering scheme, ward housekeeper trial, access to 'late plates' for staff who would benefit and working with a local food fridge. We are also reinvigorating Soil Association standards at DCH, with the aspiration to achieve the same at Dorset HealthCare.

Recently, as part of collaborative federated working between Dorset County Hospital (DCH) and Dorset HealthCare (DHC), a joint Food and Hydration Strategy Group was established. This group brings together key stakeholders from across both organisations to develop a unified and forward-looking approach to catering services. The strategy has been shaped through collective input and is supported by dedicated workstreams, each aligned to specific measurable objectives that ensure clear progress and accountability. There are 3 aims we are progressing toward prioritising time related actions.

DHC catering team member



Joint Food and Hydration Strategy Aims

Aims	Specific	Measurable & Time-related	Relevant
1. Personalised patient nutrition and hydration	focuses on ensuring that every patient's food and drink needs are met through a personalised, safe, and clinically appropriate approach, structured around SMART principles.	Objectives such as completing nutritional screening within 24 hours of admission, introducing standardised menus by set deadlines, and implementing fluid monitoring systems provide clear, measurable and time-specific targets.	The approach ensures that nutritional care is tailored to individual clinical, cultural, and dietary needs, including texture-modified diets, while also promoting improved hydration, supported mealtimes, and consistent mouthcare. Collectively, these objectives are realistic and directly aligned to improving patient outcomes, ensuring progress can be tracked and evaluated effectively.
2. Accessible healthy choices for staff and visitors	centres on making healthy food and drink options readily available and appealing to staff and visitors at all times.	promoting healthier options across all venues, measurable through availability and uptake, and achievable through practical interventions such as improved vending, 24-hour access, and clearer food labelling. Time-bound elements, such as ongoing improvements to shift worker access and menu variety, ensure continuous progress	highly relevant to staff wellbeing, encouraging hydration, regular breaks, and engagement with health initiatives, while making healthy choices convenient, visible, and sustainable in the long term.
3. Sustainable Food and Catering Practices	These objectives are achievable through improved data collection, benchmarking, and operational changes, while remaining directly relevant to environmental and financial sustainability goals.	By embedding SMART principles, the strategy ensures that progress in reducing waste and improving procurement practices can be clearly monitored, evaluated, and continuously improved.	highlights the importance of sustainability in food procurement and catering services.

Actions identified to date

Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Work through Soil Association 'Food for Life Served Here' application	Undertake actions specified in the standard.	The application process is funded and about to be progressed from Spring 2026.	Ensure local and other suppliers can understand what the requirement is and focus social value and environment to our core objectives and reducing health inequalities and supporting the Social Value Action Plan	Quarterly and Annually
National Standards for Healthcare Food and Drink	Framework of standards for NHS trusts all 8 areas...	All achieved in DCH and DHC	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-nhs-hospital-food & https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-standards-for-healthcare-food-and-drink/#4-improving-sustainable-procurement-and-reducing-food-waste	2027
Electronic Food Ordering Scheme	A ward level trial	Enabling works are challenging but in progress.	The trusts joint strategy objective 'our services are sustainable environmentally and financially' and patient experience	October 2026
Durable servicewear	Business case for 7 service item types, an overall Life Cycle Analysis	Research into types, clinical needs, completed	Reusable is generally lower carbon option and is likely to enhance patient experience versus a paper cup and consideration to fine motor control and other needs. Waste and carbon reduction	Summer 2026
Ward hosts trial	A trial is evaluated	Research and options undertaken	Potential to reduce food waste and enhance patient experience	2026
Community partnership explored	1 community food scheme link developed into a funding application	Flash freezers at DCH and local community fridge an option	Addressing health inequalities and potential to significantly reducing food wastage with links to Electronic Food Ordering scheme to support labelling	2027
Behaviour change and submetering project with 'measure it and manage it.'	Measure catering electricity use and investigate potential for 1. More efficient equipment 2. Efficient cooking design 3. Training and	resources through NHS England Decarbonisation Funding scheme to submeter the main DCH site by June 2026	Data from the catering electricity use informs reduction in cost and carbon.	June 2026 baseline begins

	engagement Feedback any reduction			
Encourage 'grow your own' knowledge with planted examples and interpretation. Inside kitchen planters explored.	Herb planters and information on grow your own including window-sill plants.	Relative fundraised and hospital charity grant planting around Damers and interpretation board & signs funding in place with Recovery Ranger	Many staff are in hospital staff accommodation or shared housing with limited access to gardening. Food origin information can help people make healthier more sustainable choices and increase awareness of smallholders and local family farmers.	Summer 2026



4.9 Adaptation and resilience

Here in Dorset, we are already experiencing the effect of climate change on our weather, this includes; more heavy rainfall events and prolonged heat waves. There is also the risk of snowstorms. These severe weather events are likely to increase in number as global temperatures continue to rise. Our Business Continuity Plans prepare for and mitigate disruptions; including increased patient numbers, difficulties in staff getting to work, disruption to supplies.

In addition to this, we recognise the value our immediate green spaces hold, both in terms of mitigating some of the impacts of severe weather (e.g. flash flooding and overheating), and the wellbeing benefits they can bring as potential 'cool spots.' We have a Garden Club comprising a team of volunteers who help look after our grounds in different ways to promote biodiversity. We want to take a strategic look at our green spaces to identify where more action could be taken and identify partnerships that can help us deliver this.

Progress

- DCH and DHC are part of the Dorset-wide 'Public Sector Decarbonisation and Ecology Group' led by Dorset Council with members from Police, Fire, Bournemouth University, Dorset Trusts working together to share good practice in sustainability and Climate Change Risk Assessments.
- DCH Business Continuity Plans include ways to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events. Severe weather is included in Corporate Risk Register.
- Both trusts have Garden groups, and DCH has a greenspaces group led by the Director of Nursing, members include Arts in Hospital, Patient Experience & Volunteering, Capital Projects and Sustainability, this has led to Greener Communities Funding for a Sensory Garden and winning 'Dobbies in the Community'
- Nature and Wellbeing pages and resources on staffnet, develop 'HealthybyNature' and Arts in Hospital nature-inspired activities with Mary Anning patients.
- DHC work with League of Friends to support a number of highly successful gardening groups including Westminster Memorial Hospital and Shaftesbury hospital. Westhaven Hospital have a therapeutic garden and at St Annes Hospital patients can undertake gardening activities.
- DCH Sustainability Team, Strategic projects and all DHC Capital Planning Staff have undertaken Biodiversity Net Gain training to better understand the requirements of the 2024 planning legislation for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across sites and future developments



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
We will work across the Dorset Trusts to develop a Climate Change Risk Assessment, for impacts such as flooding, heatwaves and snowstorms on our infrastructure, patients, staff, visitors and volunteers, and service delivery	Climate Change Risk Assessment for all Dorset Trusts, and engagement with Heads of Risk, the Risk Register and Senior Leadership. Complete the NHS Climate Change Risk Assessment tool	Finance agreed and scope and consultant appointment in progress. Resources for any actions are not yet identified	Climate change threatens the ability of NHS to deliver its essential services in the near and long term. Resilience and adaptation need to be built in to avoid related disruptions. A climate change adaptation framework for NHS organisations in England May 2025	December 2026
Develop a site plan and actions recommended to improve our green spaces for the health and wellbeing of staff, patients and visitors and biodiversity	Plan and 3 projects i-naturalist data from 2025 baseline of the Dorset County Hospital site	Working with the Recovery Ranger, Sustainability Manager and volunteers	Minimise our impact on the environment is a core objective, and enhance wellbeing is part of healthier workforce and community. Ensure adequate cascading of weather health alerts and relevant messaging across the organisation, in line with the government's Adverse Weather and Health Plan	December 2026
Update DCH Adaptation Plan/ develop a joint plan during 2026 to reflect the CCRA recommendations	Scope of the adaptation plan to build on CCRA and maturing relationships with those affecting the physical landscape and resilience partners	To develop from CCR including potential resource planning and recommendations.	all providers and commissioners of NHS-funded services must comply with the adaptation provisions within the NHS Core Standards for emergency preparedness , resilience and response (EPRR) and the NHS Standard Contract to support business continuity during adverse weather events set out actions to prepare for severe weather events and improve climate resilience of local sites and services, including digital services (see Annex B:	March 2027

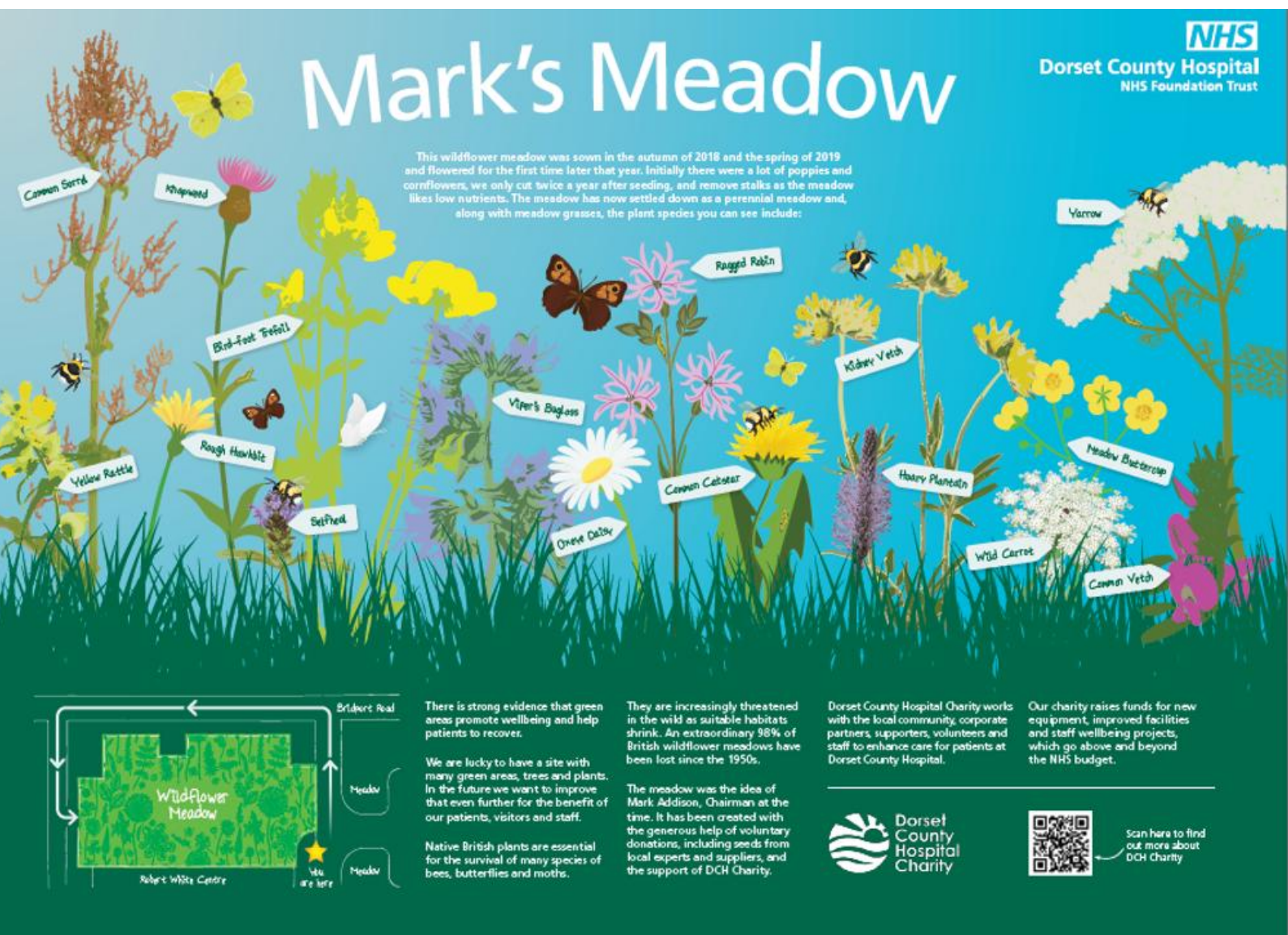
			selected resources for a supporting Climate Change Risk Assessment Tool)	
Investigate opportunities for innovation in nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to flooding, heatwaves, winds or snow events including cool spots in heat waves and our tree canopy	Flood events, hot days leading to innovation and cool spot places	Evolving knowledge and innovation; suppliers, community partners	trusts should: factor in the effects of climate change when making infrastructure decisions and designing new facilities, including enhancements like improved green spaces, drainage systems and passive cooling solutions	March 2028



4.10 Greenspaces and biodiversity

We are committed to protecting our natural environment and reducing the risk of pollution to land, water and air. The trusts already work to comply with all regulatory and legislative environment requirements such as COSHH, responsible waste disposal, Asbestos and dust management.

Green Spaces links with Clinical Transformation with a more explicit focus on patient care and clinical/therapeutic interventions working with OTs, Physiotherapists, mental health and exercise practitioners, etc. Green spaces are used as part of care provision as well to empower patients who benefits of green and blue spaces in physical and mental health promotion, rehabilitation and self-management.



Progress:

- DCH is hosting a Centre for Sustainable Health Care 'HealthybyNature' Dorset Recovery Ranger who is establishing wildlife count events and enlisting volunteers to record their information on I-naturalist to get a baseline of wildlife on the site, we can then develop ideas for future joint events with DHC
- We are working to improve gardens at DCH hospital, sites include the Sensory garden opposite special care dentistry and Mark's Meadow wildflower area with the support of Greener Communities, Dobbies in the Community, Kingston Maurward college and Men's Shed Dorchester and adjoining stakeholders
- DCH met the biodiversity plan for the MSCP for bee bricks, bird boxes, wildflowers and native hedges and has begun a review of the living wall.
- We aim to signpost these greenspaces; 'cool spots'.
- Potential innovation in nature-based solutions for refurbishments and improvements.
- Achieve biodiversity net gain for the future for both trusts
- We have undertaken NHS Forest planting with staff volunteers at the DCH site and will consider NHS Forest applications once a greenspaces plan is drafted.
- We will incorporate green space within new builds and refurbishments and re-purpose courtyards previously unavailable to staff or the public. We will develop a manageable Environmental Impact Assessments for business cases and proposals.

Brimstone butterfly on cowslip, Dorset County Hospital Wildflower Meadow



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Develop an Environmental Impact Assessment on a page pro forma for future business cases	A concise EIA pro forma and explanatory notes in use across the trusts Estates & Facilities and other depts	Utilising in-house expertise and supported by Board level leadership	Ensure business cases and projects are considered for Environmental, Ecological and Sustainability implications in the same way as QIA.	March 2026 and reviewed annually
Dorset Recovery Ranger supported in role and nature-based activities promoted, assessed and improved. Learning and resources shared across trusts.	Number of sessions, feedback and adaptation, achieving project plan. Resources shared to Dorset trusts and satellite activities considered	Role in place and funded from June 25 – March 2027, working with Communications. Local mentorship and participation in project evaluation team by Sustainability lead, steered and opportunities by Greenspaces group.	Related to health and wellbeing, staff wellbeing pathways, potential reduction in prescriptions and health inequalities https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/new-nature-recovery-rangers/	2025-2027
Greenspaces plan including consideration of tree canopy, nature-based solutions, biodiversity and access	A living document plan that is related to grounds maintenance and future projects	In-house resources of Sustainability, EF and Projects	Awareness specific to role around Life Cycle Analysis, Carbon reduction and circular economy, trusts joint strategy objective 'our services are sustainable environmentally and financially'	October 2026
Improvements to greenspaces and greenspace access including rest benches, cool spots and wildlife and sustainable planting	Before and after photographs, funding applications and project delivery	Teamwork of Recovery Ranger, Sustainability Manager, Head of Facilities and Steering of Greenspaces Group	Health and wellbeing benefits to staff, patients and actions that may contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain, engagement with wildlife and sense of positive environment and potentially more pro-environmental behaviours	2026/2027 & ongoing

5. Governance and metrics

Our progress against the Green Plan will be reviewed every two months by a joint Sustainability Working Group with an assurance summary into the Joint Strategy Transformation and Partnerships Committee in Common, which holds responsibility for Net Zero Carbon. It will be reported formally to the Board on an annual basis, with a named board-level lead for Green Plan delivery. Progress will be tracked against the outlined measures, key milestones and proposed Key Performance Indicators, risks to future delivery will be identified. Many metrics will be tracked via the Greener NHS dashboard and Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC).

KPIs proposed (quarterly to steering group & annual summary to Board):

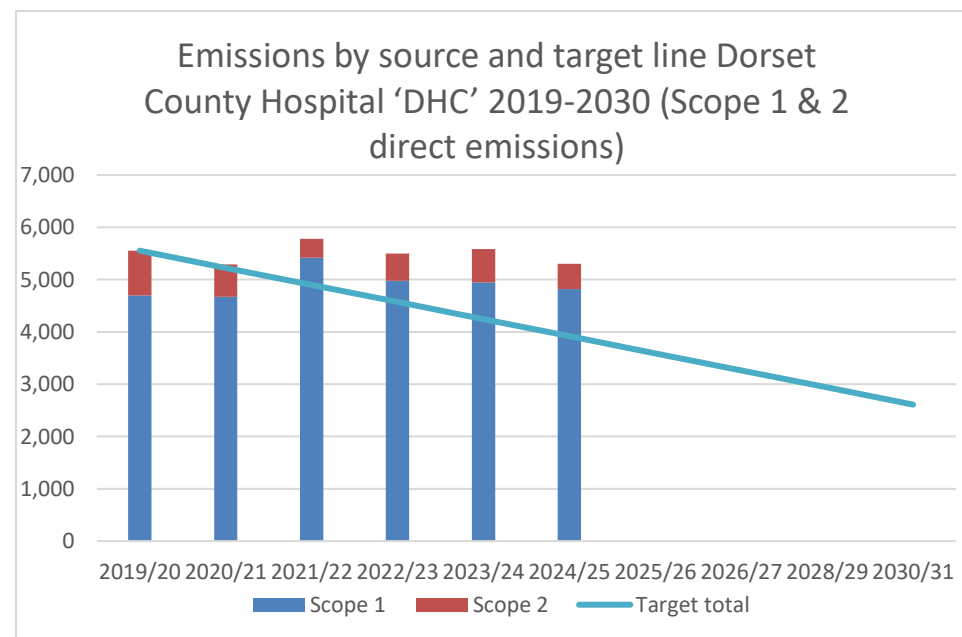
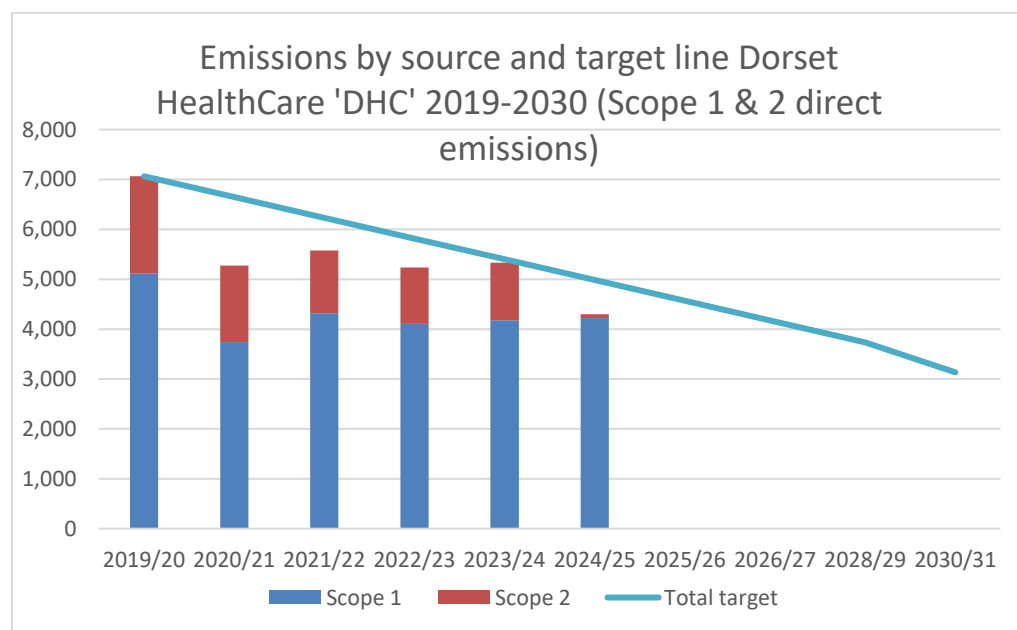
1. Compliant Green Plan Actions Achieved (metrics in this report)
2. Carbon Footprint decreasing in line with NHSE targets (this is not a requirement, but a local picture will aid actions)
3. National clinical waste strategy targets 60:20:20 (offensive: alternative; high temp)
4. EcoEarn activity – increasing
5. Joint Green Travel Plan by December 2026
6. Sustainable Development Assessment Tool 2 - set a baseline/improve score

The Green Plan is a live document and as with the previous plan, we sometimes achieved more than anticipated or have had to adopt different ways of achieving similar aims, so where there are opportunities to increase ambition, or create opportunities, we will do so. Since 2023 Greener NHS will have developed a carbon footprint specific to our trusts and a Greener NHS Dashboard. As part of Dorset County Hospital's Decarbonisation Plan, we have chosen a carbon footprint workbook that we update and share via Business Intelligence. NHS England coordinates the overall carbon footprints. The trusts monitor Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions, although scope 3 emissions are harder to capture locally and unavailable on the NHS England Greener NHS Dashboard at present.



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Track out Green Plan metrics	As defined in this document and Actions, with detailed actions metrics available on request. Greener NHS Dashboard – quarterly reporting ERIC – annual reporting	The metrics are agreed and most are within our capacity to measure and monitor. There are some detailed metrics that would need prioritisation or focus lead support	The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) group accounting manual , the Foundation trust annual reporting manual and the NHS Standard Contract set out sustainability reporting requirements for NHS organisations. NHS England will also consider progress on delivery of green plans as part of its annual assessment of ICB performance.	Quarterly and annually

Key metric: *Are Carbon Footprints decreasing in line with NHSE targets?*



Estate Decarbonisation & Renewable Energy (Scope 1 & 2) Dorset HealthCare Trust

KPI	Baseline (2024/25)	Target 2027	Target 2030
Renewable electricity generated	267,000 kWh	600,000 kWh	900,000 kWh
Grid electricity consumption	5.9 GWh	Reduce 10%	Reduce 25%
Scope 2 emissions	1,450 tCO ₂ e	Reduce 15%	Reduce 45%
Sites with on-site renewables	5	11	15

Carbon impact focus: Reduced reliance on grid electricity; direct Scope 2 reduction.

2. Fleet Electrification & EV Infrastructure (Scope 1)

KPI	Baseline (2024/25)	Target 2027	Target 2030
Total Trust fleet vehicles	257	250	240
Electric vehicles (% of fleet)	10% (EVs)	25% (62 EVs)	100%
EV charge points available across the Trust Estate	22	55	75

Carbon impact focus: Elimination of tailpipe emissions; compliance with NHS zero-emission fleet mandate.

3. Clinical Waste & HTM 07-01 Compliance (Scope 3)

□

KPI	Baseline (2024/25)	Target 2027	Target 2030
HTM 07-01 20/20/60 compliance	100%	Maintain 100%	Maintain 100%
Clinical waste generated	160 tonnes	Reduce by 15%	Reduce by 25%
Clinical waste sent for high temperature incineration	26 tonnes	Reduce by 10%	Reduce to 25%
Clinical waste-related emissions	39 tCO ₂ e	Reduce by 20%	Reduce by 35%

Carbon impact focus: Better segregation reduces high-carbon incineration.

- **High-temp incineration is only ~16% of total tonnage** but produces **~60% of total emissions**.
- **Offensive waste is ~60% of tonnage** but only **~5% of emissions**.
- Segregation accuracy is therefore one of the **highest-impact carbon levers** available in healthcare waste management.

4. Circular Economy & Waste Management Policy

KPI	Baseline (2024/25)	Target 2027	Target 2030
Reuse/recycling rate (non-clinical)	15%	25%	40%
Total waste generated	531 tonnes	Reduce by 10%	Reduce by 20%
Waste (non-clinical) carbon intensity	11 tCO ₂ e	Reduce by 10%	Reduce by 25%

Carbon impact focus: Waste prevention and reuse drive the largest Scope 3 reductions.

5. Water Efficiency & Embedded Carbon

KPI	Baseline (2024/25)	Target 2027	Target 2030
Total water consumption	90 m ³	Reduce by 10%	Reduce by 20%
Water saved – HQ waterless urinals	100k litres per urinal	400,000 L/yr	Sustained
Carbon from water use	32 tCO ₂ e	↓ 15%	↓ 30%

Carbon impact focus: Indirect carbon reduction via reduced treatment and pumping.



Dorset County Hospital

Scope	Focus	Action	tCO2e	Volume saved	ghg factor 2025	Unit	Data sources	Presume
2	Food & nutrition/Waste	Food waste measure, late plates and recycling station	6.56	1400	4.68568	kgCO2e/t	ghg 2025; Baseline food waste tracking first year	Per year 6.5tCO2e
2/3	EFM/ Food & nutrition	Catering electric complete ballpark of 20% of the hospital electric use, 10GWh (2GgWh)	17.70	5-10%, 0.01 GWh	0.177	kgCO2e/kWh	estimate and behaviour change study (national) to be clarified by submetering during 2026	Per year 17.7tCO2e
2	EFM/ Food & nutrition	The gas supply is a separate fiscal meter using around 170,000kWh, total of 0.7% total site use	1.56	5-10%, 8500kWh	0.18323	kgCO2e/kWh	Fiscal meter direct to catering	Per year 1.557tCO2e
2/3	EFM/ Food & nutrition	Catering reduction in tCO2e/annum	25.82					
3	Digital transformation	Reduction in paper usage with new HER system	27.23					
3	EFM/ Waste/ Supply chain	Rehoming disposal avoided						
3	EFM/Waste	Clinical Waste targets						
1/2	DECARB SCHEMES EFM	Submetering Phase II Dorset County Hospital	61.59	320,909 kWh	0.177	kgCO2e/kWh	5-10% save in energy consumption through increased awareness of costs, behaviour change and areas of highest	Per year 61.59 tCO2e

		consumption						
1/2	DECARB SCHEMES EFM	LED replacement Phase III Dorset County Hospital	8.20	46,744kWh	1.177	kgCO2e/kWh	BEIS emission factors, quotes from suppliers	Per year 8.2 tCO2e
		Full decarbonisation plan to achieve heat and power not yet funded while Capital Projects & Sustainability seeking funding and ROI cases						
1/2	DECARB SCHEMES EFM							
		DCH Schemes	122.836	TOTAL				
		First year target (1&2)	327.00	TARGET				
		Total in the pipeline in first year	122.84	PLANNED				
		Target minus in progress schemes	204.16	SHORTFALL				
		Number of uncalculated actions that will reduce Carbon emissions						
3	Travel & Transport	Green Plan (Staff Commute, clean air hospital)		Calculate as part of EIA				
2	EFM Waste	Theatre hats trial (reduce waste)		Calculate as part of EIA				
3	EFM Waste	Theatre packs/ uniform recycling		Calculate as part of EIA				
1/2	Energy / Digital	Ditch the junk IT challenges		Calculate as part of EIA				
1	Medicines	Nitrous cylinder management		Calculate as part of EIA				
3	Medicines	Pharmaceutical waste projects		Calculate as part of EIA				

3	EFM Waste	Rehoming Maintain Clinical Waste targets and implement updated Waste Management policy, including circular economy	Calculate as part of EIA
3	EFM Waste	Future decarbonisation applications - solar, EVCP, LED	Calculate as part of EIA
1/2	EFM	Fabric improvements (not yet funded)improve energy efficiency	Calculate as part of EIA
1/2	EFM	Soil	Calculate as part of EIA
3	Food & Nutrition	Association Durable servicewear (reuse reduce waste)	Calculate as part of EIA
2	Food & Nutrition/ Waste	Electronic food ordering (accurate ordering, production and reduce waste)	Calculate as part of EIA
3	Food & Nutrition/ Waste	Remote outpatient activity	Calculate as part of EIA
1/2/3	Digital transformation	Repair scheme (Less waste, procurement)	Calculate as part of EIA
3	EFM Waste	electrification of fleet (continue in DHC, begin in DCH) and Green Travel Plan	within GTP (2026/7)
3	Travel & Transport		



• First Floor Corridor
• Before



• First Floor Corridor
• After



6. Communication and engagement

We need to inspire specialist and trust-wide action from staff, patients, the community and partners to deliver the Green Plan objectives

- Green Plan focus area leads drawing together expertise and commitment
- Managers to consider Carbon Literacy training for themselves and staff, funded until October 2026
- Inform staff we meet and those attending induction coffee breaks about EcoEarn and Dorset Liftshare
- Development of further waste stream e-learning
- Travel options at recruitment stage and appointment letter stage
- Sustainability Champions with packs to support everyone in using correct waste streams, switching off lights and monitors and closing doors
- Calls to action and progress updates in staff bulletins, sustainability days, wildlife count days.

Our communication and engagement channels at the start of this plan

- Sustainability Working Group and focus areas, Sustainability Group, Health & Wellbeing
- E-newsletter to all Sustainability Champions
- Staff bulletins
- Staff travel survey (annual 2024, 2025)
- Bicycle User Group Teams channel
- Greener theatres
- Gardening Group members



Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound (deadline)
Joint Sustainability Working Group to share opportunities, information and best practice and deliver focus areas	Minutes of Joint Sustainability Group	The establishment of joint Sustainability Group support and encourage focus area leads	Skill requirements for delivering the Green Plan	Summer 2026
Carbon literacy training for Sustainability team, focus leads and procurement	Number of staff completed Carbon Literacy training	Funded spaces until October 2026 requires Line Manager sign off	Green Plan guidance states promote specialist training for staff groups who underpin the delivery of green plans, such as board members, procurement , finance, estates and facilities staff and clinicians.	October 2026
Staff pledge platform EcoEarn engagement	Activity statistics increasing	Within current resources	Green Plan guidance: organisations should support their staff and leaders to learn, innovate and embed sustainability into everyday actions.	Ongoing
Waste stream e-learning developed with Waste Officer and Training	E-learning resource with Waste streams and waste hierarchy	Development of ideas and content in place	NHS Clinical Waste Strategy ensures waste processed in cost-effective, safe, efficient and sustainable manner and the NHS is the largest producers of waste in the country.	Contributes to reaching NZC by 2024
appointment, recruitment contact and staff induction includes low carbon travel options	Information on website, staffnet and recruitment and outpatient admin supported to include this	Information for DCH is ready to go online and be linked to, it is in place on staffnet	Green Plan guidance: Develop a sustainable travel plan focusing on active travel, public transport and zero emission vehicles, and clear understanding of staff commuting – guidance available in 2025.	By December 2026

7. Summary areas for action

Estates and Facilities – Scopes 1 and 2 ‘NHS Carbon Footprint’ greenhouse gas emissions under our direct control

“Our aim is to embed sustainability and efficiency, using smart design and emerging technologies across our improvement works, while considering waste prevention, rehoming and lifecycle considerations in refurbishment and new building works.”

Emissions resulting from its buildings, water and waste account for 63% of the emissions the NHS directly controls. The aim for both trusts is to improve sustainability by transforming heat decarbonisation plans into building-by-building actions, to build on rehoming furniture and equipment schemes, achieve or maintain correct use of waste streams, improve recycling rates, and develop a Green Plan refresh that can map the NHS commitment on route to the direct emissions ‘carbon footprint’ target of 80% reduction by 2028/32

Energy Efficiency

Align with hierarchy – 1. save, 2. supply efficiently 3. reduce emissions

Energy efficiency is a priority for our estate and facilities management including:

- The use of renewable energy is developing, with Solar PV on the discharge lounge modular building and as part of the New Hospital Project investment in an array on the energy centre roofs.
- DCHFT undertook LED replacement during CEF project and had subsequent success with 2 applications for around HS National Energy Efficiency Fund (NEEF) as part of work to install LED lights across the hospital. The Trust has received £157,000 from the fund over the last couple of years which has allowed us to install nearly 650 LED light fittings on our main site
- Dorset HealthCare was successful in securing NEEF funding for an extensive LED lighting replacement scheme and also received funding for Solar PV at six sites. There are currently a further five sites with Solar PV installed.
- A Heat Network Development Unit grant enabled DCHFT to investigate ground source and geothermal technical, environmental and financial feasibility and a subsequent application to HNDU by Dorset Council is building on this initial work.
- Enquiries into local biogas and hydrogen were initially undertaken, these technologies and supplies are still developing capacity in Dorset with older CHPs adaptability requiring technical and supply investigation
- Interventions focused on improved air conditioning and cooling, building fabric, space heating, insulation, ventilation and hot water improvements are outlined in the DCHFT Heat Decarbonisation Plan
- Net zero principles will be embedded in all projects across both trusts. While this increases efficiency and reduces whole-life costs, it does require funding to cover additional investment costs

Estates and Facilities – Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions that we control indirectly 'NHS Carbon Footprint Plus'

The NHS supply chain accounts for 62% of total carbon emissions and is a priority for our Green Plan. We are working towards a Soil Association award in catering, which considers local suppliers; delivering 10% weighting for sustainability and social value in tender decisions: and promoting carbon literacy training which is currently subsidised by NHS England until October 2026

Our aim is to embed sustainability and efficiency using data, lifecycle considerations, sustainable procurement policy and culture in which the processes, materials, transport, social value, longevity, repairability of items or services are considered.”

Site Management and Travel

- Flexible working and working from home policies where practicable, can reduce travel.
- At least 25% of outpatient activity is delivered remotely, this is currently consistently over 20%.
- The Dorset trusts have developed NHS Dorset Lift share schemes, promoted at staff inductions and would like to see this at recruitment stage.
- DHC has worked to increase the number of electric vehicles in their fleet and is continually adding charging locations to support this ambition.
- DCH has public / staff EV charging points in the MSCP and some fleet areas.
- Promote public transport information on Staffnet, recruitment and outpatients and develop a Green Travel Plan across all sites supported by annual staff travel surveys. This will follow the South Walks House GTP that contributed to a BREEAM Very Good for the refurbishment.
- Investigate funding opportunities for cycle storage, showers and other facilities for staff who cycle to work. Continue to support the staff Bicycle Users Group and provide additional bike shelters as part of NHP scheme at DCH.

As a good neighbour we work with Dorset Council highways to promote cycleway improvements and an e-bike scheme in Dorchester that now serves the main hospital site, South Walks House and areas of Weymouth. Our Green Travel Plan will explore staff use of the scheme. Further work is needed to link in with bus service groups.

Sustainable procurement

- DCH has, and DHC is developing, a sustainable procurement policy and culture that consider processes, materials, transport and social value in support of lower carbon and sustainable products, reusable items and services. We are also working with other public sector decarbonisation leads, led by DC, on sustainable procurement.
- The trusts are developing the Soil Association award in catering and delivering carbon literacy training across green leads and sustainability champions.

- IPM and a Greener theatres group are working to develop green initiatives that relate to estates and facilities such as theatre ventilation downtime, sterilising facilities in SCBU, reusable tourniquets, pee in a pot container changes and gloves off campaigns.

Biodiversity and greenspace

- We are committed to protecting our natural environment and reducing the risk of pollution to land, water and air. While Estates & Facilities operations do not have an Environmental Impact Assessment, the trusts work to comply with all regulatory and legislative environmental requirements such as COSHH, responsible waste disposal, asbestos management and dust management.
- We will incorporate green space within new builds and refurbishments and repurpose courtyards previously unavailable to staff or the public. Examples include the gardens we are developing at DHC hospitals and sites, the DCH sensory gardens opposite Special Care Dentistry and Mark's Meadow wildlife area.
- We have undertaken NHS Forest planting with staff volunteers
- DCH is hosting a CSH Dorset Recovery Ranger, who is leading wildlife count events and enlisting volunteers to record observations on I-naturalist to establish a baseline of wildlife on the site. Some events are joint with DHC
- We have met the biodiversity plan for the MSCP with the installation of bee bricks, bird boxes, wildflowers and native hedges and have begun a review of the living wall.
- We will promote and signpost these spaces and 'cool spots', and explore opportunities to incorporate nature-based solutions into refurbishments and improvements to achieve biodiversity net gain in the future.

Sustainable models of care

- Carbon savings will arise from reducing presentations in A&E as prevention and early intervention models of care mature. Increased use of digital appointments for outpatients and in primary care will help reduce staff and patient mileage.
- We will continue to work on models of care that help to further reduce the number of hospital visits and consider different travel options when planning changes to services.
- Infection Prevention Management are working with colleagues and teams on IV to Oral switch which will enable patients to go home sooner, including through the early removal of devices to help prevent infection.



Sustainable development goals interplay for good health and wellbeing



8. Appendices

1. Detailed Green Plan Action List – Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Internal)
2. Detailed Green Plan Action List – Dorset HealthCare University Foundation Trust (Internal)
3. Joint Sustainable Travel Plan (to be inserted by December 2026)
4. Resilience and Adaptation statement (to be inserted by December 2026 following CCRA)
5. Greenspaces, trees and biodiversity outline first plan (aspirational)
Focus areas explanatory note between versions

Supporting Documents

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council tourism data -

<https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/documents/40757/0/BCP+JSNA+Annual+Narrative+-+Dec+2023.pdf/4680a616-9711-cc78-f4ec-33ceb6c66769>

Census - Office for National Statistics

DCH Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2026 (internal)

DCH Sustainability Policy (internal)

DCH Sustainable Procurement Policy (internal)

Dorset County Hospital Green Plan 2022/3-2024/5

Dorset County Hospital Social Value Pledge

Green Plan Guidance: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/green-plan-guidance/>

Sustainability Group Terms of reference (internal)

Visit Dorset tourism statistics

Working Together, Improving Lives: The joint strategy for Dorset County Hospital and Dorset HealthCare (2024)

Your Future Hospital: Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust Strategy 2025

Social Value Programme, DCH (internal)

Health Inequalities Work Plan (internal)

Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe and sustainable management of healthcare waste, NHS England, (2022)

Footnotes:

1 [Heat mortality monitoring report, England: 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

2 Dorset Council: Dorset statistics and census information - Dorset Council

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/data-and-insight-for-dorset>

2 Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service

3 Home First – helping you recover at home

4 Dorset County Hospital: Acute Hospital at Home



Green plan refresh focus 2025	Green plan focus 2022	Comment
Workforce and System Leadership	Workforce and Leadership	This is an area of focus for the Annual report related to Task Force for Climate related Disclosures reporting standard, embedding sustainability into organisational culture & staff engagement
Net Zero Clinical Transformation	Sustainable Models of Care	Care pathways and clinical practice reducing waste, such as 'gloves off' and the greener theatres checklist as we work together across Dorset County Acute and a range of community hospitals
Digital transformation	Digital transformation	Delivering 25% of outpatient activity remotely, ordering technologies and printer rationalising
Medicines	Medicines	Clinical practice with lower emissions such as changes from anaesthetic gases, use of cool sticks instead of ethyl chloride, exploring inhaler recycling
Travel and transport	Travel and transport	Facilitating active travel, Dorset NHS Liftshare, EV Fleet (DHC) and EVCP at DCH for staff and public
Estates and Facilities	Estates and Facilities	Energy efficiency, waste reduction, heat decarbonisation, water, sustainable buildings
Supply Chain and procurement	Supply Chain and Procurement	Sustainable procurement policy with tenders 10% weighting for social value and sustainability, single plastics reduction, local suppliers, reusable tourniquets.
Food & nutrition	Food & nutrition	Measuring food waste, recycling station, cup take back scheme, staff late plates, ward hosts trial
Adaptation & Resilience	Adaptation (and greenspaces)	Adaptation Plan update, developing Climate Change Risk Assessment
Greenspaces & biodiversity		'HealthybyNature' Project hosting a Dorset Recovery Ranger, Active Hospitals, Sensory gardens, Mark's Meadow and staff gardens club, biodiversity recording
Sustainable buildings	Your Future Hospital Project	Net Zero Hospital Standard targets, South Walks House refurbishment BREAAAM 'Very Good'
Governance & metrics	Tracking & reporting progress	KPIs proposed (quarterly to steering group & annual summary to Board): - 1. Compliant Green Plan Actions Achieved (metrics of use of resources and engagement)

		2. Carbon Footprint decreasing in line with NHSE targets 3. National Target for clinical waste strategy targets 60:20:20 (offensive: alternative; high temp) 4. EcoEarn activity – increasing 5. Joint Green Travel Plan and staff travel surveys by December 2026 5. Sustainable Development Assessment Tool 2 - improve score
Engage & communicate	Call to action and co-deliver	Sustainability Champions, EcoEarn staff pledge platform, Sustainability in all our JDs, volunteers, community and working with delivery partners from Social Value, Charities, Local Councils



New garden for staff and patients, Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury, Dorset HealthCare