**For a Greener NHS and other regulatory and policy drivers for sustainable healthcare services.**

The **Climate Change Act 2008** set legal targets for carbon reduction including for NHS Trusts and Health Boards. Targets have been amended twice. First in 2009 and most recently in 2019. The amendment in 2009 increased the 2020 target for reduction in CO2 to 34% rather than 26% based on a 1990 baseline. The 2019 update increased the 2050 target to 100% reduction ie carbon neutrality. The NHS specific targets have been further strengthened by the For a Greener NHS campaign launched in January 2020.

**For a Greener NHS: Delivering a ‘Net Zero’ national health service.**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/publication/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service/>

NHS England and NHS Improvement, with the NHS Net Zero Expert Panel chaired by Dr Nick Watts, Executive Director of Lancet Countdown, identify two clear and feasible targets for the NHS net zero commitment: for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032; and for the emissions we can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039.

**2020/21 NHS Standard Contract, Service Conditions 18: Sustainable Development**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/full-length-nhs-standard-contract-2020-21-particulars-service-conditions-general-conditions/>

Trusts and Health Boards providing services to the NHS do so under the NHS Standard Contract.

In March 2020 NHS England published the 2020/21 updated NHS Standard Contract. It includes conditions for sustainable development, to minimise adverse impact on the environment.

It states NHS Trusts and Health Boards must put Green Plans in place to quantify and report environmental impact reductions. They must detail how they will contribute towards a ‘Green NHS’ in relation to air pollution; climate change; and single use plastic products and waste, through best practice efficiency standards and innovations.

**NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2020/21, 3.8: NHS public health functions and prevention - sustainable development.**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-operational-planning-and-contracting-guidance-2020-21/>

Alongside the updated contract, NHS England and NHS Improvement published the NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2020/21, to help deliver the NHS Long Term Plan. Specific deliverables for sustainable development are identified, to reduce the carbon footprint, reduce the use of avoidable single-use plastics and to tackle local air pollution.

The **NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy** (CRS) was produced by the SDU\* in January 2009. The CRS introduced governance requirements for Trusts and Health Boards including the need for Board approved Sustainable Development Management Plans (SDMP), carbon targets and regulatory monitoring. SDMPs were renamed ‘Green Plans’ in the **For a Greener NHS** program in January 2020.

The **NHS Sustainability Reporting Framework** advises on annual reporting. Sustainability reporting is a mandatory requirement for NHS Trusts, health Boards and CCGs as part of their annual report.

The **Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012** requires that ‘all public bodies in England and Wales, including Local Authorities, and NHS organisations consider how the services they commission and procure ....might improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.’

\*The **Sustainable Development Unit** (SDU) was established in 2008 and is jointly funded by, and accountable to, NHS England and Public Health England to ensure that the health and care system fulfils its potential as a leading sustainable and low carbon service.