NHS
Commercial Procurement Collaborative
North of England

An introduction to Sustainability and Social Value in the NHS:
A guide for suppliers

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NHS Net Zero Commitment Targets



Net zero by **2040** for the emissions the **NHS controls directly.**
(NHS Carbon Footprint)



Net zero by **2045** for the emissions the **NHS has the ability to influence.**
(NHS Carbon Footprint Plus)

This information is located publicly within the 'Delivering a Net Zero NHS' report.

Supplier Roadmap

For more information, visit Greener NHS » Suppliers (england.nhs.uk)

From April 2022

- **Net Zero and Social Value**
  All NHS procurements include a minimum 10% net zero and social value weighting. The net zero and social value guidance for NHS procurement teams helps to unlock health-specific outcomes (building on PPN 006). Net Zero and Social Value will be applied via the Evergreen assessment for NHS England Medicines tenders.

From April 2023/24

- **Carbon Reduction Plans**
  For all new contracts above £5 million per annum, the NHS requires suppliers to publish a Carbon Reduction Plan for their UK Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a subset of Scope 3 emissions as a minimum (aligning with PPN 006).

  This requirement was proportionately extended in April 2024 to cover all new procurements.

From April 2027

- **Carbon Reduction Plan for all emissions**
  All suppliers will be required to publicly report targets, emissions and publish a Carbon Reduction Plan for global emissions aligned to the NHS net zero target, for all of their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

From April 2028

Product-level requirements
New requirements will be introduced overseeing the provision of carbon footprinting for individual products supplied to the NHS. The NHS will work with suppliers and regulators to determine the scope and methodology.

Social Value in Procurement



What is Social Value?

Social value in procurement is about making sure that what is bought creates **additional** benefits for society.

Through the lens of PPN 002, benefit is categorised as either:



Environmental



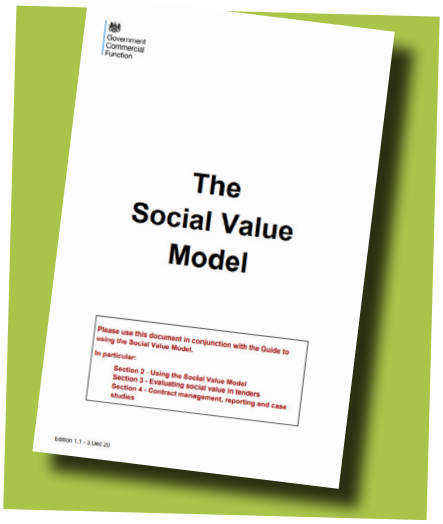
Economic



Social

PPN 002:
The Social Value Model

The Social Value Model was launched by Central Government in January 2021 under PPN 06/20 and updated in February 2025 under PPN 002. The model requires every public procurement to apply 10% minimum of the total award to social value.



The Social Value Model is structured around 5 missions, which are:

1. Kick starting economic growth
2. Make Britain a clean energy superpower
3. Take back our streets
4. Break down barriers to opportunity
5. Build an NHS fit for the future

Social Value in the NHS



Social Value has been mandatory in all NHS tendering since April 2022.

NHS contracting authorities must:

- Apply a minimum of 10% of any total tender award to social value
- At minimum, ask a question in every tender on ‘fighting climate change’
- Ensure that all social value commitments are effectively contract managed

NHS Social Value Guidance was released in February 2025. This is a furthering of PPN 002.

How to write an effective Social Value Bid:



1. Always read the question
2. Read all available social value guidance
3. Provide commitments that are additional (outside the core delivery of the contract)
4. Focus on what you can deliver as an organisation (social value is about quality, not quantity)
5. Avoid things you're already undertaking as a supplier. For example:
   - » Corporate social responsibility (CSR policy)
   - » Current company activity/policy
   - » Previous social value activity on other contracts
6. Avoid vagueness and always be specific
   Use specfic, measureable, achievable, realistic, timed (SMART targets)
7. Consider how you will contract manage the commitments made

Modern Slavery Requirements

Tackling modern slavery in government supply chains

New requirements relating to tackling modern slavery in public procurement were launched by Central Government in February 2025 through PPN 009. In May 2026, The National Health Service (Procurement, Slavery and Human Trafficking)

Regulations 2025 came into force, legislating further requirements.

These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Public bodies completing a modern slavery risk assessment for any new contracts or frameworks pertaining to goods and services.
- For contracts identified as medium or high risk, suppliers must be required to complete a Modern Slavery Assessment Tool (MSAT) within 3 months of contract award and annually throughout the lifetime of the contract.
- For contracts identified as medium or high risk, completion of supply chain mapping by suppliers.
- Inclusion as a core requirement for any procurements where there is medium or high risk.

Training resources on modern slavery requirements can be found here and NHS webinars for suppliers can be found here.

Carbon Reduction Plans

- NHS CRP requirements launched through PPN 006 in February 2025
- CRPs do not replace social value in the tendering stage, and should not be submitted as part of any social value bid
- The NHS proportionately extended the Carbon Reduction Plan requirements to cover all procurements
- It is critically important suppliers produce CRPs now and update them annually



Access free supplier webinars at both NHS and GCA

Free CRP checking service at england.crp check@nhs.net



What information should a CRP contain?

1	A commitment by the supplier to reach net zero emissions by 2050 (at minimum)
2	Supplier's baseline and current emissions for their UK operations at a minimum (Scopes 1,2 and subset of scope 3) From April 2027 this will extend to all relevant scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
3	Supplier's most recent emissions reporting for the previous reporting year
4	All emissions information displayed as CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent)
5	What environmental management measures are being undertaken by the supplier, including certification scheme or specific carbon reduction measures adopted
6	A signature from a board member (or director if no board is in place)
7	A link to where the CRP is publicly available on the supplier's website

What is a Net Zero Commitment?

A Net Zero Commitment will be required for NHS procurements of lower value below £5m per annum exc. VAT and above £10k exc. VAT.

A Net Zero Commitment is a public commitment to achieve net zero by 2050 or earlier, and a confirmation that the supplier is taking steps to reduce their GHG emissions over time.

To comply with the NHS Net Zero Commitment requirements, a supplier must:

- Confirm the bidding supplier's commitment to achieve net zero by 2050 or earlier for their UK operations on the sources included in scope 1 and 2 of the GHG Protocol, and the defined subset of scope 3 emissions (in the same context as the CRP for geographical boundary etc.)
- Clearly signpost and publish the commitment on the supplier's website.

Example Net Zero Commitment

"[Supplier name] is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 20XX for emissions scopes X, X and X. The commitment was made on DD/MM/YY by the [approving board/equivalent management body]"

For contracts above £5m exc. VAT per annum and frameworks let by major NHS framework providers a full Carbon Reduction Plan is required.

Evergreen Sustainable Supplier Assessment





The Evergreen Sustainable Supplier Assessment is a **self-assessment** and **reporting tool for suppliers** to **share sustainability information** with the NHS, providing a single route for information and data sharing between suppliers and the NHS.

Online tool for **suppliers to engage with the NHS on their sustainablility journey** and understand **how to align with the NHS net zero and sustainability ambitions.**





After completing the assessment, **suppliers will receive a sustainability maturity score against NHS priorities,** which signposts their current position and pathway to progress.

Evergreen:

What is assessed?



Supplier carbon reduction projects.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.





Geographical boundaries of emissions provided.

Net zero target year.





External validation of net zero target and emissions information.

Modern slavery policy.





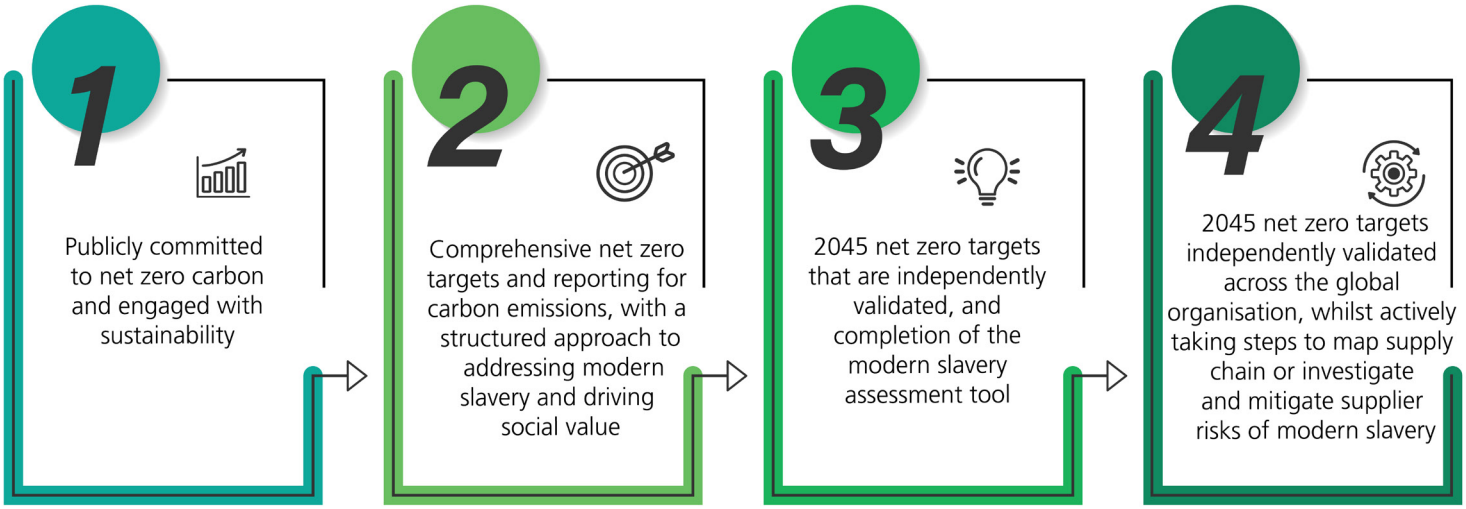
Corporate social value programme.

Entity level reporting (parent or subsidiary).



Evergreen Supplier Levelling

EVERGREEN SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER ASSESSMENT



For more information on Evergreen, go to
NHS England > Evergreen Sustainable Supplier Assessment

As a supplier, you must have an Atamis account to access and complete the assessment. Registration is free to access here.

Why do the Evergreen assessment?

Benefits for the NHS

- Improved understanding of respective supply chains
- One sustainability conversation with suppliers, creating standardised information
- Supports contract management
- Benchmarks supplier performance against the NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap requirements
- Provides consistent information to NHS decision makers about supplier progress towards the NHS short and long term sustainability goals
- Understand how and where there are opportunities to support suppliers to accelerate progress.

Why do the Evergreen assessment?

Benefits for suppliers

- Allows a supplier to benchmark themselves against current and future NHS net zero priorities
- One sustainability conversation with the NHS, creating standardised information
- Supports both NHS and supplier sustainability ambitions Can be used as an educational tool to understand where suppliers can improve on sustainability
- A detailed assessment that is free to use.

Why it's important for suppliers to be sustainable

Climate change undermines the core foundations of good health

Scope 3 emissions are forecasted to contribute to 62% of NHS carbon emissions

It's ethically correct to do so

Collective action reduces the burden of disease from air pollution

It is a requirement of the Health and Care Act 2022

Growing customer demand for sustainable products and services

Suppliers can prepare themselves and their products for the future

Protects against reputational damage

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