

Getting ready for NHS Net Zero: What Suppliers need to know (2026–28)



NHS procurement reality: Net Zero milestones that determine supplier eligibility (2026-2028)

The NHS has embedded Net Zero into its contracts for procurement. For suppliers on NHS frameworks, compliance is no longer optional, it is a condition of contract eligibility, with hard deadlines already in effect.

Why this cannot wait

Over 60% of the NHS's total carbon footprint and an estimated 98% of NHS Supply Chain's footprint comes from its suppliers. The NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap from 2021, translates this into binding procurement requirements. **By 2030, suppliers who cannot demonstrate verified progress through reports and continued carbon emissions reporting will be ineligible for NHS contracts entirely.**

Requirement:			
Evergreen Level 1 mandatory at tender close. Net Zero Commitment required for all lower-value contracts.	Publicly report global Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions. CRP must cover global operations, aligned to NHS 2045 target.	Product-level carbon footprinting required for goods supplied to the NHS.	Suppliers must demonstrate verified progress to remain eligible for NHS contracts.
			
Action:			
Publish CRP + Net Zero commitment. Complete Evergreen self-assessment.	Expand footprint to global scope. Independently validated 2045 Net Zero targets (e.g. via SBTi)	Begin lifecycle assessments now. Engage supply chain for input data.	Maintain annual reporting. Target Evergreen Level 3+.

*requires immediate attention

What suppliers should do:



Today – April 2026: Establish the baseline

- Measure your UK Scope 1, 2 and relevant Scope 3 emissions
- Publish a PPN 006-compliant Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) on your website
- Commit publicly to Net Zero by 2050 (2045 encouraged)
- Register on the Evergreen platform and complete your Level 1 self-assessment
- Validate your CRP using the free NHS checking service: england.crp-check@nhs.net



2026 to 2027: Global requirements

- Expand your carbon footprint measurement to cover all global Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Set science based targets and have these validated by the SBTi. Smaller companies may be eligible for the SBTi SME route, a streamlined pathway for smaller businesses
- Update your CRP to reflect global scope and publish revised targets aligned to the NHS 2045 Net Zero goal
- Progress to Evergreen Level 2, which requires comprehensive targets and an initial modern slavery approach



2027 to 2028: Product carbon footprinting requirements

- Start PCF's on your key NHS product lines
- Work with your suppliers to get reliable data on materials and components, this is often the hardest part and the main source of delay
- Build towards Evergreen Level 3, including independently validated 2045 targets and completion of the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool



The commercial case for acting early

Early action is not just about compliance it affects your ability to win and retain NHS business. Procurement teams are already differentiating between suppliers who can evidence credible progress and those who cannot. In practice, this translates into scoring advantages at tender stage, reduced risk flags during due diligence, and stronger positioning on frameworks. At the same time, emissions reduction initiatives particularly in energy use, transport, and procurement deliver measurable cost savings and operational efficiencies.

How Sustainable Advantage can support you

We help NHS suppliers and manufacturers get to grips with the Net Zero roadmap in a practical way. That can mean anything from measuring your carbon footprint and putting together a Carbon Reduction Plan that meets PPN 006 requirements, to carrying out Product Carbon Footprints and shaping a long-term Net Zero strategy built around science-based targets.

Whether you're starting from scratch ahead of the April 2026 deadline or already thinking about the more detailed requirements coming 2027 and 2028, we work alongside you to provide hands-on support that fits the size of your business.



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References:

- 1. NHS Supply Chain** – Evergreen Level 1 requirement from April 2026: <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/news-article/evergreen-sustainable-supplier-assessment-what-suppliers-need-to-know-for-april-2026/>
- 2. NHS England** – Carbon Reduction Plan & Net Zero Commitment requirements: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/carbon-reduction-plan-requirements-for-the-procurement-of-nhs-goods-services-and-works/>
- 3. NHS Greener NHS** – Suppliers hub & Supplier Roadmap milestones: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/get-involved/suppliers/>
- 4. NHS Supply Chain** – Net Zero Supply Chain and Suppliers: <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/programmes/sustainability/net-zero-supply-chain-and-suppliers/>
- 5. Science Based Targets initiative** – SME route: <https://sbtiservices.com/services/sme>

Additional guidance:

- PPN 006 – Cabinet Office procurement policy note: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ppn-006-taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts>
- BHTA – Evergreen Level 1 guidance for suppliers: <https://www.bhta.com/evergreen-sustainable-supplier-assessment-level-1-nhs-tenders-2026/>
- NHS CRP checking service: <mailto:england.crp-check@nhs.net>
- NHS Supply Chain sustainability team: <mailto:sustainability@supplychain.nhs.uk>