

# Carbon Reduction Plan 2025-26

Supplier name

Herts Urgent Care (HUC) including Access Dental trading as HUC Dental

Publication date:

2025/26

## Commitment to achieving net zero

Herts Urgent Care (HUC) is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, in line with the objectives set out in Greener NHS guidance, as follows:

- Reach net zero by 2040 for the emissions the NHS controls directly and indirectly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032.
- For the emissions we can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), aim to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039, with a net zero target by 2045.

## Baseline emissions footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

**Baseline year: 2020/21**

### Additional details relating to the baseline emissions calculations:

HUC's baseline year is 2020/21 and covers Scope 1, Scope 2 and relevant Scope 3 emissions.

\*The baseline has been reviewed and amended following a methodology review to improve the accuracy and consistency of current and future emissions. The baseline was established before the implementation of HUC's formal carbon reduction plan and provides the reference point against which future emissions reductions will be measured.

### Baseline year emissions:

| Emissions                  | Total (tCO2e) |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Scope 1                    | 519           |
| Scope 2                    | 193           |
| Scope 3 (included sources) | 1,130         |
| <b>Total emissions</b>     | <b>1,842</b>  |

## Current emissions reporting

Reporting year: 2025/26

| Emissions                  | TOTAL (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Scope 1                    | 635                        |
| Scope 2                    | 167                        |
| Scope 3 (included sources) | 2,021                      |
| <b>Total emissions</b>     | <b>2,823</b>               |

## Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving net zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

We aim for carbon emissions to decrease over the next five years to 614 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030/31. This is a reduction of 67% against our 2020/21 baseline emissions.

Progress against these targets as well as our pathway to net zero can be seen in Figures 1 and 2 below:

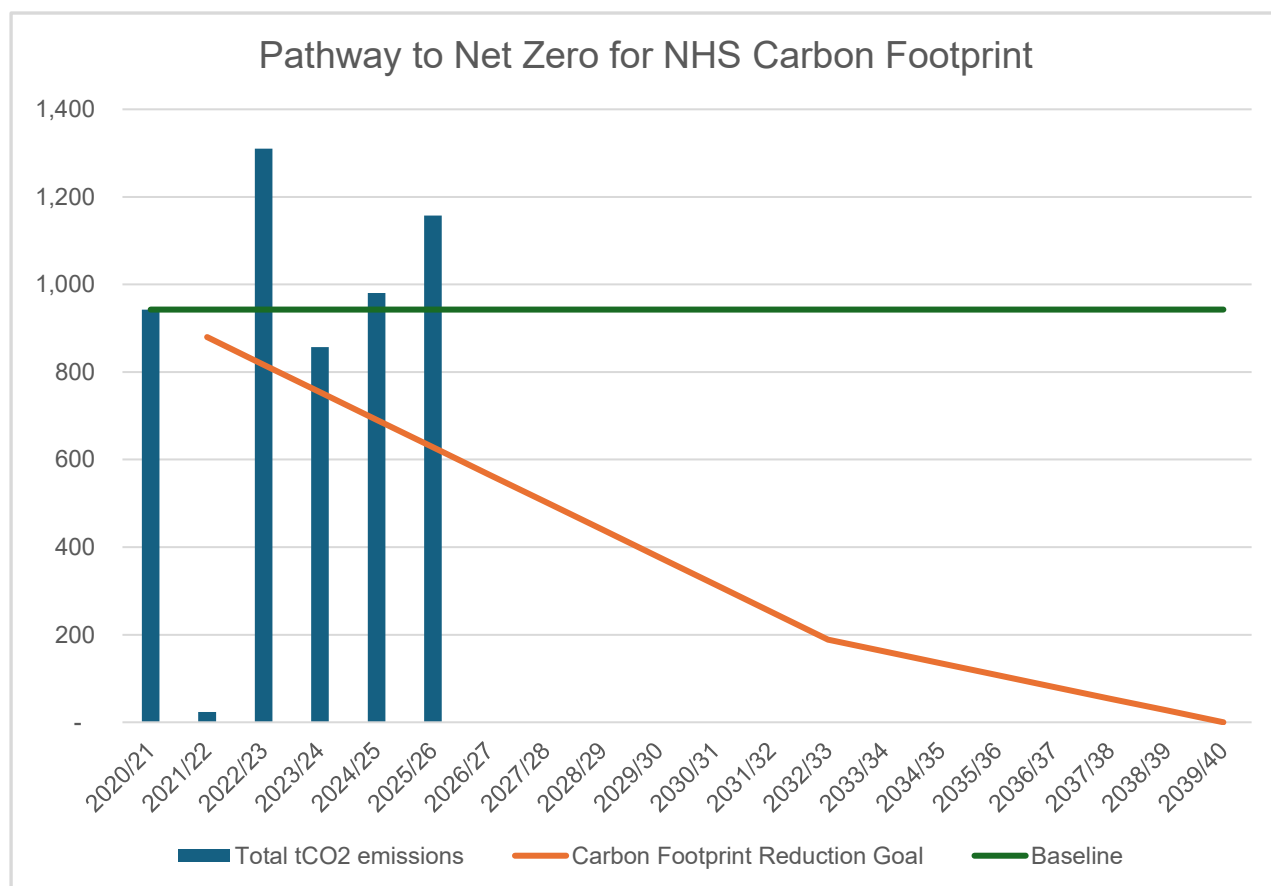


Figure 1: Pathway to net zero for HUC's NHS Carbon Footprint, showing the baseline year and progress towards target (in orange)

The NHS Carbon Footprint includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, including emissions from anaesthetics, fleet and leased vehicles, as well as well-to-tank emissions, business travel, waste disposal and treatment, water, and metered-dose inhaler emissions.

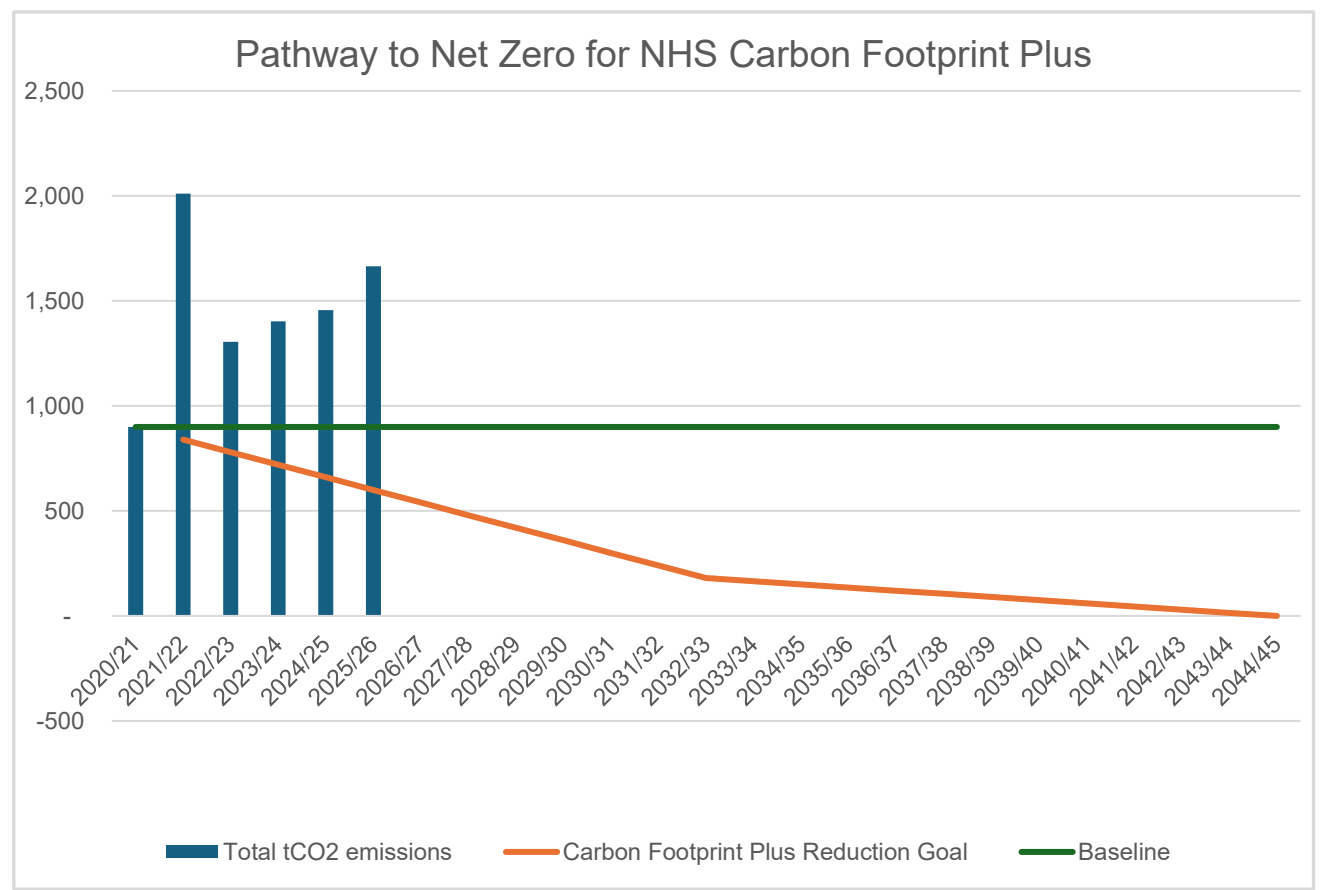


Figure 2: Pathway to net zero for HUC’s NHS Carbon Footprint Plus, showing the baseline year and progress towards target (in orange)

Figure 2 represents the remaining emissions not covered by the NHS Carbon Footprint, including the procurement of all goods and services.

### Carbon reduction projects

#### Completed carbon reduction initiatives

Since establishing the 2020/21 baseline, HUC has implemented a range of environmental management measures and carbon reduction initiatives. These measures support ongoing emissions reduction and will continue to be in effect, where relevant, during the performance of contracts. Going forward, we aim to monitor and track the carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes against the 2020/21 baseline.

These actions are ongoing and will continue to be in effect when performing the contract:

- Established a carbon baseline for 2020/21 using spend-based estimates aligned with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- Integrated sustainability questions into internal surveys and captured insights from over 49 colleagues across 13 sites.
- Increased use of remote and digital consultations to reduce travel emissions and

improve access.

- Launched Green Plan engagement workshops to encourage behavioural change and cross-team dialogue.
- Began work on staff awareness and champion models to embed environmental goals into departmental operations.
- Allocating a budget to the delivery of our Green Plan and sustainability projects.
- Established a dedicated Social Value subcommittee.
- Introduced sustainability campaigns, involving employees to reduce printing and electricity use.
- Facilitating more work from home roles to reduce travel and energy use emissions.
- Increased the number of electric vehicles within the fleet and leased vehicle arrangements.
- Using digital solutions for support services to reduce travel.
- Significantly reduced packaging and increased recycling across clinical sites, improving waste management and recycling processes.
- Ordering patterns are now adjusted based on seasonal demand (winter/summer) to avoid overstocking.
- Established a Sustainability Lead, responsible for Green Plan delivery.

HUC has also introduced targeted carbon reduction initiatives, including:

- Reduced use of single-use items: such as medical instruments.
- Sustainable inhaler use: The organisation now exclusively orders CFC-free Salamol inhalers, which have a lower carbon footprint, and does not order pMDIs.
- Reduced plastic packaging: Suppliers now send unwrapped medication boxes to minimise plastic waste.
- Minimising medicine waste: The Medicines Management team recycles the medicine boxes and disposes of the drugs appropriately.

### **Future carbon reduction initiatives**

HUC will continue to improve the quality of emissions data and strengthen delivery of its Green Plan. Future initiatives are expected to include:

- Improve data collection methods and review emissions data annually as part of the CRP and Green Plan annual review.
- Engage staff in sustainability by providing and promoting sustainability training to all staff.
- Review funding opportunities for the decarbonisation of our estate e.g. Green Heat Network Fund and NEEF.
- Work with landlords and NHS Property Services to install LED lighting at all of our sites.
- Maximise the use of smart building systems (BMS), reducing electricity consumption through enhanced operational controls.
- Introduce further energy-saving measures into IT systems.
- Introduce environmental criteria for the purchase and disposal of goods and work with suppliers that can demonstrate green credentials.
- Encourage clinicians to shift prescriptions to lower-carbon inhalers, from pMDIs to CFC-free inhalers, SMIs, and DPIs.
- Support the sustainable use and replacement of headsets by ensuring they are clean, safe for use and replaced only when necessary to minimise electronic waste.

## Declaration and sign off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 006 and the associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard<sup>13</sup> and uses the appropriate government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.<sup>14</sup>

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements (where required), and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.<sup>15</sup>

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors (or equivalent management body).

***R.Panariti***

***Date: 15.07.2026***

<sup>13</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

<sup>14</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting)

<sup>15</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>