

DECARBONISING HEALTHCARE

HOW SEE SERVICES IS TURNING
BLUE LIGHT SERVICES **GREEN**



COMPLY • MAINTAIN • SUSTAIN

DECARBONISING HEALTHCARE

NET-ZERO AND THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Achieving net-zero carbon operations in the healthcare sector demands a structured, measurable approach. Organisations across the sector are under increasing pressure to implement sustainability initiatives that drive both carbon and cost reductions. NHS England, for example, has committed to reaching net zero by 2040 for emissions it directly controls, and has a further net-zero target of 2045 for emissions generated through its supply chain (NHS England).

SEE Services has developed the Sustainability Hierarchy, a four-step framework designed to help organisations of all types reduce Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, improve operational efficiency, and meet regulatory requirements.

By working closely with sustainability leads, estate managers, and fleet operators, our approach delivers tangible carbon reductions, measurable cost savings, and a strong return on investment. It provides a practical, scalable route to more sustainable operations, regardless of sector.

This white paper highlights how the Sustainability Hierarchy is being successfully applied across NHS trusts and emergency services, delivering tailored, site-specific decarbonisation strategies that support the healthcare sector's transition to net zero.

HEALTHCARE CUSTOMERS

NHS & HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

We've partnered with a range of blue light organisations, NHS trusts, and healthcare property providers to deliver measurable decarbonisation outcomes:

SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (SCAS) Serving over 7 million people across southern England, SCAS operates 24/7 across emergency, urgent care, and non-emergency services.

MULTI-SITE NHS TRUST A healthcare estate in the South East comprising 17 locations, including GP surgeries, birthing suites, and community care facilities.

YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE (YAS) Covering nearly 6,000 square miles and serving more than five million people, YAS operates a fleet of over 1,200 vehicles making over one million journeys annually.

ASSURA A property partner to over 600 UK medical practices, Assura designs, builds, invests in, and manages GP, primary care, and community healthcare buildings.

HC-ONE A leading care home operator providing residential, nursing and dementia care for older people across its family of over 280 care homes across Britain.



THE SUSTAINABILITY HIERARCHY

The Sustainability Hierarchy is a 4-step roadmap to help organisations including healthcare providers achieve their net-zero goals and tackle Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions.

STEP 1 > FABRIC

Addressing the structural integrity and energy efficiency of buildings by focusing on insulation, window replacements, roofing improvements, and air leakage prevention. This includes retrofitting older buildings to meet modern energy efficiency standards, reducing heating and cooling demands, and enhancing indoor environmental quality for staff, patients and building users.

STEP 2 > ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Optimising energy use through smart solutions and behaviour changes. This involves implementing energy management systems, upgrading to LED lighting, optimising HVAC operations, and encouraging staff to adopt energy-saving practices. Utilising smart meters and analytics it is possible to can track and reduce consumption in real-time.

STEP 3 > ENERGY GENERATION

Implementing renewable energy technologies such as solar PV and battery storage to reduce reliance on grid electricity and lower operational costs. Healthcare providers can explore options such as wind turbines, geothermal heating, and combined heat and power (CHP) systems to diversify their renewable energy mix and enhance resilience.

STEP 4 > FURTHER DECARBONISATION

Enhance long-term sustainability by exploring additional measures such as EV charging infrastructure, district heating systems, and carbon offset initiatives. Leverage our ESG platform to fully align with net-zero objectives, enabling the development of comprehensive, carbon-neutral plans that incorporate robust strategies to reduce Scope 3 emissions.

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

SITE SURVEY

Prior to taking action, we always recommend a detailed site surveys, to identify specific opportunities within each step, helping clients reduce emissions, cut energy costs, and make informed investment decisions.

SEE IN ACTION

SCAS has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% within the next decade and achieving net-zero by 2040. To support this, SEE Services was engaged to assess and implement solutions across their estate. Following comprehensive surveys at every SCAS site, we developed tailored plans for LED lighting, solar PV, and EV charging infrastructure, with implementation now well underway.

STEP 1 > FABRIC

The foundation of any effective sustainability plan is the building itself. Our fabric-first approach focuses on the structural efficiency of buildings, improving insulation, upgrading windows and roofing, and addressing air leakage. Retrofitting older buildings to meet modern energy performance standards reduces heating and cooling demands while enhancing comfort for staff, patients, and visitors and ensures that future energy use is optimised and not wasted.

SEE IN ACTION

Using a 'fabric first' approach, SEE evaluated the condition of buildings across the SCAS estate. At one site, the buildings were relatively modern and well-maintained, making fabric upgrades less cost-effective and potentially disruptive. At another, improvements to roof and wall insulation and airtightness were recommended to enhance the EPC rating.



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

STEP 2 > ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Once the building fabric is optimised, the next step is improving how energy is used. This includes LED lighting upgrades, HVAC optimisation, BMS enhancements, and promoting energy-conscious behaviours among building users, all while maintaining safety and comfort.

SEE IN ACTION

Assura (with FES): SEE Services was appointed by Future Energy Services to deliver an LED upgrade pilot across 32 sites nationwide. Over 7,600 LEDs were installed, reducing electricity use by 1 million kWh annually.

The scope of works included:

- Site surveys supplying data for solution design and costs
- Pre-start meeting and regular communication throughout project
- Works delivered out-of-hours to avoid disruption to patient care
- PIR sensors installed alongside new LEDs
- Made-good walls and ceilings
- Two phase-delivery nationwide project
- Dedicated contract manager
- Local supply-chain partners
- 7,600 LEDs installed
- Reduced kilowatt demand by 1 million.



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

STEP 3 > ENERGY GENERATION

With efficiency measures in place, we help organisations reduce their reliance on the grid through renewable energy technologies. These include solar PV, battery storage, CHP, geothermal heating, and wind turbines, where viable. The aim is to decarbonise their energy mix and enhance resilience.

SEE IN ACTION

SCAS: At one resource Centres, 630 solar panels were installed on a low-pitch roof, delivering clean, renewable energy that exceeds the site's current electrical demand. This future-proofs the facility, providing the additional capacity needed to support the growth of its electric vehicle (EV) fleet. The installation also includes an integrated battery storage system, allowing excess energy to be stored and used more efficiently, further reducing reliance on the grid and maximising sustainability benefits.

STEP 4 > FURTHER DECARBONISATION

To complete the journey, we focus on future-facing decarbonisation measures such as EV charging infrastructure, district heating, and carbon offsetting. By integrating with our ESG platform, clients can align their sustainability goals with actionable data, enabling robust plans to tackle Scope 3 emissions and drive long-term impact.

SEE IN ACTION

SEE-V part of SEE Services is an end-to-end EV solution provider, working with NHS and healthcare customers to transition their fleets to electric including:

Yorkshire Ambulance Service: SEE-V installed 22kW AC and 60kW DC chargers across 11 locations to support their EV vehicles.

SCAS: SEE-V installed 36 x 11kW three-phase EV chargers installed at 12 sites, supporting the electrification of a fleet of 1,300 vehicles.

NHS SBS APPROVED SUPPLIER

EXPERTS IN HEALTHCARE

SEE Services provides expert facilities management and infrastructure support to healthcare clients across the UK. Recognised for our quality service delivery and personal touch, our customers trust SEE to 'Comply, Maintain & Sustain' their properties.

As a trusted partner and approved supplier on the NHS Shared Business Services Decarbonisation of Estates Framework Agreement, we are well-placed to help NHS organisations progress toward their net-zero goals.

Contact us to explore how we can support your sustainability objectives with solutions tailored to the needs of your healthcare environment.

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