



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Green Plan 2026 to 2029

EPUT

FOREWORD



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Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) is on a sustainability journey to reduce the impact of our operations on the environment and the communities we serve. Our new green plan is designed to reduce operating costs wherever possible and not divert funding from front-line services. We remain committed to meeting the sustainability challenges and achieve Net Zero in accordance with our statutory obligations by learning, listening and innovating so that we deliver the highest quality and safest care possible sustainably. Since the introduction of the first Green Plan the Trust has invested significant amounts in capital to reduce its carbon emissions by circa £3 million on air source heat pumps EV charging and LED Lighting.

The Operational Plan is designed to ensure sustained progress against each of the Trust's four strategic objectives in a way that embodies our three values of **caring, learning** and **empowerment**, and will carry us further towards our vision of **being the leading health and wellbeing service in the provision of mental health and community care**.

As we look to the future, the role of our estate is critical in supporting our vision of being the leading health and wellbeing service in the provision of mental health and community care. Our Green Plan therefore serves as a road map supporting our commitment to delivering high quality, accessible and sustainable health care services and in so doing address the wider determinants of health, including but not limited to air quality. The Trust will continue to invest in sustainability, including but not limited to the generation of its own electricity, expansion of electric vehicles charging and LED lighting across its estates.

Our second green plan supports the Trust's overarching strategic objective of 'helping our communities to thrive'. Our estate strategy a comprehensive forward-thinking plan that sets out how we will develop our estate over the next 10 years, ensuring that it is fit for purpose and aligns with our strategic goals. As we navigate the complexities of modern healthcare, our estate must not only respond to current needs but also anticipate future challenges, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In developing our green plan, we have engaged with stakeholders including, staff and system partners. Their insights and experiences have been central in shaping our revised green and has helped us with our mission in being a leading sustainable health and wellbeing service.

Our green plan embraces our enabling strategies including digital, quality of care, social impact and working in partnership with people and communities. We have also embraced the principles of sustainability, recognising our responsibility to incorporate sustainable development aiming to reduce energy consumption, minimise waste and enhance the overall environmental performance of our estate.

Funding:

Charge point accelerator scheme

£74K for the installation of electric chargers is going through the procurement process for The Lodge, Heath Close and Pride House

Solar Panels

£850k funding for solar panels has been awarded for Clough Road and Rochford with installation by 31st March 2026

Building Management Systems (BMS)

£123K of funding has been awarded for upgrading on the BMS for Rochford, King’s Wood and Thurrock

Projected costs savings

- LED Lighting Thurrock £186K
- Solar clough Road £25K
- Solar Rochford £75K
- BMS upgrades £20K
- Reduction in backlog maintenance costs (lighting) £68K

Carbon emissions reduction

The following reoccurring emissions reduction have and or will be achieved:

- LED Lighting at Thurrock will save 150,000 kg of CO2 emissions
- Solar panel installation at Clough Road will save 20,000 kg of CO2 emissions (2026 onwards)
- Solar panel installation at Rochford will save 61,000 kg of CO2 emissions (2026 onwards)
- BMS upgrades will save 20,000 kg of CO2 emissions

Waste:

- 925 unused assets re-used via third part placement, of which 518 assets went to support registered charities
- 694 unused assets recycled with zero waste going to landfill
- 326 assets in storage for recycling, reuse or repurposing within the Trust
- 39 assets reused within the Trust
- Trust avoided 81,314 kg of CO2e emissions attributable to waste produced and prevented circa 46,998 kg of waste going to landfill

BRONZE Award Best Reuse Initiative of the Year - Excellence in Waste Management for the NHS in England 2025

Priorities	Green Plan 2025 to 2040
1	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust will only be able to lease or purchase electric vehicles from 2027 • Salary sacrifice vehicles can only be electric from 2027 • Capital costs/Funding • Priority locations ie priority 1 sites first • Income generation potential
2	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Renewable Energy Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential opportunities i.e. photovoltaic, private wire to reduce costs and carbon • Capital costs/Funding availability • Potential savings to be made
3	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Heat Decarbonisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Cost/Funding availability • Heat Decarbonisation Plan Completed • Age of heating system • Backlog maintenance prioritisation • 80% reduction in carbon emissions required between 2028 and 2032
4	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Cost/Funding availability • Risk profile of property portfolio and service provided • Backlog maintenance prioritisation for climate change mitigation and adaptation

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1. INTRODUCTION



Introduction

Our new green plan contributes to the Trust's vision, values and the achievement of the strategic objectives as outlined in the our operational Plan for 2025/26 which sets out the commitments and priorities for the third year of delivery against its Strategic Plan for 2023/24-27/28 for the Trust as a whole.

It also summarises the Trust's high-level plans for the 2026/27 and 2027/28, the last two years of its Strategic Plan, although it is acknowledged that these may change in response to internal and external factors.

Our Green Plan is designed to ensure a sustained contribution to progress against each of the Trust's four strategic objectives in a way that embodies our three values of **caring**, **learning** and **empowerment**, and will carry us further towards our vision of **being the leading health and wellbeing service in the provision of mental health and community care**.

Strategic Objectives:-

We have four strategic objectives to achieve our vision:



We will deliver safe, high quality integrated care services

- By developing an energy efficient low carbon estate
- By contributing to the improvement in air quality across Essex

We will work with our partners to make our services better

- We will empower our teams to make sustainable choices
- We will work with our systems partners to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate

We will enable each other to be the best we can be

- We will work together to reduce waste
- We will together to reduce energy and water consumption

We will help our communities to thrive.

- By reducing the impact of our services on our communities
- By reducing the impact of our services on the environment

Green Plan - Action Plan

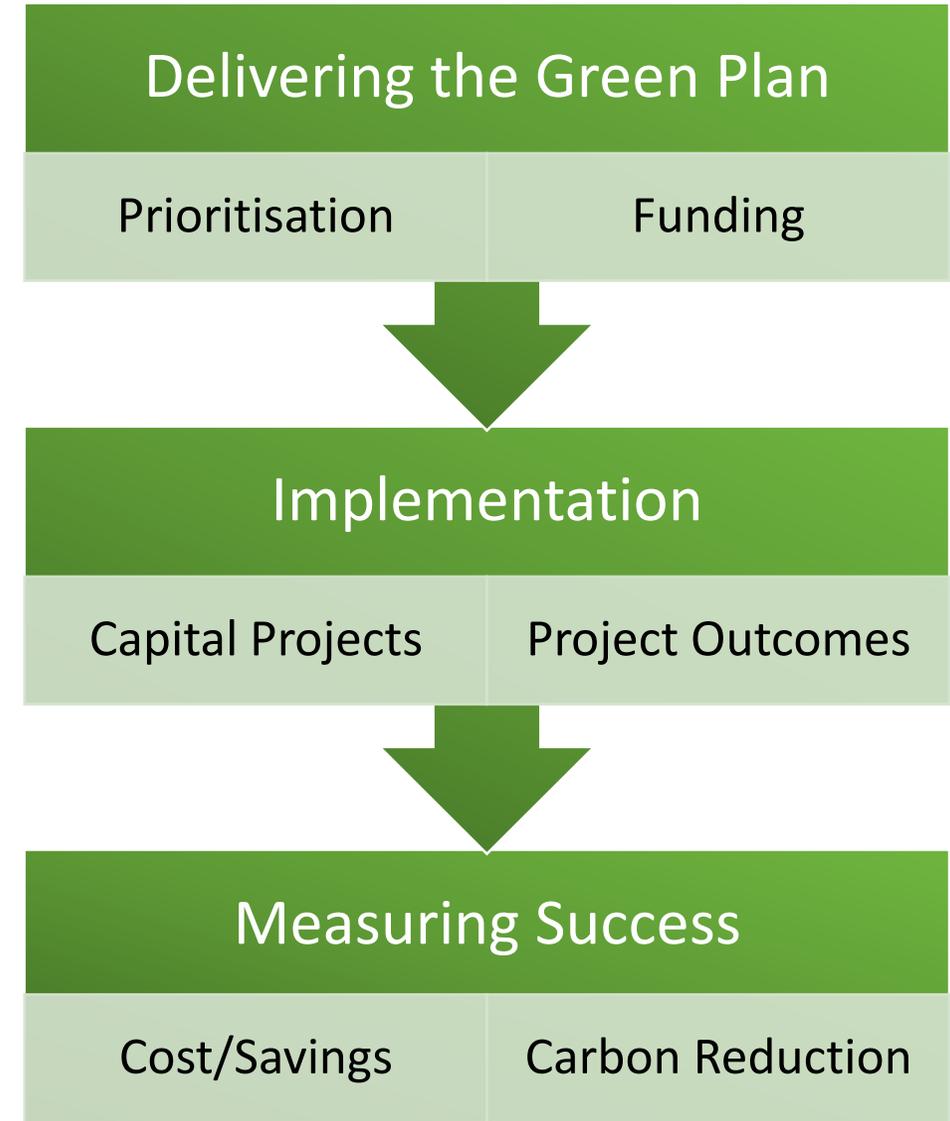
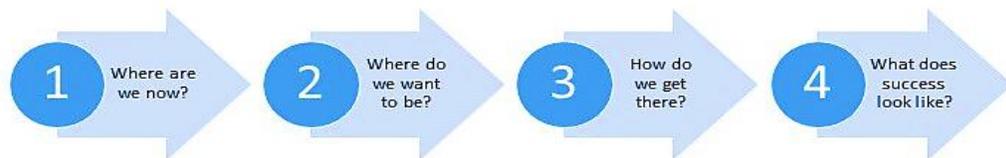
Introduction

Our green plan sets the direction of travel for our estate development as we continue on our Net Zero Emissions journey over the next 10 years to ensure that the Trust is sustainable and able to meet the challenges that climate change will undoubtedly present over the next 10 years. Our green plan enables our vision, values and strategic objectives, and will support the deliver of a safe and compliant estate which is fully utilised and agile and meets our quality aspirations as well as being environmental compassionate. The green plan is linked to our Trust enabling strategies and estate infrastructure planning within the wider system context in Hertfordshire and West Essex, Mid and South Essex, Suffolk and north east Essex, and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

Our green plan has been developed through facilitated workshops and stakeholder engagement as well as supporting evidence from meeting our statutory obligations (Display Energy Certificates), independent guidance from leading industry partners to identify current Net Zero and climate change risks, issues and opportunities. The green plan in part takes it direction from the key estate strategy objectives to inform the development of estate options to support our vision to be the sustainable leading health and wellbeing service in the provision of mental health and community care.

Using a model of transformational change to deliverer the Green Plan to achieve net-zero emission and strategic resilience. Appendix 1 maps the inputs to the green plan and the resulting outcomes and impact, providing a governance and risk management framework for success. Appendix 2 details milestones and key performance indicators to support achievement and monitoring of the implementation of the green plan in line with statutory obligations.

Our green plan is a living document and is underpinned by the estate decarbonisation, travel and transport and waste reduction strategies which together are designed to evolve as we grow and adapt to new sustainability and climate change challenges.



2. WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Our Service Delivery Locations

EPUT provides community health, mental health, learning disability and social care services to over 3.2 million people across the East of England in Bedfordshire, Luton, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and Suffolk. Our services are delivered by more than 5,500 staff working across more than 150 sites. At any one time, we care for more than 100,000 people, in the context of operating sustainably this creates significant challenges for the Trust.

We are a key partner in four Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) - Hertfordshire and West Essex, Mid and South Essex, Suffolk and northeast Essex, and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (providing some specialist services).

One of the key strands of operations for all the Trusts partners is sustainability and preparing for the impact of climate change to ensure we continue to support our communities, our staff and business partners.

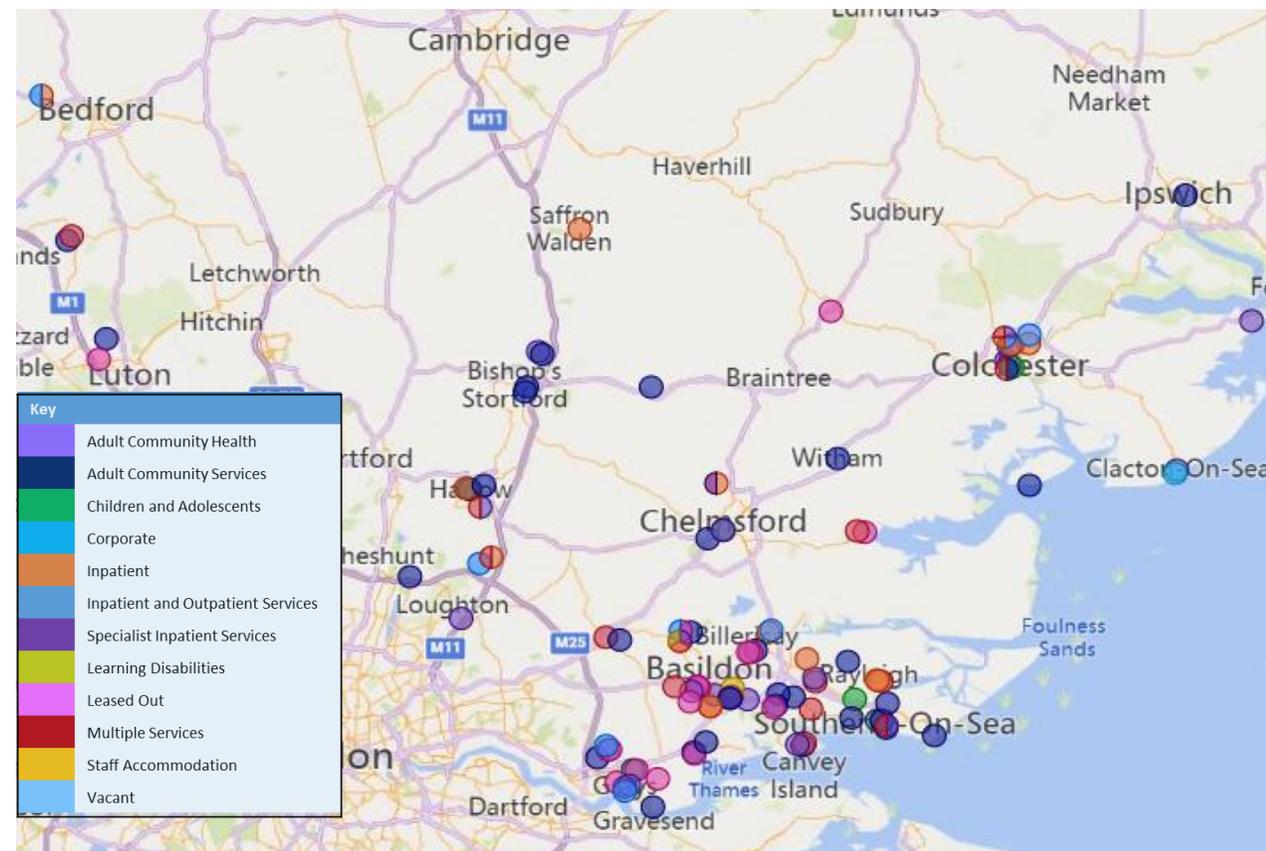
We work in partnership with Essex County Council, Thurrock Borough Council, Southend City Council and local district and borough councils. We also work closely with other providers of NHS services including GP practices, primary care networks, acute trusts, mental health and community trusts, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation and independent sector providers.

Our place-based and trust wide services are delivered through the following care units:

- Mid and South Essex Community Services
- North east Essex Community Services
- West Essex Community Services
- Specialist Services
- Urgent Care and Inpatient Services
- Psychological Services

The distribution of our services across the East of England

The map illustrates the locations for EPUT properties delivering services within the six care units. The majority of properties are clustered around the bulk of the population in South Essex.



Overview of Our Estate

EPUT services are provided from circa 150 properties across Bedfordshire, Luton, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and Suffolk, with a total size of 127,000sqm. A vast majority of the estate is older than 40 years and circa 34% of properties has poor energy performance which does not support the Trust's net zero ambitions.

Age

Buildings older than 40 years is the measure used in ERIC as an indicator of the end of the life cycle, i.e. fitness for purpose relating to both condition (physical condition and statutory compliance) and functional suitability. 57% of EPUT's estate is over 40 years old.

PFI Properties

The majority of the PFI properties are to be handed back to the Trust cir 2033. The buildings will be handed back to the Trust in their original specification and in accordance with contractual obligations. Consequently, any infrastructure will be as originally specified and will require the Trust to consider its options for decarbonisation of these facilities and the associated capital investment required.

Energy Performance (EPC) Rating

EPCs indicate the energy efficiency of a property and include estimated energy costs as well as a summary of the property's energy performance. Properties that have an EPC of E or below are classed as 'substandard' by regulations. 23% of EPUT's properties have an EPC rating of E or below.

Climate Change mitigation/adaptation

The Trust faces significant challenges in preparing for the challenges climate change will present, this is due to the number and age profile of the Trusts Estate, notwithstanding the investment requirements. The Trust has robust Business Continuity plans in place, which includes dealing with extremes in weather, to ensure patient and staff safety and service delivery is maintained.

 152 Properties	 57% of estate is over 40 years old
 127,000 Sqm Total size of estate	 2.6% of properties are PFI's
 34% of properties have an EPC rating of E or below	 5,607 tCO2e from energy consumption
 1.9% of properties have heat pumps	 1.3% of properties with Photovoltaics'
 4.6% of properties have Electric vehicle charging facilities	 Zero Domestic waste to landfill
 51,583 cu.m of waste water to foul	 The Trust as invested over £3 million in air source het pumps, LED lighting and EV charging since 2019

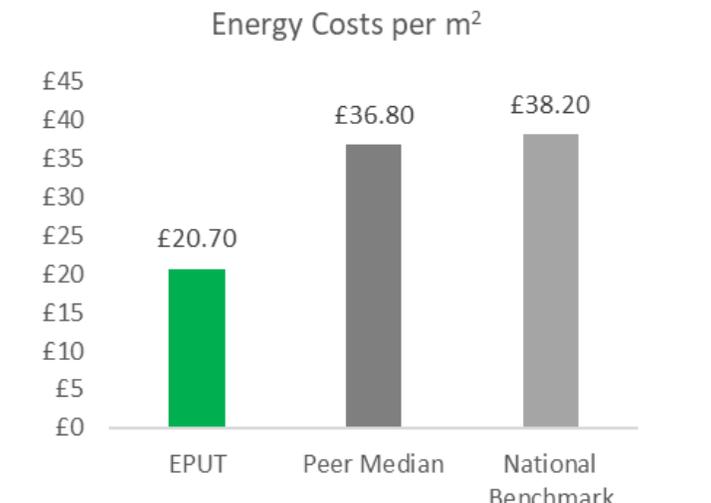
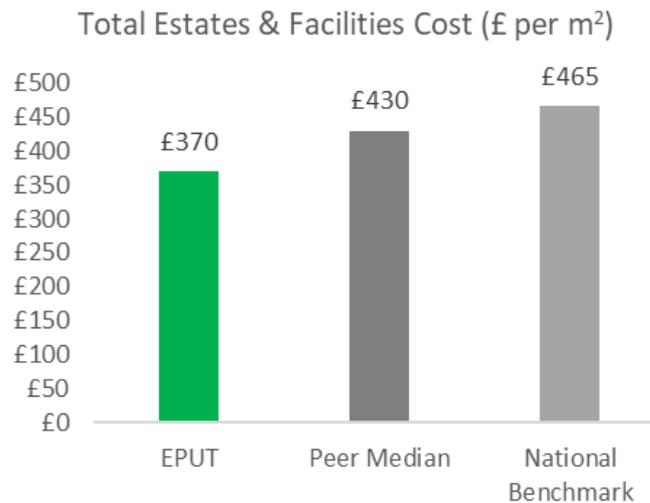
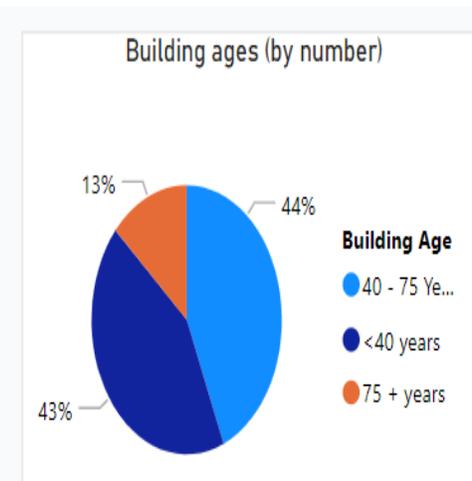
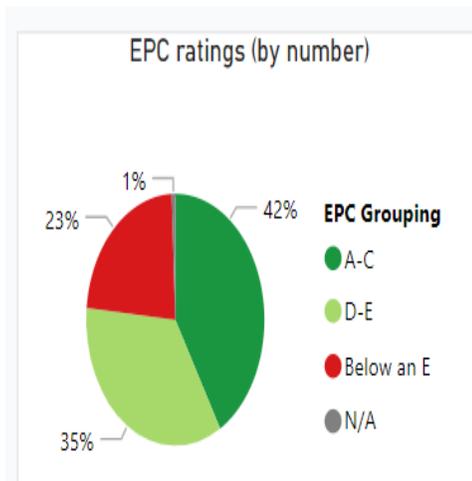
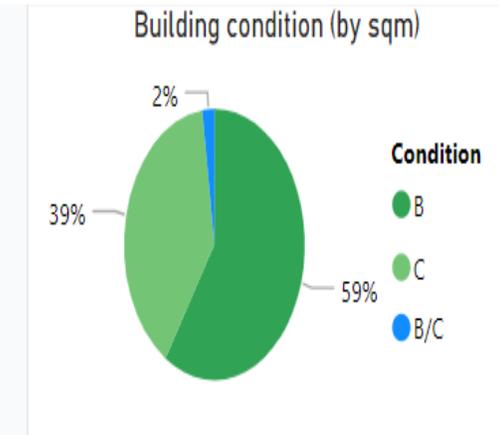
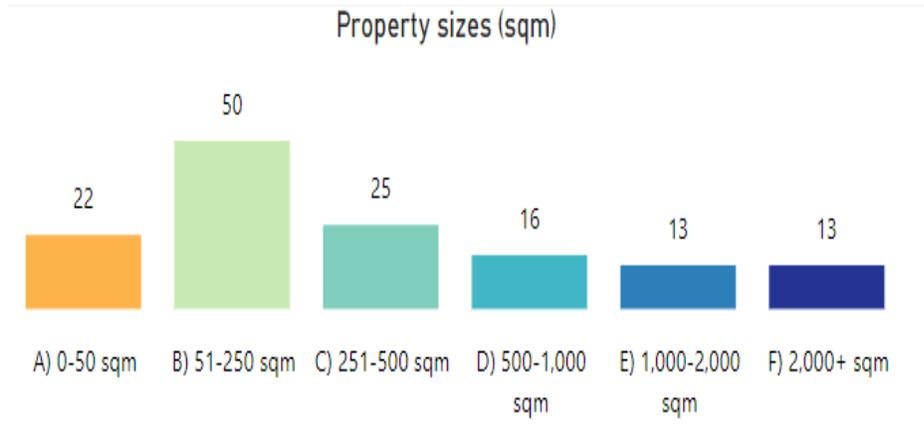
Key Messages

- Just over half of the estate is over 40 years old
- Predominately old estate with poor energy performance 23% E and below
- Electricity consumption 7,325 Mwh
- Gas consumption 16,682 Mwh
- Small electric vehicle charging network 14 chargers, 31 charge point

Overview of Our Estate Data

Key Messages

- We deliver many services from a large number of properties. A vast amount of these properties are under 250sqm, indicating small scale delivery across a large geography and number of sites.
- Our energy costs per m² ~ 44-46% below our peer median and national benchmark.
- 23% of our properties and EPC rating at E or below, this is impacted by the thermal efficiency, age and condition of the buildings, resulting in higher energy costs.



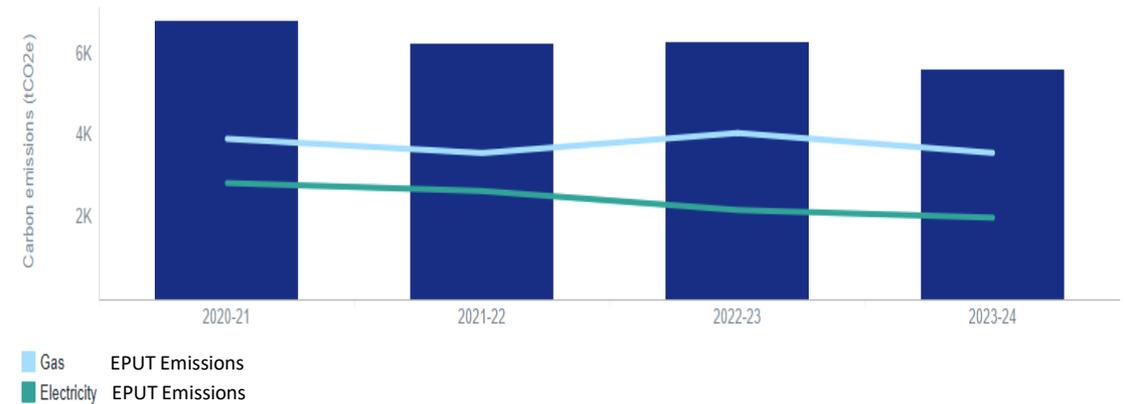
Key Messages

- Since 2017/19 energy consumption has consistently reduced year on year. Whilst there was a small increase in energy usage in 2024/25, this could be attributed to leased properties returning to the Trust and electric vehicle charging, changes to building utilisation and increased provision of new services to the community.
- Water consumption has also decreased since 2018/19, however 2024/25 showed a slight increase in consumption, this has been attributed to leased properties returning to the Trust, increase in services provided to the community and improved metering accuracy and data collection.
- Carbon emissions continue to fall and are significantly lower for the Trust compared to regional performance.

NB: The Trust annual report provides significantly more details: [Annual-Report-2024-25-FINAL-V2.pdf](#)

Regional & Trust Carbon Emissions (tCo2e)

Secondary care emissions



Data from the 2023/24 annual Estates return (ERIC)

Electric/gas consumption (kwh)



Water consumption (cu.m)

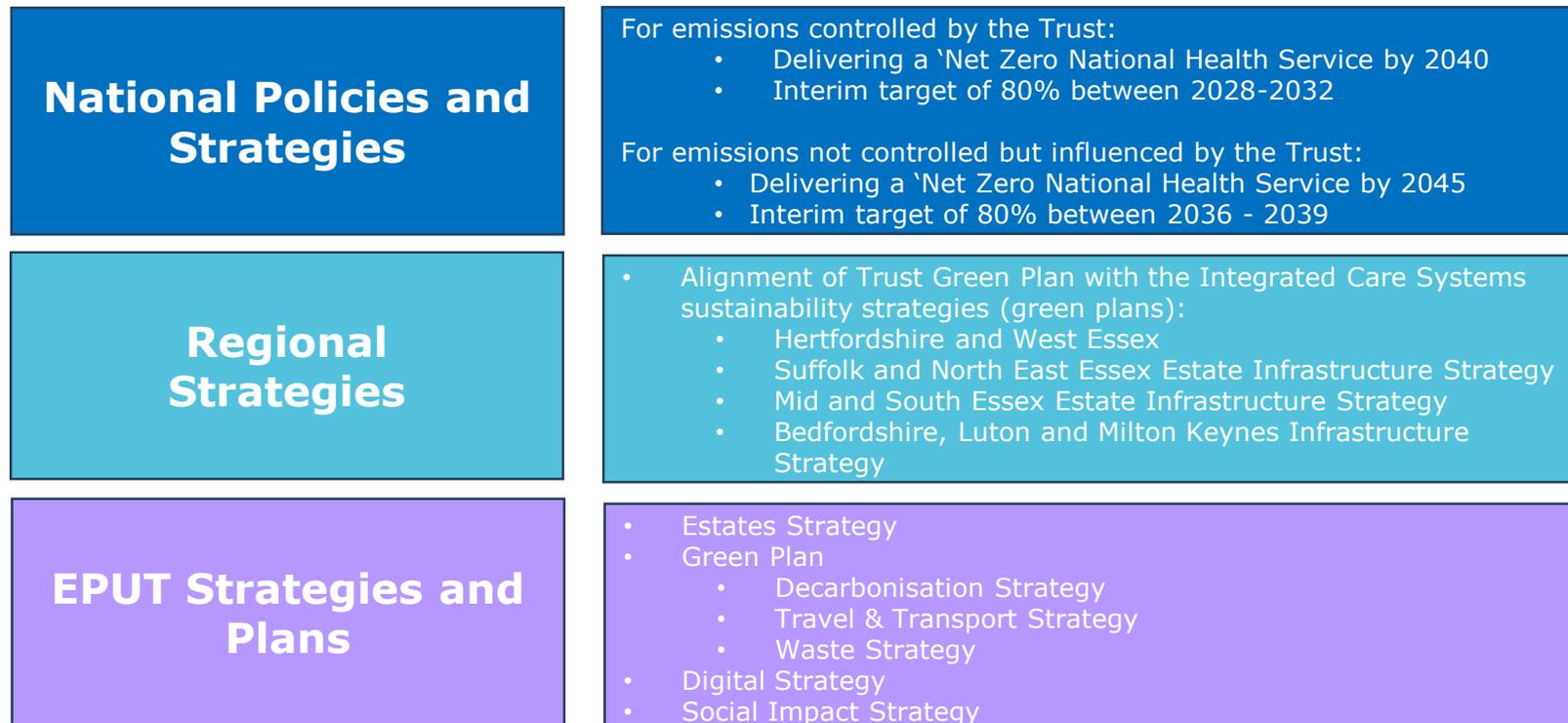


3. WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?



Strategic Context - Overview

The development of our green plan cannot be viewed in isolation. This section considers the most pertinent national, regional, and Trust-wide priorities with which our green plan must align to support delivery of our vision and estate strategy objectives, specifically in the context of the green plan to deliver a sustainable estate, fit for purpose.



Strategic Context - National

Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service

The NHS aims to deliver the world's first net zero health service, responsive to health emergencies brought about by climate change. Two clear targets have now been developed:

- For emissions we control directly, net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032; and
- For the emissions we can influence, net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 and 2039.

The plan included estates as one of the areas where direct intervention can be taken to reduce emissions.

Upgrading Buildings

LED lighting, HVAC systems, hot water, insulation

Optimising Usage

Real time monitoring, Building Management Systems

Onsite Energy Generation

Heat pumps, renewable resources

National Electricity Decarbonisation

Converting to 100% renewable energy

Reducing Travel & Transport Emissions

Trust vehicles, Staff, Patient, Visitors & Contactors

Reducing Waste

Clinical, Domestic, Confidential – Asset Recycling

Reducing water consumption & Wastewater to Foul

Reduce Dependency on Natural Gas

Decarbonisation

Converting to 100% renewable energy - Hydrogen

Strategic Context – National - Governance

Task force on climate-related disclosures (TCFD)

The Trust is required to follow the '**task force on climate-related financial disclosure**' on a comply or explain basis. The Trusts governance process including the management of risk, including but not limited to scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as demonstrated by the Trust's assessment of climate change risk is consistent with the Health and Climate Adaptation Report 2023, with key strategic and operational risks identified as:

- The East of England is particularly vulnerable to climate change risks, including temperature increases, leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves:
- Wintertime will not be much warmer but will likely face an increase in rainfall, with heavier and more concentrated storms, leading to surface water flooding, impacting on infrastructure, transport and patient services.

The Trust serves communities across the East of England delivering healthcare from circa 152 sites. The predicted increases in average temperature for the East of England are higher than the rest of the UK, with some predictions significantly higher than the national average.

In October 2023 the trust completed the first of its mitigation and adaption risk assessments, specifically assessing the risk to infrastructure and services provision that may be impacted by flooding. In October 2024 NHS England undertook its own assessment of healthcare providers flood risk, both assessments (EPUT & NHSE) highlight the main areas of concern and assessed flood risk as follows:

Surface water (extreme weather – flash floods)

High Risk – 36 locations

Medium Risk 7 locations

Rivers and sea (sea level rises, extreme weather) o

High Risk – 2 locations;

Medium Risk 1 location

Reservoirs (Collapse, overflowing/ extreme weather) o

Unqualified Risk – 3 locations

Ground water (water table rises/prolonged extreme weather) o

Unlikely (we have no properties at risk).

The Trust's assessment of climate change risk is consistent with the Health and Climate Adaptation Report 2023, with key strategic and operational risks identified and included in the annual report and accounts: [Annual-Report-2024-25-FINAL-V2.pdf](#)

While estimating the full extent is challenging, heat-related mortality in England alone costs £6.8 billion annually, likely to increase to £14.7 billion per year by the 2050s. These figures underscore the urgent need for action (NHS England 4th health and climate adaption report 2023).

The Trust has a robust incident monitoring and risk management system (Datix). We are pleased to report that in the previous 12 months April 2024 to March 2025, there were no reported incidents of extreme weather events which could be directly attributable to climate change, or weather events that impacted on the provision of healthcare services to the communities the Trust serves.

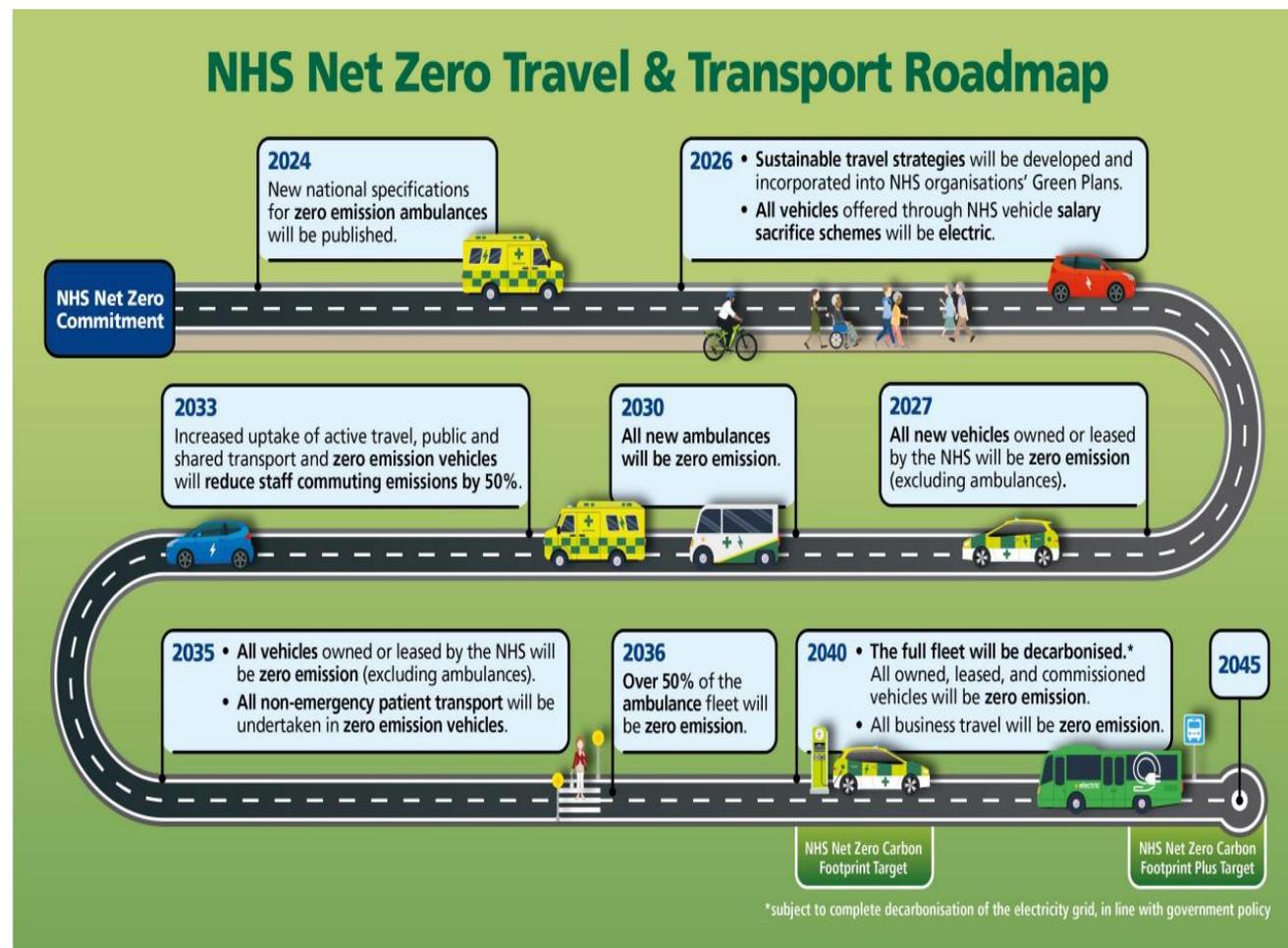
Strategic Context - National

Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service

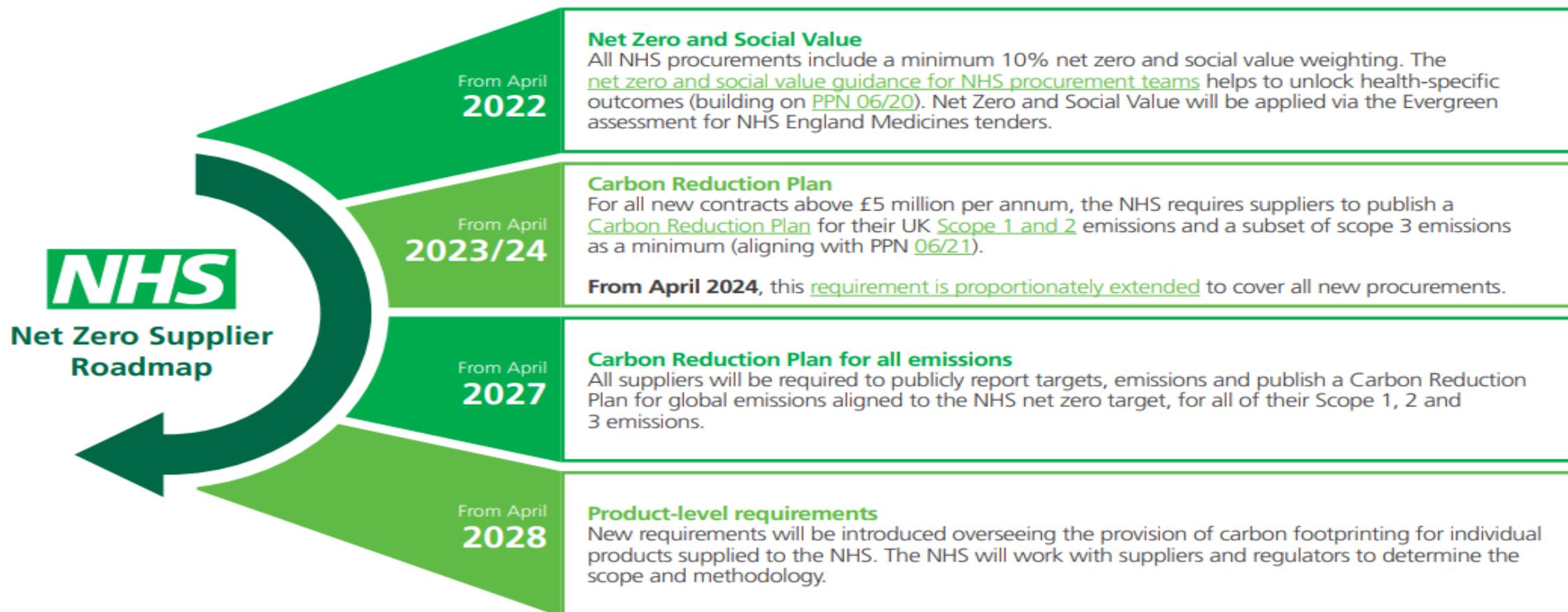
NHS Net Zero Travel & Transport Strategy

The NHS aims to deliver the world's first net zero health service, responsive to health emergencies brought about by climate change. Two clear targets have now been developed:

- 2026 All vehicles offered through NHS vehicles offered through salary sacrifice scheme will be electric.
- 2027 all vehicles owned or leased by the NHS will be zero emissions.
- 2035 all non-emergency patient transport will be undertaken by zero emissions vehicles.



NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap

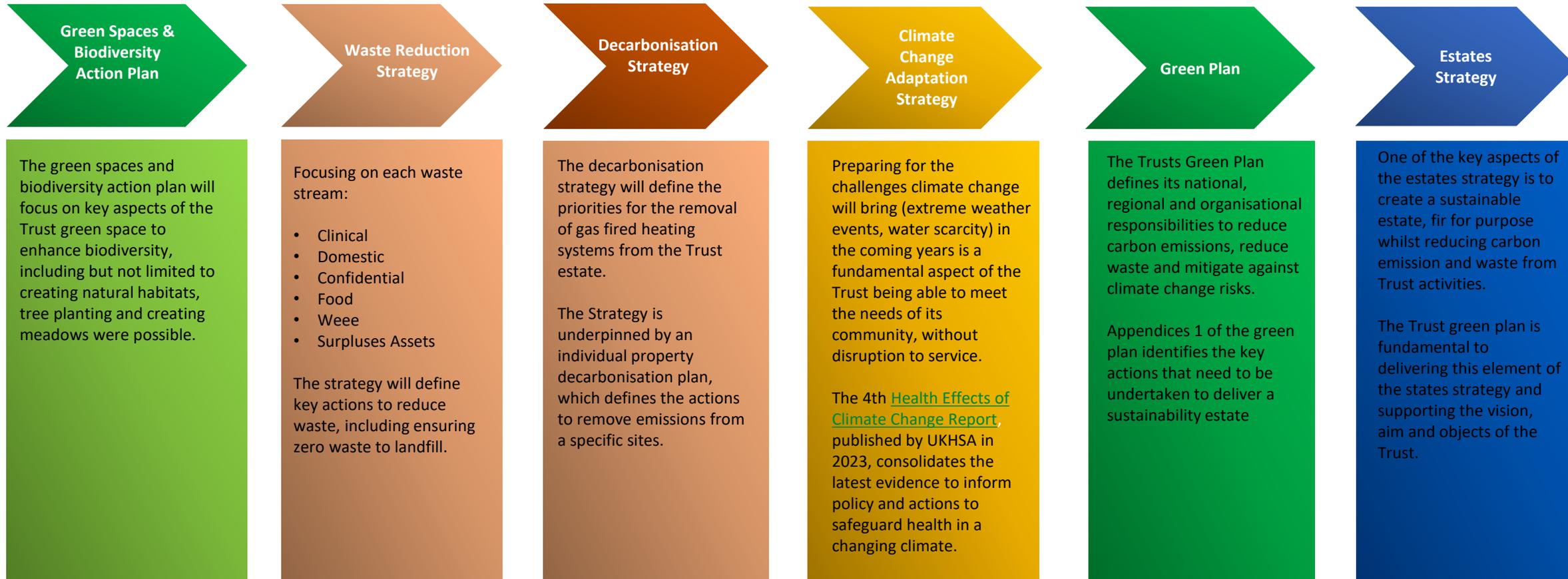


4. HOW DO WE GET THERE?



Introduction

The Trusts green plan underpins the estates strategy and the Trusts strategic vision, aims and objectives. To ensure we have an estate that is sustainable, of good quality, fit-for-purpose and aligns with our strategic vision.



Priority Investment for Sustainability

Priority	Considerations
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1	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
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- Trust will only be able to lease or purchase electric vehicles from 2027
- Salary sacrifice vehicles can only be electric from 2027
- Capital costs/Funding
- Priority locations ie priority 1 sites first
- Income generation potential

2	Renewable Energy Generation
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- Identify potential opportunities i.e. photovoltaic, private wire to reduce costs and carbon
- Capital costs/Funding availability
- Potential savings to be made

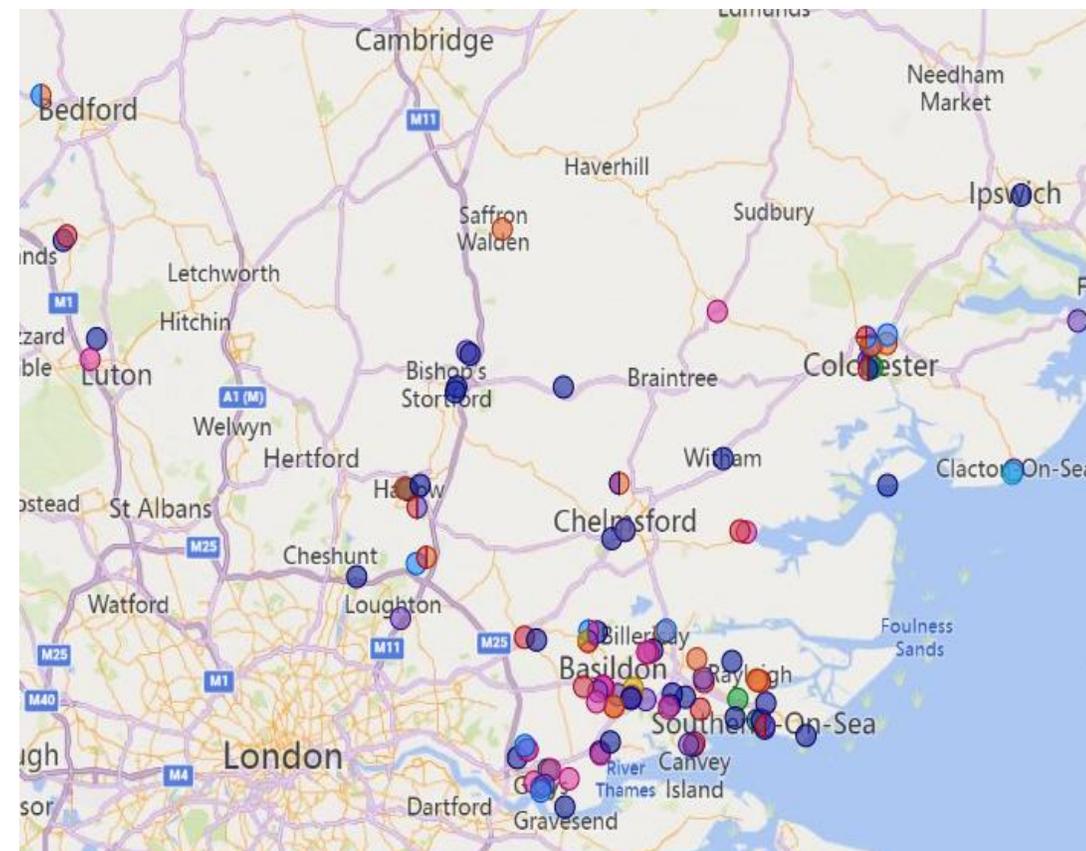
3	Heat Decarbonisation
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- Capital Cost/Funding availability
- Heat Decarbonisation Plan Completed
- Age of heating system
- Backlog maintenance prioritisation
- 80% reduction in carbon emissions required between 2028 and 2032

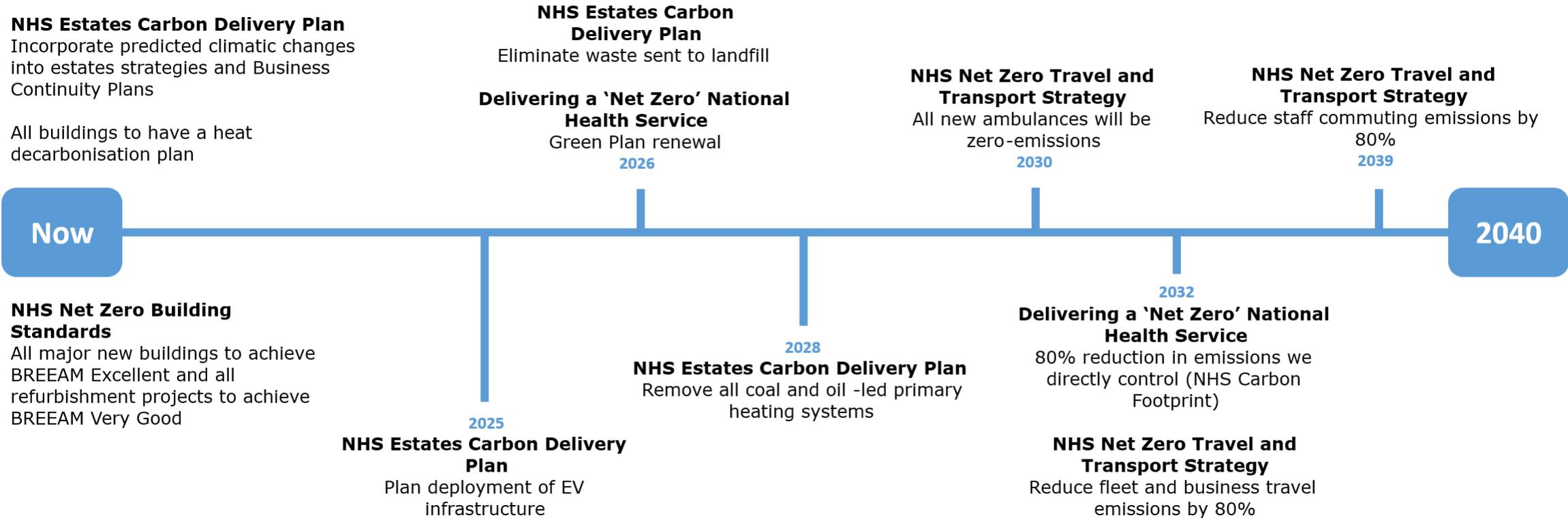
4	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
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- Capital Cost/Funding availability
- Risk profile of property portfolio and service provided
- Backlog maintenance prioritisation for climate change mitigation and adaptation

The Trust has a significant number of properties geographically dispersed across the East of England in Bedfordshire, Luton, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and Suffolk. There is a need to priorities these facilities to reduce carbon emissions, facilitate the use of electric vehicles, prepare for climate change and take advantage of opportunities to reduce utility costs.



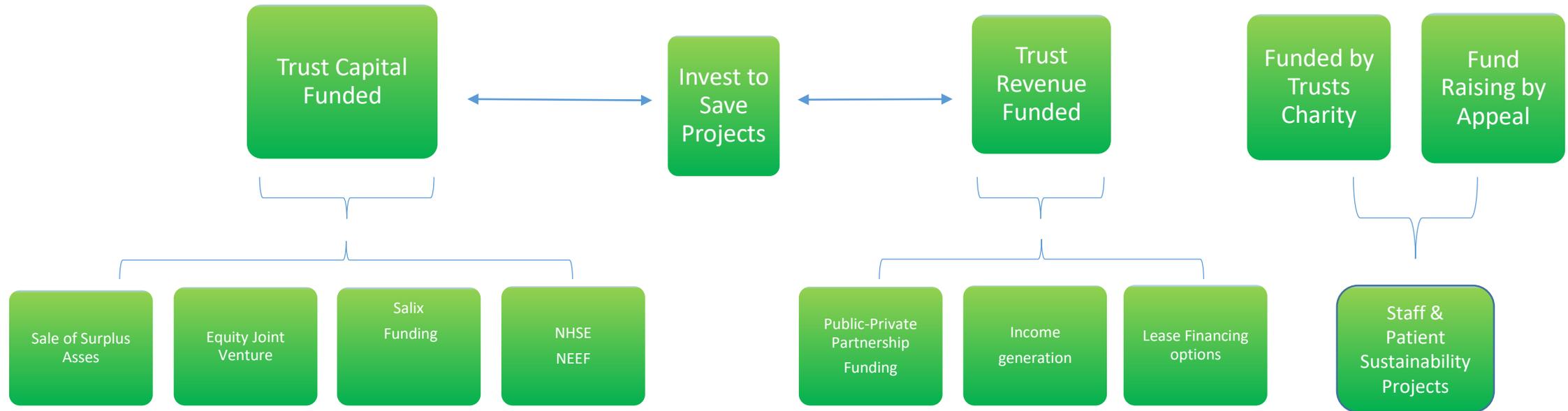
This timeline below collates all the net zero benchmarks outlined in all the current NHS guidance. Creating a roadmap of targets for the Trust to work towards. We must ensure we are considering these goals to avoid barriers in the future. Ensuring buildings have sufficient infrastructure to accommodate an electric fleet and considering climate risks and transport connections when reviewing and or redeveloping existing sites and considering new sites.



5. FUNDING, DELIVERY AND MEASURING SUCCESS



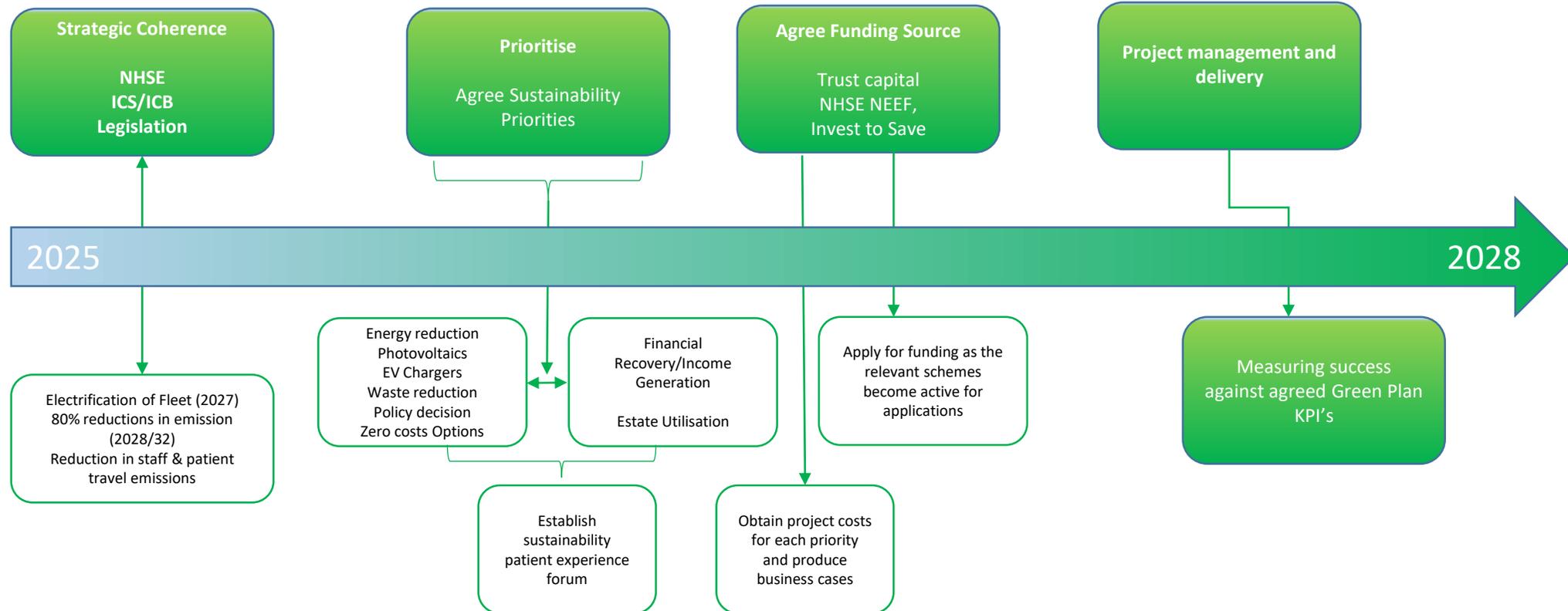
Sustainability Funding Options



The diagram above sets out potential funding options, focusing on sustainability. The development and viability of funding will need to be tested through business cases and financial review dependent on the ability to obtain appropriate CDEL cover. The development of revenue streams, for example Electric Vehicle Charging and or revenue off-setting through invest to save for example photovoltaics. Many public organisation like the education sector encourage donations through a will legacy or bequests.

Delivering the Green Plan 2025 to 2028 – Key Steps

The Trust Green Plan supports the delivery of the estate strategy and its vision. Next steps will involve the development of implementation plans that further establish key actions to deliver a sustainable estate as outlined in the estates strategy. Appendices 1, 2 and 3 set out how the Green Plan will be implemented and monitored including key performance indicators to measure success.



Measuring Success

The Trusts estates strategy defines a broad range of measures, one of which is to reduce carbon emission from building energy, water & waste, anaesthetic gases, metered dose inhalers, business and patient travel by 80% to 28KtCO₂e, with a target date between 2028 to 2032.

The Trusts green plan is designed to support the achieve of this objective, appendices 1 providing a detailed action plan and associated activities to ensure the Trusts activities its objective of creating a sustainable estate.

The Trust has defined the performance measures and key performance indicators for its green plan as follows:



APPENDIX 1 –

Transformational change towards
delivering the Green Plan to
achieve net-zero emission and
strategic resilience

EPUT

Transformational change towards delivering the Green Plan to achieve net-zero emission and strategic resilience

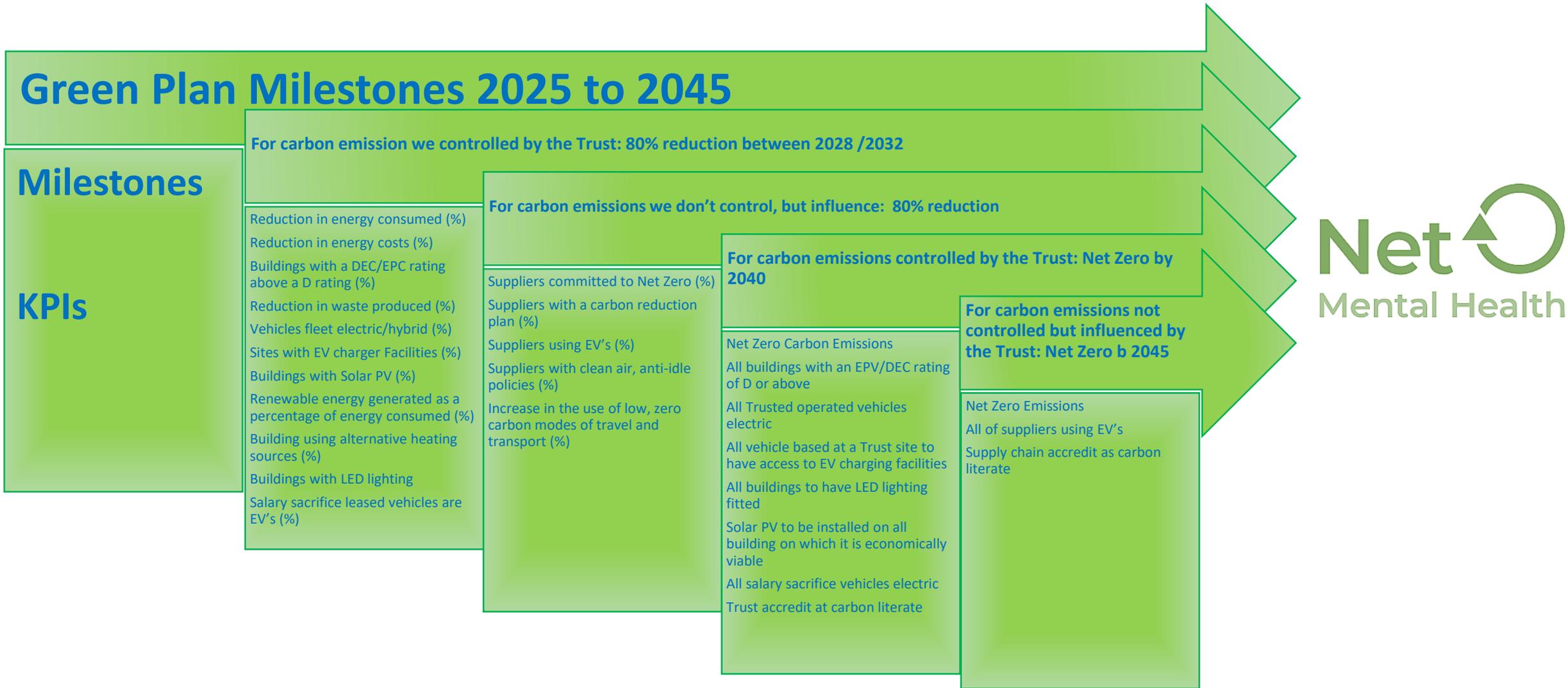


■ Implementation Element
 ■ System Design Element
 ■ Financial Element
 ■ Policy Element
 ■ Enhancing Element

APPENDIX 2 –

Green Plan Milestones and Key Performance Indicators

EPUT



APPENDIX 3 – Glossary

EPUT

Term	Definition
BMS	Building Management System
CDEL	Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CH4	Methane
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CO2e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
DEC	Display Energy Certificates
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
EV	Electric Vehicle
HCF	hydrofluorocarbons
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Airconditioning
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICS	Integrated Care System
IT	Information Technology
LED	Light Emitting Diode
N2O	Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas)
NEEF	NHS Energy Efficiency Fund
PDC	Public Dividend Capital
PFC	Perfluorinated compounds
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PSDS	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
Scope 1, 2 & 3	Emissions from sources that an organisation produces in connection with its business
SDAT	Sustainable Development Assessment Tool
SF6	Sulphur Hexafluoride
sqm	Square Meters (m ²)
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency
ULEV	Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WIP	Work In Progress
ZEV	Zero Emissions Vehicle