

HOW ARE AVENSYS BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE?

A year ago the NHS became the first health service to commit to reaching net-zero carbon emissions. Here's what Avensys are doing to help achieve this goal.



Background

One year ago, the NHS became the first health service to commit to reaching net-zero carbon emissions.

As it stands, the NHS is responsible for 4-5% of the UK's total emissions. Over 60% of their carbon footprint is created by their vast supply chain which includes emissions from freight, the manufacturing of goods, catering, and construction, amongst a whole host of other sources. If the NHS are to achieve their goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, it is crucial that they look to their supply chain and find ways to encourage their suppliers to decarbonise their business activities.

We are one of the NHS' suppliers for bio-medical engineering and have embraced this ambitious goal. This document outlines how we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and become a more sustainable business.



"For the emissions, we can influence, we will reach net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039."

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Avensys have recently attained ISO 14001:2015 certification, which demonstrates that we're an environmentally sustainable business. As part of this new certification, we monitor and measure our environmental aspects and impacts; inclusive of energy, water, emissions, fuel, and greenhouse gases (GHG), WEEE waste and all waste streams.

Additionally, we submit annual emissions reports to the NHS. In monitoring and measuring our emissions we're better able to target areas for improvement and implement companywide strategies to become more sustainable and promote sustainability for partners and suppliers.

Avensys are committed to reducing our carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

Listed below are some of the strategies we have employed to become more sustainable.

Car Sharing

Avensys encourages carpooling and promoting the benefits of travelling in pairs or groups, which is often more fun and better for individuals benefitting the environment by:

- Saving time and money.
- Reducing pollution from car emissions.
- Reducing local congestion.
- Reducing the use of limited fossil fuels.

Embracing the paperless office

We have cut our paper use by 80% by employing new paperless systems and improving our IT infrastructure. Our employees are urged to only print when necessary and try to find a digital solution where possible. We also recycle our small quantities of printing ink and toner waste to ethical waste contractors.

Fleet management

The largest contributor to our carbon footprint is our fleet of vehicles used by field engineers and salespeople. To reduce mileage, fuel and fleet costs, and emissions, we have implemented the following strategies:

- In-person meetings are now hosted online where possible.
- Logistics of travel routes are planned for all engineering jobs with the most efficient route in mind, with consideration of Clean Air Zones (CAZ).
- Fuel efficiency is prioritised when purchasing new vehicles.
- Electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are being reviewed and will eventually replace the existing fleet

Supplier Monitoring

It's important to us that we purchase from sustainable suppliers. Moreover, we monitor our suppliers against acceptance criteria and conditions of supply, quality, and performance.

Recycling

Recycling bins have been installed in every building for dry mixed recycling use and the small amounts of paper we still use. We also recycle plastics, cardboard, tins, and glass all derived from our domestic waste. We have increased our recycling waste by 100%.

WEEE Waste

If medical devices are deemed to be beyond economic repair, we also offer an ethical disposal route that is compliant with WEEE regulations. We monitor the waste stream and analyse the reports and the breakdown of recycled content and any final components to landfill. We also monitor any COSHH waste throughout our engineering services and only use accredited, licensed contractors for disposal.

Resale service

Avensys Resale operates a service that acquires surplus medical equipment and reconditions them, for ethical resale including a warranty that ensures that they are safe for use. This service aims to limit the amounts of medical devices and WEEE waste from being put into landfills and facilitates their re-use.