

Ref. No: 1820
Date: 09/06/25
Subject: Solar Energy Usage and Future Plans

REQUEST

I would like to request information regarding your current and planned usage of solar energy across your estate.

Please could you provide responses to the following questions:

1. Governance & Responsibility

Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?

If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

2. Current Solar Deployment

How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?

What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?

What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

3. Investment & Strategy

Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?

If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments

Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?

If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

5. Future Plans

Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

6. Procurement & Partnerships

Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?

Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

7. Battery Storage

Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?

Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

8. Funding

Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

9. Barriers

What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

RESPONSE

1. Yes, The dedicated people are listed below: -

Whiston and St Helens Hospital	David Downs (Senior Project Manager)
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital	Graham Turton (Sustainability Manager)

2. Two, the newest solar PV system at the roof of Diagnostic & Treatment Centre (DTC), St Helens Hospital has been operating since 2025. Another minor scale solar PV system is installed at Horton Lodge, St Helens Hospital in 2022.

Hospital	Location	Total installed capacity
St Helens	Diagnostic & Treatment Centre	214.84 kWp
St Helens	Horton Lodge	13.2 kWp

The total installed capacity of solar PV system at St Helens is 228.04 kWp. All electricity generated from the system was consumed directly on-site and none of the generation being exported to the DNO network.

3. Yes, the 2 Green Plans 2021-2026 for STHK and 2022-2025 for S&O (currently being update into 1 plan, due to be signed off by Board end July) along with Heat Decarbonization Plans for all our 4 main sites are significant documented strategies for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation.

[Website Link: Green plan 2021-2026](#)

<https://www.merseywestlancs.nhs.uk/resources/download/sthk-65ddb118035127.90973891>

Please see the attached.

4. Yes, solar energy is part of the Trust's Net Zero Strategy. Progress is communicated through:
- The Trust's Green Plan
 - Updates on the Trust's website
 - The Greener NHS programme
5. Yes, there are plans to expand solar energy use:

- £851,400 was granted to Whiston, Southport, and Ormskirk Hospitals for solar panel installations.
- A preliminary detailed design of solar PV system at Whiston has been submitted to the DNO for approval in Jun 25. Awaiting approval.

In Mar 2024, St Helens Hospital appointed an energy consultant ESOS Energy to conduct a feasibility studies of solar PV systems. The solar PV system goes live in 2025.

6. Yes, the procurement exercises are planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions as Whiston Hospital granted Great British Energy (GBE) NHS Solar 25/26 funding in Mar 2025, Vinci has started the preparatory activities, which consist of obtaining a cost estimate for detailed design and feasibility with the energy consultant for the solar PV system in St Helens, coordinating with the DNO, and submitting planning notifications and monthly report to NHS England.
7. No battery storage alongside to the solar PV system in St Helens Hospital. No plans to invest in battery storage at this moment.
8. Yes, on 21 March 2025 the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announced a package of £100 million from GBE for the NHS to install solar power and battery storage solutions to help drive down energy bills, offering better value for the taxpayer. A total of £851,400 has been granted to Whiston Hospital, Southport Hospital, and Ormskirk Hospital for the purpose of installing solar energy panels.
9. High initial capital costs for installing solar panels and associated infrastructure should be the main barrier if no extra external green funding can be granted from the government and NHS Trusts.