Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

16.11.2026

Communications Department
Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
www.twitter.com/RUHBath

Media Release

The RUH is full (de)steam ahead on its journey to a greener future

The Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust has marked a major milestone in its journey to becoming a cleaner, greener hospital, by switching on 650 new solar panels as part of its ambitious Project Clean Heat.

The panels are the latest development in a major programme of works that aims to modernise the hospital's ageing heating infrastructure, cut carbon emissions, and create a more sustainable environment for patients, staff, visitors and the wider local community.

The investment comes at a time when the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible. As well as affecting the environment, changing weather patterns and extreme temperatures – as well as the other effects of climate change such as air quality – can have a significant impact on people's health, particularly for older people, young children and those with existing health conditions.

The NHS has committed to becoming the world's first Net Zero health service by 2045, with an ambition to reach net zero for the emissions it has control over by 2040. Sustainability has therefore been a core focus at the RUH for many years, with Project Clean Heat being one of the largest environmental improvement programmes ever undertaken on the hospital site.

The new solar panels alone will save 42 tonnes of carbon every year, equivalent to the annual emissions of around seven typical UK households.

Jon Lund, Site Finance Director and executive sponsor for the project, said: "At the RUH, one of our goals is to make Bath one of the healthiest places to live and work in the country. This means looking beyond the healthcare we provide and considering the wider factors that influence people's wellbeing.

"Project Clean Heat will improve our facilities today, while also creating a greener hospital for future generations. Alongside reducing our environmental impact, the new heating systems, improved insulation and upgraded lighting will help to create a more comfortable environment for patients, visitors and staff."

The solar panels are just one element of the wider decarbonisation programme. Other recent milestones for the project include the installation of air-source and water-source heat pumps on the hospital rooftops, which are due to become operational later this year.

Additional improvements include installing high-quality LED lighting, better insulation and more advanced heating controls, all of which will reduce energy use while improving the physical environment in the hospital.

Once complete later in 2026, the whole project will reduce the RUH's annual emissions by 3,212 tonnes of carbon every single year – the equivalent of 14,500 return journeys between Bath and Edinburgh in the average petrol car, or the same as powering more than 1,000 homes in the UK for a year.

The impact of the work was recently recognised at the prestigious national IHEEM Healthcare Estates award, where it was shortlisted in the Net Zero Innovation category. This recognises teams, initiatives and projects that deliver real-world carbon reduction in healthcare estates, particularly those that could also provide a model for other NHS organisations.

The work has been funded by a multimillion-pound grant from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix. The RUH is delivering the project in partnership with Veolia and the Carbon Energy Fund.

Ends

About the RUH

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk