

Decarbonisation: Veolia operates the first solar car park to deliver renewable energy for a hospital in the UK

2 years ago



Sustainable resource management company [Veolia](#), working with 3ti solar car park specialists, has started renewable electricity generation at Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH). By installing a new Solar Car Park (SCP), the hospital is the first in the UK to take this significant step, which will produce 1,000 MWh of solar-generated electricity annually and lower CO₂ emissions by 222 tonnes in the first year.

The new solar array comprises over 2,412 solar panels across eight canopies that cover 400 car parking spaces. As high energy users, the hospital will make significant savings by generating its renewable electricity on-site and reducing the hospital's reliance on electricity from the national grid.

The new SCP also addresses the need for workplace electric vehicle (EV) charging by providing ten solar-powered EV charge points for staff use. By covering the car parking areas, the solar canopies also provide shelter from the elements and enhance security through overhead lighting.

The SCP is part of the £27m energy management contract with Veolia to upgrade Eastbourne District General Hospital, deliver wide-ranging energy upgrades and target carbon savings of 4,129 tonnes per year. With funding provided through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for affordable, low-carbon energy efficiency upgrades across the public sector, the scheme is one of the first to take a whole building approach that accounts for how facilities and the energy delivery systems interact with each other while maintaining an indoor environment that enhances patient care.

Chris Hodgson, Director of Estates and Facilities at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, said:

“Completing the new solar array is another significant step on our journey to Net Zero. The solar farm, alongside other improvements, including new insulation and heat pumps, at Eastbourne DGH, will lead to a significant reduction in the use of energy across the site, which will be a key part of our work to provide sustainable healthcare.”

“Achieving the NHS Net Zero targets and maintaining the essential patient care facilities requires a holistic building approach. Using the areas above the car park, this latest project is an excellent example of how we can transform the space above ground level to deliver renewable energy. This further contributes to the NHS decarbonisation programme by reducing emissions, building energy security for the hospital, and improving energy cost savings. We look forward to working with the teams at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and helping them achieve their environmental goals.”

JOHN ABRAHAM,

Chief Operating Officer – Veolia UK & Ireland – Industrial, Water & Energy