

GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Thank you and congratulations to all practices who submitted their toolkit for our 2023 awards cycle. We are currently in the process of conducting audits and hope to announce all award winners by the end of November.

If you did not submit your toolkit this year, you can continue to use the system for a 2024 award without disruption. The next deadline for awards will be in September 2024.

If you have submitted your toolkit and are worried it's disappeared, you can 'retract' it at any point (on the 'toolkits' page) to view it again. If you are awaiting an audit, however, please do not make any *changes* until after your audit.

There are 643 practices registered on the new toolkit, with 1407 users. 50 new users register on the toolkit each week.

Toolkit update

IMPORTANT WARNING for users of the old toolkit platform: This is your first warning that the **old GIFH web platform** in use from 2014-2023 will be closed at the end of 2023. If you had an account on the old system, from 1/1/24 you will not be able retrieve any data from your old account. This will not affect your current progress or data on the current toolkit, and does not affect you if you registered for the first time on the new system.

Until 31/12/23, you can access past entries on the old web platform system and can copy/paste them to the [new website](#). If you want to keep your information from the old toolkit, please download it. There are instructions how to do this in the 5-minute video on the homepage of the old toolkit. You can copy all the old information and paste into the new toolkit or you can upload the spreadsheet as a reference in the QIP002 criteria in the new toolkit website, and paste the following text into the completed criteria on the new toolkit 'This criterion was completed in our 2022 toolkit and is detailed in the spreadsheet attached to QIP002'. Do not forget to click the 'Done' box for each of the criteria in the new toolkit. Remember that after 31/12/23 all the information on the old GIFH web platform will be permanently deleted! If you have any questions please let us know.

Opportunities/events/publications to know about.

The Health Foundation published its report '[Net zero- what will it take](#)' on 21st September. The report is a useful summary of the current NHS situation and highlights four main areas for action to support the shift to net zero care.

- The NHS should support staff to build the skills, knowledge and dedicated time to design and implement the necessary changes to care delivery.
- NHS leaders should prioritise environmental sustainability, link it to other priorities and encourage working across organisational boundaries.
- National bodies should align their focus on NHS net zero and ensure that national policy levers and guidelines support this.
- Research and innovation are needed to identify the most carbon-intensive aspects of care and develop lower-carbon solutions, building the evidence on which existing solutions should be prioritised for wider adoption.

Think about adding to innovation by applying for the NHS SBRI Healthcare, [Competition 24: Delivering a Net Zero NHS for a Healthier Future](#). This will be open from **31st October** and close on **22nd November 2023**. The early-stage development contracts are for a maximum of 12 months and from £50,000- £100,000 (NET) per project.

On 10th October [Net Zero Clinical Care conference](#) took place at BMA House. The following is just one of the many helpful posters presented, which [you can view online here](#). There will be more information published after the conference.

SUSTAINABLE DIAMONDS IN PRIMARY CARE - HOW TO HELP GP PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO
Dr Abigail Fry (GP partner), Mile Oak Medical Centre, Brighton

Mile Oak Medical Centre

All our GP practices in the West Hove Primary Care Network (PCN) achieved a sustainability award in this 6 month project
If we can do it, so can you! Read more to find out how

Aims	Background	Project
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the number of local practices actively participating in carbon reduction strategies To support practices to engage with the Green Impact for Health Toolkit To help the NHS reach its net zero goal by 2040 	Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity (WHO:2018) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary care contributes to 23% of NHS' carbon footprint. The Green Impact for Health Toolkit can help practices improve their carbon footprint in an easy, step-wise way. Practices can feel good making positive changes for the world. Some changes can save money and increase income. 	Supporting 5 GP practices in the West Hove Primary Care Network (PCN) one day per week from Nov 2022 to May 2023 to engage with the Green Impact for Health Toolkit by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole team practice meetings to introduce the project and share resources plus PCN meetings Developing personalised 'Quick Win' sheets showing how to get a Bronze and Silver Award Meeting different teams within the practices (e.g., the admin, pharmacy, nursing teams)

Data

Examples of toolkit actions practices achieved

- Switching from expensive yellow waste bags to tiger bags
- Changing to recycled paper
- Introducing rechargeable batteries
- Adding sustainability to every practice meeting

- Swapping to Ecosia for main search engine
- Timer added to kitchen drinking water heater
- Increasing recycling and having general waste

Portslade Health Centre winning the sustainable hamper by achieving 165 points

4 out of 5 practices had not engaged with the GIFH toolkit at the start of the project by the midpoint all had new awards

After 6 months Portslade Health Centre had gained the most points & won a Silver Award!

Conclusion

Suggestions for Quick Wins Actions to achieve a Bronze Award

Monthly gas & electricity statements	Printer to switch off	Bioethicising friendly	Steam cleaning items safely	GIFH on website	Climate meeting	Switch browser to Ecosia
2 points	2 points	2 points	3 points	2 points	4 points	2 points
Climate change on every agenda	Review Open Prescribing	Inhalers education	Contact GPs for inhaler switching	Vaseline to Salamol	Social prescribing training	Social prescribing training
3 points	5 points	5 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	5 points
Social prescribing champion	Social prescribing local network	Staff bike stands	Recycled/FCS printer paper	Recycle paper & print double-sided	Label bins	Storage of pollutants
4 points	5 points	4 points	2 points	2 points	5 points	2 points
Inhaler recycling promoted	Recycle print toners	Shredded paper necessary?	Menstrual cup poster	Label dual flush toilets	Kitchen improvement	
2 points	2 points	2 points	1 point	2 points	2 points	

With minimal support and friendly competition, GP practices are happy to use the Green Impact for Health Toolkit to make their practices environmentally sustainable

Learning and what next?

It was fantastic to see practices engage in sustainability changes and to realise each of us can make a difference: the ripple effect that comes about from changes in a work setting has even spread to homes and beyond. With minimal encouragement changes can happen quickly. If more and continued support is offered to primary care, there will be faster progress to Net Zero.

For more information, please contact abigailfry@rhn.net. This pilot project was funded by an award from the Healthier Futures Fund which enabled Dr Abigail Fry to spend 1 day per week on the 6 month project. The practice teams completed and updated their toolkits themselves.

Thank you for the funding from the NHS Healthier Futures Action Fund

Use the [UKHACC template](#) to ask your MP to act for a healthy climate

6th - 10th November, the [Midlands Greener Primary Care Week](#) will consist of bite-sized, virtual sessions running over each day, open to everyone in or connected to primary care. All sessions will be recorded and hosted online to view afterwards. The week aims to:

- Showcase ongoing examples of greening primary care to inspire action
 - Bring together a wide audience across the whole of primary care
 - Begin and facilitate a discussion about how greener activities can be incorporated and embedded into care delivery
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The [RCGP Net Zero Hub](#) has the following resources for General Practices

1. An e-learning module [Introduction to sustainable healthcare](#) highlights the carbon footprint of primary care and the opportunities to reduce our emissions in both the short and the long term.
2. The e-learning module [High quality & low carbon respiratory care](#) guides how to improve asthma outcomes whilst reducing the carbon footprint of inhaler prescribing.
3. The e-learning module [Understanding non-clinical carbon and general practice](#) identifies carbon emission hotspots and the actions needed to reduce the non-clinical carbon emissions
4. A free guide to [Decarbonising general practice Net Zero action plan for non-clinical emissions](#) that focuses on understanding and addressing non-clinical carbon within general practice.

The e-learning has been used by >700 people since its launch.

The [Net Zero service](#) matches a practice with a trained adviser who will work closely with the team to develop a decarbonisation plan.

Funding Green Impact

The RCGP has agreed to fund the toolkit at SOS-UK until December 2025. We still need additional funds to provide additional improvements and support. Please donate to SOS-UK via our [charity PayPal account](#). Choose the Green Impact option. It will take you less than a minute to make your donation! A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

To keep up to date with SOS-UK's programme and campaign news, [sign up](#) to our newsletter. If you require any help or further information, please contact : giforhealth@sos-uk.org or Greenimpactforhealth@gmail.com

[Visit the Green Impact toolkit now!](#)

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