

GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

November 2023

What's happening with the 2023 Green Impact Awards?

Since the launch of the new GIFH web platform in February 2023, 744 practices have registered with individual 1610 users. There are about 50 new users each week. On the old GIFH platform in December 2022 there were 1446 practices with 1920 individual users.

The deadline for submissions this year was 30/09/23. Since then, a cohort of students have been trained and been doing the audits for the higher awards. Bronze awards have been audited by simpler on-line review of the evidence submitted without using the students. All the audits should be completed internally by 10th November, after which SOS-UK will moderate everything and finalise award levels by the end of November.

If you have submitted for a 2023 award, once you have received confirmation of your award level, you can 'retract' your toolkit on the 'toolkits' page to continue working on your next 2024 award. **Please wait until after your 2023 award level has been confirmed to do this however.**

Toolkit update

IMPORTANT WARNING for users of the old toolkit platform: This is your **second 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 01/01/24 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.

- You can [Subscribe](#) to the monthly Greener NHS Bulletin.

- The World Family Doctors (WONCA) October conference in Sydney launched with many other health bodies representing three million health professionals, urging international leaders to safeguard the health of global populations from the climate crisis in an [open letter](#) calling for all governments to immediately cease expansion of new fossil fuel infrastructure and production. This was reported in the [Guardian](#).
- The BMJ and >200 world health journals in [editorials](#) call on the United Nations, political leaders, and health professionals to recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss are one indivisible crisis and must be tackled together to preserve health and avoid catastrophe. This overall environmental crisis is now so severe as to be a global health emergency.
- [RCGP annual report](#) 2022/23 is published online. The environmental report starts on page 22. If you have any questions or comments about this report, they can be raised at the RCGP [Annual General Meeting](#) on **Saturday 18 November 2023 at 09:00**. This is a hybrid meeting held both in person at **30 Euston Square, London** and virtually via zoom. You can also send your comments/questions to greenimpactforhealth@gmail.com
- The UK Health Security Agency recently published this review: Research and analysis: [Climate change and public health indicators: scoping review](#). This is a comprehensive review of indicators relevant for public health monitoring of climate change and health in England. The review was undertaken from spring 2021 to autumn 2022, reviewing indicators and data sources which were openly available at the time.
- Carbon Offsetting: Carbon Brief recently published a series of in-depth articles that focused on the hot topic of [carbon-offsetting](#).

Key dates

- **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

- **14th November**
Launch of the Green Surgery report at the Future of Surgery conference in London. A communications toolkit will be shared with members prior to launch.
- **15th November**
2pm Publication and [launch](#) of the Lancet Countdown UK policy brief. More details about the launch and communications will be shared in advance.
- **15th November**
10am-4pm at RCPsych Net Zero Mental Health Care [Launch Event](#)
- **22nd November 12-1pm MCF Classifier**
Measuring the carbon footprint of medicines - is having a [webinar introducing MCF Classifier](#), a suite of applications to measure, benchmark, and optimise the carbon footprint of medicines
- **24th January 2024**
Lighting fires in our homes is the largest source of harmful small particulate matter air pollution in the UK, but most people don't know that wood burning is bad for our health. Global Action Plan - the organisers of Clean Air Day - are launching a new sister campaign, Clean Air Night, on 24 January to shine a light on the uncomfortable truths about wood burning. If you are interested in taking part in the first Clean Air Night and receiving free resources to help educate the public about the harms of wood burning, please register your interest [here](#).

A new [campaigns and events calendar](#) is being developed by UKHACC

On 10th October [Net Zero Clinical Care conference](#) took place at BMA House. They presented many helpful posters which are relevant to General Practice. [You can view them online here](#). The below poster is one example.

“Show me your meds, please?”
A simple question enhancing patient centred care, reducing risks, costs and environmental impact
Gompertz D, Lead Complex Care GP; Clegg I, PCN Clinical Pharmacist (South Somerset)

<p>Show me your meds (please?) during home visits</p> <p>Pilot identified 40 people with medication non-adherence (South Somerset)</p> <p>OUTCOME: 39 Medications stopped Social Prescribing 30% New diagnosis cognitive impairment 35%</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 1693 kg</p> <p>COST Waste £10866 £3529 pa saved by deprescribing</p> <p>WASTE 1049 months of prescription items unused</p>	<p>Medicines Impact - England: •£300 million not taken each year.</p> <p>Solution in South Somerset: Often medicine adherence was only reliably detected by viewing peoples' medication stocks at home.</p> <p>Asking: “Can you show me your meds... please?”</p> <p>1 in 4 people non-adherent.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassurance needed that reducing medication is not withdrawing medical care. • Avoiding increased clinical workload...: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund extra pharmacy support through financial savings? 2. Reallocation of resources from low impact routine, high volume medication review to targeted reviews? 	<p>Pharmacy Team Roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared decision making with patient. • Regime simplification to aid compliance and reduce wastage • Two way information conduit between local community pharmacies and the wider healthcare team. <p>Learning points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One question.... : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving NHS resources, • Beneficial environmental impact • Reduce risk of incorrectly taken medication 2) Provides insight to patient priorities and cognition. 3) Pivotal trusting relationships within community teams who share the same ethos around person-centred care. 4) National/international adoption could have an enormous impact on wellbeing for patients and the environment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PERSON CENTRED CARE Identifying patient's goals/wishes Communication/understanding (Medication review cannot be done in isolation from holistic approach) INVOLVING PHARMACISTS Simplifying regimes Monitoring blister packs Communication & feedback SOCIAL CARE NEEDS Identifying the right support to take their medication ...helping long term conditions & admission avoidance COGNITIVE DECLINE Recognising poor adherence to medication as an indicator of dementia Risks associated with “pick & mix” medication Critical risk/benefit analysis of continuing medication PATIENT BENEFITS Improve quality of life Retain independence Multidisciplinary team approach Supporting unrecognised need & identifying dementia ENVIRONMENTAL/ COST IMPACT
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Use the [UKHACC template](#) to ask your MP to act for a healthy climate

There are lots of resources available at [The Cornwall & SW Health & Climate Resilience Network](#)

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!](#)

You are receiving this email because you have an active account on the Green Impact toolkit. Our monthly newsletter contains important information about the toolkit and your award so is sent to all active users. If you would like us to deactivate your Green Impact account, and stop receiving emails, please email giforhealth@sos-uk.org.