

GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

December 2023

The 2023 Green Impact for Health Awards

Following the 30/09/23 deadline for submissions this year, a cohort of students were trained and have been conducting audits for 50 submissions. Some awards have been audited by a simpler on-line review of evidence submitted without students. There have been 4 Platinum awards, 17 Gold, 31 Silver, and 39 Bronze in this round of awards. Congratulations to all practices that submitted themselves for an award. If you have received confirmation of your 2023 award level, you can now 'retract' your toolkit on the 'toolkits' page to continue working on your next 2024 award.

Since the launch of the new GIFH web platform in February 2023, 831 practices have registered with individual 1813 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.

We want to continually **improve** the programme so your feedback and suggestions for improvement about any aspect of the toolkit are welcome. Please [complete this short 5-10 minute survey](#) to help us improve the toolkit functionality and audit/award process, and send any feedback about the content of the toolkit to greenimpactforhealth@gmail.com.

Toolkit update

IMPORTANT WARNING for users of the old toolkit platform: This is your **final 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.

Key dates

- **Webinar: Wilding the UK. Wednesday 24th January 2024, 12pm - 1pm:** The UK has set a target to protect and restore 30% of our land and sea by 2030, and to halt species decline by 2030. Join this webinar to learn more about these targets, what is being done to help reverse the decline of nature and how you can help support these goals. We'll cover some interesting larger-scale projects and initiatives, alongside suggestions of what you can do to get involved in boosting biodiversity in your local area! [Sign up here.](#)
- **COP28** is the 28th Conference of the Parties, the UN's annual climate change conference. COP28 is currently being hosted by the United Arab Emirates. Until 12th December, nations and representatives from across society have come together to discuss and negotiate the next steps for global climate action. [Read ClientEarth's guide to COP28](#) and there are [daily summaries on IISD here.](#)

Opportunities/events/publications to know about.

- You can [Subscribe](#) to the monthly **Greener NHS Bulletin**.
- **Global Governance for Climate Justice and Health Equity** is an [overview](#) of health issues with climate change prior to COP28
- **Green Mental Health Report:** RCPsychiatrists has published [Net Zero Mental Health guidance](#)
- **Green Surgery Report** sets the [groundwork](#) for reducing the carbon footprint of hospital surgical care. This is the world's first detailed account of how to reduce the environmental impact of surgical care while maintaining high quality patient care.
- **Lancet Countdown UK Policy Brief :** The 2023 UK [policy brief](#) and country datasheet infographics - UK datasheet [here](#).
- NHS free carbon Literacy [eLearning](#) with The Carbon Literacy Project
- The **BMJ/UKHACC conference** on 10th October included many presentations relevant to where you work. You can access all the [posters here](#) and [recordings here](#)
- Access the 'Greener Practice Sustainable Healthcare Reading List' [here](#)
- If you work in a general practice in **Coventry and Warwickshire ICB, Birmingham and Solihull ICB, or South Yorkshire ICB**, please consider completing a brief 5-minute online [survey](#). The [GPNET-0 study](#) funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), is investigating how general practice is implementing decarbonisation actions to make recommendations on how to accelerate their implementation and sustainability. The survey welcomes responses from all practice staff, and multiple staff from a singular practice can complete the survey. They want to receive views from all practices, irrespective of their current levels of engagement with decarbonisation actions. There are a variety of incentives for completing the survey:

- For each practice that returns one or more surveys, 1 tree shall be planted by NHS forest.
- A prize draw.
- A certificate of participation for practices to display.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

This [article](#) gives lessons from service and system failures that describe the roles played by governance and leadership in delivering high-quality, safe care. It sets out what the terms governance and leadership mean and how thinking about them has developed over time.

GREEN BANKS

Is it time to change your personal bank and your practice bank? Most banks now have a 7 day [current account switch service](#) that changes all your in/out payments to your new bank. WHICH recently published a review of banks.

They recommend three Eco Providers - The Co-operative Bank, Nationwide and Triodos - that have no exposure to fossil fuels in their banking activities. Which analysed banks' fossil fuel policies and combed through statements on agricultural commodities such as beef, soy, timber and palm oil.

They considered transparency levels and whether banks had credible targets to reduce exposure to environmentally damaging sectors. Which checked whether they publish independently verified data and have signed up to commitments such as the UN-led Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), or committed to standards such as the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) and Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi).

[Switch it green](#) recently started a switch service that rates your current bank and recommends new ones. The switch service puts pressure on the big banks to become eco banks. See also [Bank Green](#), [Moral score](#), [MakeMyMoneyMatter](#), and this [ethical consumer guide](#).

GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIERS

WHICH assessed energy on a range of sustainability criteria and rated four energy companies as eco providers for energy in 2023: 100Green, Ecotricity, Good Energy, and Octopus Energy.

WHO has published [Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems](#)

RCGP: one of its 4 strategic priorities 2023-2026 is 'Respond to the climate emergency' and will do this by taking the following actions:

At GP/practice levels: education, training and support

- Increase awareness amongst GPs of the health impacts of planetary health and of the ways in which carbon emissions, air pollution, pharmaceuticals in water and other environmental threats affect health.

- Support practices to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and improvements in care, according to planetary health principles, through the primary care development net zero programme and other related tools.
- Ensure that planetary health is well established in the RCGP curriculum and within the MRCGP examination.

At cluster/ICB/national level: health policy

- Engage with ICBs in England and clusters in the devolved nations to raise awareness and encourage delivery of sustainable healthcare in general practice.
- As part of the College's policy and campaigning work, incorporate clear policy asks to support general practice to improve the energy efficiency of its estates and implement climate adaptation strategies.
- Contribute to efforts to reduce general practice's carbon footprint by lobbying, engaging and advising on sustainable prescribing.

At RCGP level

- Deliver significant near- and medium-term reductions in the College's carbon emissions on a path to global net zero by 2050.
- Support the development of an engaged and inclusive sustainable healthcare special interest group, and connections with relevant external organisations such as the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, and Greener Health.

The RCGP has Key Performance indicators that it reports twice a year to its council in Sept and March and twice a year to its trustee board. Members can log into the RCGP website and view the [council papers](#) reporting progress. See paper 66 in the September 2023 council paper for the actual KPIs they will be using.

Sustainability Leadership for Greener Health and Care

Delivered by the **NHS Leadership Academy**, the Sustainability Leadership for Greener Health and Care programme is designed to develop your leadership abilities, giving you the tools and knowledge to build a greener and more sustainable health system. Whether you're a new and aspiring leader who works across organisational boundaries or a leader who aspires to influence the net-zero agenda at board level - this programme has courses suited to you. The programme is free for public sector health and care staff, and requires no prior experience or knowledge in sustainability. There are still places available for Track 2, which includes three workshop days alongside the eLearning modules.

[Apply here](#) ,

A Carbon Footprint Tool for Medicines

MCF Classifier has been developed and will be freely available in Feb 2024. A [preprint](#) 'Landscape Analysis of Medicine Carbon Footprints Identifies Antibiotics as a Promising Target for Emission Reduction Interventions' explains how it works.

A recording of the MCF Classifier webinar on 22nd November can be watched [here](#).

Videos from the midlands greener primary care week - Nov 2023

Various [45min webinars](#) were recorded and can be watched on [FutureNHS](#).

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.

Apologies to anyone who received an email regarding **the SOS-UK newsletter**. We can confirm that this was an error, and you will not receive the SOS-UK newsletter (unless you have also signed up for this). This was an automatically generated email sent out by our mail server when preparing to send you this newsletter. SOS-UK is the charity that delivers Green Impact for Health.