



GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

2024 Green Impact for Health

The [new web platform for the toolkit](#) was launched in February 2023. In the last year almost 1,000 practices have registered. This is roughly 10% of UK general practices

We finished the year with an amazing 4 Platinum, 17 Gold, 31 Silver, and 39 Bronze awards given! [This article celebrates the success of the 2023 Green Impact for Health Awards](#) and you can share more about the success of the 2023 Green Impact for Health Awards using this [comms pack](#). Access the [2023 impact report here!](#)

To all practices that submitted, don't forget you can now 'retract' your toolkit on the 'toolkits' page after [logging in](#), to continue working on your toolkit for a Green Impact 2024 award.

We want to continually **improve** the programme so your feedback and suggestions for improvement about any aspect of the toolkit are welcome. Please send any feedback to greenimpactforhealth@gmail.com.

Toolkit update

IMPORTANT WARNING - Please note that we require all practice teams to clearly state their practice name and town in their team name on the toolkit (e.g. Central Practice, Cambridge). If your team name currently does not include the town name also, we require you to **update your team name by 7th March 2024**, in order to continue using the toolkit. You can do this easily under 'Team settings' once you've logged in. (see picture below)

If you are having any issues updating your profile, please contact giforhealth@sos-uk.org. Team names that have not been updated by 7th March will be automatically deactivated from the toolkit.

Green Impact for Health is a national scheme with almost 1000 participating practices. Maintaining accurate names is important to prevent new users from joining the wrong team, and for our monitoring and evaluation processes.



Key dates and events to know about

- [FREE WEBINAR](#): Ethical Finance - How the financial system entrenches climate and social injustice - and how we can transform it to build a just, sustainable future

Tuesday 13th February 2024, 3pm - 4pm: Ever wondered what banks do with your money when you deposit it in an account with them? Want to know how the world's most polluting and exploiting industries are funding? This session will give you an overview of the role of the global financial industry in our world's most pressing climate and social crises - and how organisations can use their influence to help build a just, sustainable economy. [Sign up here.](#)

- [SHOW THE LOVE](#): Each February the Climate Coalition run their Show the Love campaign.

They encourage people to use the power of Green Hearts to raise awareness of the climate crisis and the impacts on people around the world, calling for action to create a cleaner and greener world. The campaign really promotes creative activism with inspiration for Green Heart crafting and baking. There are also downloadable action packs and resources with ideas, suggestions, inspiration and printable postcards. [Get involved here.](#)

- [The UKHACC In Conversation series](#): 14 February 2024 12-1pm.

Oil & gas companies (aka fossil fuel companies), energy, and the climate and nature crisis. The chair of Sellafield UK and former Head of Group Technology at BP, Mr Tony Meggs, is the guest. Richard Smith will talk to him about the role of oil and gas (aka fossil fuel) companies in the climate and nature crisis and what our energy mix should be in the next 20 years. [Register here.](#) Sign up to receive UKHACC newsletters here:

<https://action.ukhealthalliance.org/page/69209/subscribe/1>

Publications to know about

- General Medical Council's [Q&A on sustainability](#) from the new 2024 version of Good medical Practice.
- Greener Primary Care in Wales - The [Framework](#) supports the four independent primary care contractor services in Wales (community pharmacy, dental, general practice and optometry) to improve the environmental sustainability of their day-to-day practice and to reach the Welsh Government decarbonisation targets. <https://primarycareone.nhs.wales/topics1/greener-primary-care/>
- UK Health Security Agency report [Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK](#): State of the evidence 2023 has been updated.
- You can [Subscribe](#) to the monthly **Greener NHS Bulletin**.
- Access the 'Greener Practice Sustainable Healthcare Reading List' [here](#)
- The UKHACC manifesto for the next general election presents five priorities for the new government to sustain our health, health and care services, and environment. We ask that parties incorporate these commitments into their manifestos. <https://s41874.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/UKHACC-MANIFESTO-2024-1.pdf>

Opportunities to know about

- 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.
- **RCGP Faculty Climate and Sustainability Lead Community Group** is looking for GPs in the following faculty areas to join the group:
 - North and West London
 - North East London
 - Essex
 - Beds & Herts
 - Leicester
 - North East England
 - Cumbria
 - Mersey
 - North Wales
 - Republic of Ireland

The purpose of the group is to increase awareness of the importance of planetary health, the links to patient health outcomes and promote carbon reduction across primary care; to provide a supportive network sharing knowledge and good practice and advising on the delivery of sustainable local events and initiatives; provide a forum for subject matter experts or have a general interest in planetary health to discuss and engage in the topic; develop leadership and learning opportunities; develop quality improvement tools for primary care to enable carbon reduction in the NHS; advice and guidance to the college; and provide a link to external organisations. Contact your [local faculty](#) if you can join the group.

- **New free Sustainable Healthcare online course by UCL+ FutureLearn:** Empowering all healthcare professionals around the world in sustainable healthcare.

‘How to Drive Sustainable Healthcare: Educate, Engage, and Empower’:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/how-to-drive...>

Explore how we can make a difference with this global free course on environmental sustainability in healthcare. **FREE (but if you do not complete the course within the 3 weeks you do have to pay to continue to access it.)**

Global on-line course for all healthcare professionals

- 3 weeks x 3hrs/week
- Videos, podcasts, articles, and forums and discussions
- Learn from international experts and be inspired and empowered

Greener health

Reducing the environmental impact of medicines used in UK healthcare. Up to 90% of the medicines we consume end up in our wastewater. These pollutants can affect the health of wildlife, contributing to biodiversity loss. They are also driving antimicrobial resistance, one of the greatest global threats to human health. For more information visit the [Pharma Pollution Hub](#). It is an independent, non-profit think tank based at the University of Exeter

Pathology's solution to plastic reduction. How to get rid of most of the bits of plastic and the labels. There has been a lot of interest in [Indexor](#) - In the GP surgery samples are labelled with electronically requested barcoded labels and are simply scanned via an iMini scanner into a iRack. The iRack contains a RFID tag which holds the barcode identification and associated test but does not hold any patient identification. The samples are then placed into the rack and once collected by the dedicated courier the rack is placed into an iLogger case which starts recording transport information.

On receipt at the laboratory racks are loaded into docks all sample information is downloaded into the laboratory system and samples are ready for processing. Worklists are then interrogated for priority or time sensitive samples.

Green banks

In the [December 2023 newsletter](#), there was information about how to change your personal bank. All the feedback has been that switching your personal account is easy using the 7 day [current account switch service](#) that changes all your in/out payments to your new bank.

Changing your business bank accounts is worthwhile but can be more difficult. It's worthwhile because if your bank is an investor in fossil fuels your finance emissions - from business bank accounts and pensions - can be one of the biggest contributors to your practice's carbon emissions. You can check your [bank](#) and your financial carbon footprint using this [calculator](#). It's more difficult to change because its more complicated. [MothersTree](#) can switch for you for a monthly fee and a 12month contract.

See also:

- [Banking WhatsApp Community](#) for Health Professionals
- <https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/>
- <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/money-finance/ethical-banking>

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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