

GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



Photo by [Daniel Funes Fuentes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Since the launch of the [new toolkit web platform](#), there are now 1173 practices registered, with over 2500 individual users.

Reminder - Our annual review of the contents of the toolkit. If you want to help update the toolkit over the summer by checking some (about 5 per reviewer) of the criteria for errors or timely updates, please volunteer by email [here](#). It's a simple task that you can do over the summer. The deadline for completing your review is the end of August. You can earn up to 5 extra points for your practice by helping.

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

IMPORTANT - Please note, 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** in order to continue using [the toolkit](#). You can do this easily under 'Team settings' once you've logged in.

o How to do a simple lighting audit (criteria ENS002 and ENS027)

The number of W should be either printed on the bulb - or on the packaging of the spares in the storeroom (often more easily accessible!). On f-tube bulbs, it may be printed on the metal end (with the prongs on it). Multiply number of bulbs x number of hours used (e.g. per week) = number of Watts = total energy use (per week). So, 20 bulbs @ 50W on from 8am-6pm = $20 \times 50 \times 10 = 10,000\text{Wh}$ or 10kWh.

There are likely several different types of bulbs in different rooms/different part of the building, so a walk around all the rooms, count the bulbs, note the type (and compare to those in store cupboard), guesstimate the number of hours per day in use, enter data into an excel table.

First look at those bulbs that are on all day - e.g. waiting room etc, they may be the priority to replace if the bulbs are high energy users. The amount of brightness of a bulb is lumens, amount of energy used in Watts. The number of Watts does not correlate to the brightness anymore (it did with filament bulbs where 100W was brighter than 25W) - so lower energy bulbs can be very bright! Also, longevity of the bulb and colour hue can be varied and important now.

Key dates and Events

o Responding to the climate emergency'

22nd June 2024. The RCGP council is discussing and approving a policy paper (ref C/46) on this topic. Please ask your RCGP [faculty](#) for a copy of this paper and give your feedback to your national and/or faculty representatives on council.

o Green Impact for Health Conference. 'Moving towards a well-being economy'

Frome Medical Practice are hosting our 2nd RCGP Green Impact for Health Conference. Frome will be serving a delicious, locally sourced vegan lunch. Hope you can join us. See the agenda and register [here](#). RCGP members can use the promo code: *greenhealth*

o Clean Air Day - 20th June

Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today. How can you get involved this [Clean Air Day](#)? Walk or cycle to work. Even car-sharing or taking a bus or train helps to reduce air pollution if your commute is a bit too far by foot or bike. Alternatively contact your local MP and encourage them to act to reduce air pollution in your community.

o The RACE Summit 2024: Racial Action for the Climate Emergency - 12th July

The inaugural RACE Summit, organised by The RACE Report, UCL, the Diverse Sustainability Initiative, and Wildlife and Countryside Link, aims to enhance inclusion in the UK environment sector by bringing together individuals from racially and ethnically minoritised groups, allies, and leaders for collective action and growth. The event will feature discussions with CEOs, HR professionals, and EDI leads to foster personal,

organisational, and collective advancement in racial justice and inclusion, ensuring the sector serves communities most impacted by climate and ecological challenges. [Buy your tickets by 28th June!](#)

Publications to know about

o Your workload and continuity of care

More reports suggest that improving continuity of care can reduce consultation workload in practices by 4-5% See the Continuity Counts [website](#) for the research and see [here](#) for more information on how to do it.

o Your workload and skill mixes

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has studied and [reports](#) whether the changes to the skills mix of the GP workforce has translated into better care for patients. See [here](#) for a summary of what works best.

o Getting primary care buildings to net zero

The building accounts for about 13% of primary cares carbon footprint. London Primary care have produced a Primary Care Net Zero road map for each of its ICBs (North East London [here](#)). See also [Cornwall's energy survey summary](#), the NHSE 2024 [Guidance](#) on developing a 10-year infrastructure strategy, and the North East and Yorkshire [net zero hub](#)

o Summary of Primary Care Net Zero and Climate Emergency Work by Integrated Care Boards in England.

Greener Practice are trying to produce this summary of who is doing what so please put details of what work the ICB is doing or what work you are doing [here](#) Deadline 7th July



Photo by The Climate Reality Project on Unsplash

Opportunities to know about

o Consultation on NHS England Constitution

The Consultation on NHS England Constitution has a section on Environmental responsibilities. The NHS Constitution in England is being updated and the new section of the environment is very weak. It is: *We play our part in achieving legislative commitments on the environment. We do this by improving our resilience and efficiency, while always prioritising value for money. We will never compromise standards of care or the needs of patients in pursuit of these targets.*

The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC) has asked for a more robust statement. The UKHACC suggested statement is: *Because the climate emergency is a health emergency, we will reach carbon net-zero on all we directly control by 2040 and all we consume by 2045. We will reduce our harm to nature and the environment to a minimum and where possible improve both. We will make the NHS*

more resilient to climate change and help people recognise the benefits to their health of adopting a more nature-friendly lifestyle.

If individuals also submit a response then the current weak proposal may be improved. Please respond to the [Environmental Responsibilities section](#) consultation The deadline for submissions is noon on 25th June.

Sustainability News

- [Renewable energy passes 30% of world's electricity supply](#), The Guardian

- [Isle of Wight-size iceberg breaks from Antarctica](#), BBC News
 - [Green infrastructure plans need to consider historical racial inequalities](#), Science Daily
 - [Scaling up: the app that's transforming lives in South African fishing communities](#), The Guardian
 - [A leading marine biologist advocates for optimism in climate change discussions](#), Daily Climate
 - [Zero-carbon cement process could slash emissions from construction](#), News Scientist
 - [Should London become a 'sponge city'?](#), BBC News
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Kind Regards,

The Green Impact for Health Team