



GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

2024 Green Impact for Health

Since the reset of the toolkit to a [new web platform](#) in February 2023, there are now 993 organisations with 2242 individual users of the toolkit.

To all practices that submitted for a 2023 award, don't forget you can now click 'retract submission' 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, 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 April 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 April 2024** 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.



Toolkit Spotlight

The toolkit serves as a guide for general practices to become more sustainable and decarbonise both clinical and non-clinical aspects.

Around 20% of [the toolkit](#) actions are clinical. To see these - start in your dashboard Click on 'Toolkit' at the top left of your dashboard, view the dropdown menus under 'Filters', choose 'Area' (at the top left), click on 'Clinical', then click on 'Sort' and you will see 23 actions (of 125 in total) that are clinical. It is difficult to measure the exact carbon footprint of much of clinical care and its alternatives, however we hope to add more specific actions to this list once the metrics for good choices are available.

Future improvements for the toolkit

Delivering a net zero NHS for a Healthier Future. This SBRI 24 competition was a recent call for bids using NHS funds to support net zero projects. There were over 85 applications and 19 are going through the due diligence phase. There were a number of bids relating to improving and/or the uptake of the Green Impact Toolkits. Some failed but at least one succeeded and will be announced once all the contracts have been signed.

Sustainable Healthcare



Modern healthcare tends to [over investigate](#), over diagnose, over treat and over refer many patients. Probably 10-20% of healthcare is not necessary or beneficial for the patient. The international Choosing Wisely campaign advises patients to ask these [four questions](#) (BRAN) about their health care options: What are the Benefits? What are the Risks? What are the Alternatives? What if I do Nothing?

The [Goldilocks dilemma](#) for clinicians, getting it 'just right' and avoiding under and over treatment, is a perennial problem. To start making a difference clinicians should ask themselves these three questions

1. Am I an over investigator, over diagnoser, over treater or over referrer?
2. How do I know my answer to question 1 is correct?

3. What can I do about my answers to question 1 and 2?

The toolkit has some suggestions:

- Over investigation - see QIP004 & QIP006
- Over treatment - see VG001, PRS004, PRS006, PRS007, PRS008, QIP001, QIP003
- Including Green Prescribing - see HP003, SOP001, SOP003, SOP006, and Inhalers PRS002, PRS003, PRS009, PRS010

There are no specific toolkit actions yet for reducing over diagnosis and over referrals to secondary care, although quality improvement projects like [SusQI](#) are an established tool to make patient care more sustainable.

The free to use Medicine Carbon Footprint 'MCF Classifier' has been developed and will be available soon to guide clinicians in choosing lower carbon emitting medicine for their patients. The MCF promises to provide estimates on a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) system of the carbon footprint of each medication so that the greenest medicines can be prescribed. This will be added to the toolkit when it is published online. A [preprint](#) 'Landscape Analysis of Medicine Carbon Footprints' identifies antibiotics as a target for emission reduction interventions and explains how it works. A recording of the MCF Classifier webinar on 22nd November can be watched [here](#).

Key dates and events to know about

- [The WONCA Europe Conference](#): 25-28th September 2024

The 29th [WONCA Europe Conference](#) is at the Dublin Convention centre. The conference topics include Greener Healthcare and Sustainability as well as all the other important topics for family medicine/general practice. If you want to present a session the **call for Abstracts closes on 30th March 2024**.

- [Food Waste Action Week](#): 18th - 24th March 2024

4.7 million tonnes of edible food is thrown away each year by UK households. Food Waste Action Week is an annual campaign to encourage citizens to reduce some of this food waste. This year, the campaign's main ask is to 'Choose What You'll Use' by buying loose fruit and vegetables. Buying loose fruit and veg not only reduces packaging waste but enables people to buy quantities closer to their needs. [Find out more on the WRAP website](#).

- [Global Recycling Day](#): 18th March 2024

Join us as we celebrate [Global Recycling Day 2024](#), a day to recognise and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

- [Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#): 18th-24th March 2024

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#), taking place between the 18th-24th March this year, and is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the 15-20% of the population with a neurological

difference, as well as to reflect on the way we design environmental and systems to ensure they don't exclude people who think differently.

- o [Climate change and health workshop](#): 27th March at 13.00-14.00 GMT, and 19th April at 12.00-13.00 BST

A workshop about using Wikipedia to share evidence about climate change and health. This is a collaboration between the National Institute for Health and Care Research and the University of Exeter. Please [click here](#) for further details and to apply to participate.

Publications to know about

- o **Health creation**

This involves creating a place where it is easier to be healthy than sick. The [Hewitt review](#) of Integrated care systems in 2023 suggested that the share of total NHS budgets at ICS level going towards prevention should be increased to at least 1% over the next 5 years. Some examples from Cornwall include resources to develop [Sustainable Food](#), and [improving the experience of GP premises](#)

The [National Lottery Community Fund](#) gives grants (£300-£20,000) to fund these types of activities. They will fund projects that'll do at least one of these things:

- bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage
- support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis.

- o **Solar arrays in your car park?**

At a recent sustainability/tech webinar, Tim Evans of <https://3ti.co.uk> talked about their Power Purchase Agreements. The basic message is that they build a solar array over your car parking spaces (which you rent) they can provide an income of £500 per space per year for you for next 20 years and provide EV charging points. Usually takes 6m from start to installation. They also have a smaller pop-up version they can install in 24h.

They already provide this for hospital trusts where the hospital could save £1.5m/pa in electricity but he says it's difficult to get anyone to make decisions in hospital trusts, and hospital go out to tender/try to get small Govt grants etc instead of just installing solar quickly and saving money. If you own your GP premises and you have 50 spaces x £500pa = £25K per year (x20 years = £500k).

- o **UK General Election 2025**

The UK health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC) has been published its [manifesto](#) of 5 priorities for the next Government. A slide deck outlining the strategy is available [here](#).

○ UKHACC

The UKHACC has produced a [template letter](#) to support health professionals arrested, charged and convicted for protesting against the severe harm being done to nature, the climate, and health and the inadequacy of the political response. While UKHACC does not agree with breaking the law, it does understand why health professionals might do so and has produced this letter for individuals in these circumstances to write to their employer.

Opportunities to know about

The [Centre for Sustainable Health Care](#) can provide your practice bespoke carbon foot printing and triple bottom line analysis (fees apply)

- Carbon footprint or triple bottom line analysis of services/pathways
- Carbon footprint analysis of products
- Bespoke Carbon literacy workshops
- Reviewing and developing [Green Plans](#)

Green NHS Clinical Fellow Scheme

The fourth year of the Chief Sustainability Officer's [Clinical Fellow Scheme](#), offers clinicians with a passion for sustainable healthcare the unique opportunity to work directly on embedding net zero carbon principles into the delivery of care across the system.

Recognising the unique contribution each clinician can make in reaching net zero, the scheme is multi-professional and welcomes applications from allied health professionals, dentists, doctors in training (including public health registrars and SAS doctors), healthcare scientists, nurses, midwives and pharmacists from across England. **The deadline for applications is 5pm on 27 March 2024.**

Carbon Literacy Project and eLearning for healthcare have developed a [training pathway](#) for all NHS staff that covers climate science, impacts and policy, before focusing on climate change and health and effective climate communication. Once you have completed the [eLearning](#), you can book a place on a [free workshop](#).

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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