



GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

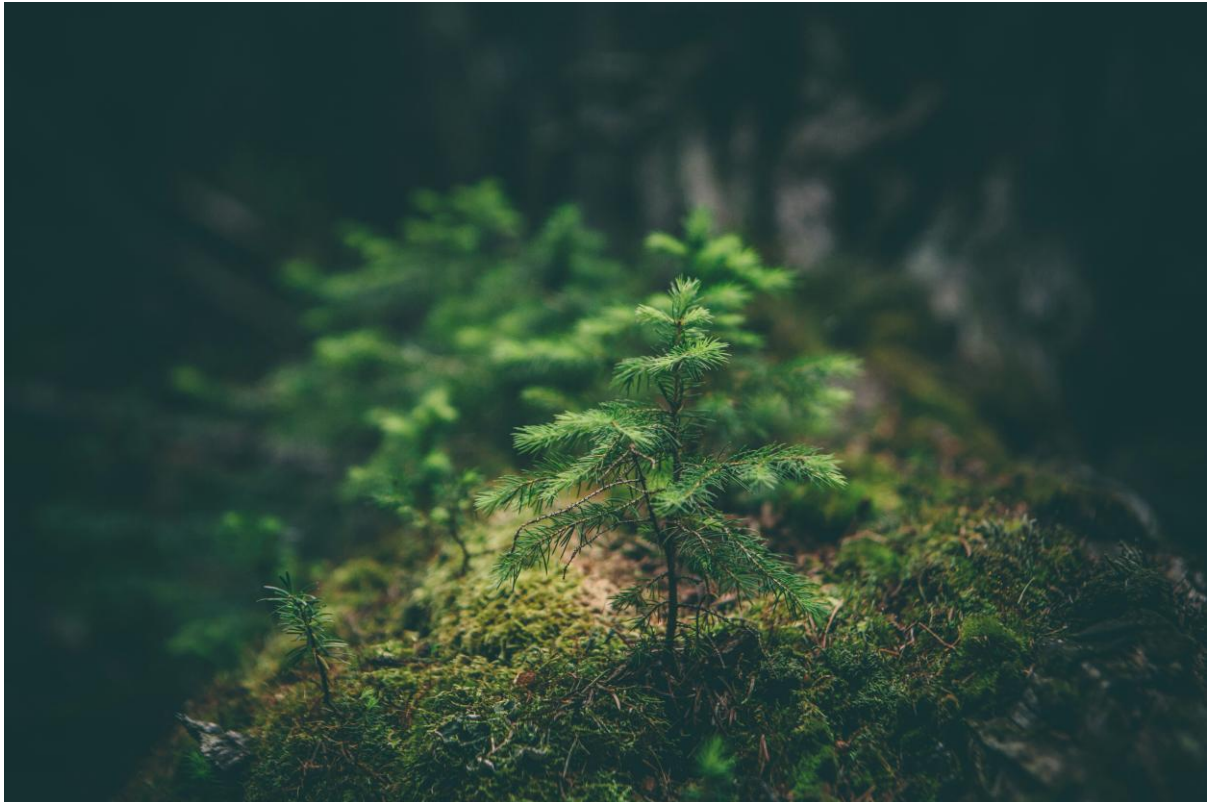


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Since the launch of the **new toolkit web platform**, there are now 1370 organisations with over 3150 individual users of the toolkit.

2024 Toolkit Submissions

The submission deadline for the toolkit was midnight on 30th September 2024. 234 practices have submitted for an award.

Thank you and well done to all practices who have taken part and have submitted for a 2024 award – we can't wait to see the results and impact that we've had! If you have any queries, please contact giforhealth@sos-uk.org.

Toolkit Updates

The average of new registration rate by practices in 2024 is 13 new practices each week. If that growth rate continues until the end of 2025 there would be another 700 practices using the GIFH toolkit – roughly 2000 in total (and about 20% of all UK practices). If there are on average 2.4 users per practice, then total individual users by the end of 2025 would be almost 5,000!

IMPORTANT - Due to the volume of practices using the toolkit, **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.

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.

Useful Resources

o Waiting room videos

Greener Practice in collaboration with South Yorkshire ICB has created videos for teams to use on their practice video loop, and/ or to link on their website, to educate and empower patients.

- To help reduce medicines wastage.
- To promote active travel, and also ask patients to re-register locally if they move away from the practice area.

Publications to read/know about



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o **Meter Dose Inhalers (MDIs)**

MDIs are responsible for 13% of all the carbon footprint generated in general practice. If you can do only one thing to reduce your carbon footprint and improve your patients asthma care then read and act on [Optimising inhaled therapy for patients with asthma](#) which has just been published in the BMJ.

o **Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions (HANDI)**

[HANDI](#) is aimed at promoting effective non-drug treatments for General Practice/primary care. Non-drug treatments, in the broadest sense, refer to any intervention that would not normally appear in a pharmacopoeia including exercise, physical therapies, diets, supplements and herbal treatments.

o **UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Report**

A new policy [report](#) by the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change says the UK government must transform our energy system to one that is safer for people, and promotes rather than harms good health.

o **Advice for Nurses: Nursing Times**

How to go green with a sustainable quality improvement project. This is a SusQI for Nurses in the [nursing times](#).

o **BMJ Planetary Health Leadership**

The BMJ [Planetary Health Leadership articles](#) welcome original research, commentaries, reviews and perspective papers about the role of leadership in planetary health from our international healthcare leadership, educational and research community

o **Is NICE greenwashing?**

NICE says it is [Comparing the environmental impacts of health technologies](#).

They say they are looking into how feasible it is to assess the environmental impacts of competing medicines and health technologies where there's little or

no expected difference in health or cost outcomes. In such cases, it would make sense to choose the option that's better for the environment. NICE hope to find a proportionate and pragmatic way to do this, bearing in mind that data and methods in this can area change quite quickly.

If NICE can identify a suitable approach, they say they will look into conducting a pilot evaluation.

UKHACC says NICE has **no sense of urgency and made little progress in almost a decade.**

o **Advice on improving GP premises**

NHS England ICS Infrastructure Strategy. The guidance is only 14 pages and worth reading if you are consider improving or building new premises. Are your premises

- **CORE** – buildings that will remain in operation delivering primary care services for at least the next 10 years.
- **FLEX** – buildings that will be providing primary care services for at least the next five years but may not be needed longer-term as the clinical model evolves.
- **TAIL** – buildings that are likely to be disposed of within the next five years.

Also see the **Premises Costs Directions 2024**

And your local net zero hub in your region for information and advice - **This is for North East and York.**



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Useful Websites

- [WONCA Working Party on Planetary](#)
- The Tipping Points of Climate Change — and Where We Stand in 2024. [Johan Rockström in a 20 minute TED Talk](#)
- A free University College London course '[How to Drive Sustainable Healthcare: Educate, Engage, and Empower](#)'
- [The Medicine Carbon Footprint Formulary](#) gives standardised per dose carbon footprint ratings for thousands of medicines.
- When do climate warnings work best? [British Journal of General Practice](#)
- [WHO Air pollution and health: an introduction for health workers.](#)
- How to be a triple bottom line (TBL) general practice – working for profit, the people, and the planet. [BJGP article.](#)
- [UK Greener Practice](#) - The UK's primary care sustainability network has many resources
- [UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#) coordinates action, provides leadership, and amplify the voice of health professionals across the UK.

- [UK RCGP Net Zero Hub](#) has free e-learning and a guide to decarbonising general practice
- [UK Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#) has developed sustainable healthcare principles and quality improvement strategies, directly influencing political actions, policies and net zero targets in the health sector.
- [UK A simple guide to carbon literacy](#).
- [Canada Choosing Wisely & Climate Action](#) - Reducing unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures is an opportunity to benefit both patients and the planet.
- [Canada Sustainable Primary Care Toolkit](#)- CASCADES empowers the implementation of sustainable healthcare practices and policies in Canada. It highlights ways practitioners can integrate sustainability into their clinical work in primary care settings.
- [Canada Climate Conscious Inhaler Prescribing in Outpatient Care](#)- A step-by-step Canadian guide to more sustainable inhalers in primary care.
- [Canada Medication Optimization for Sustainability](#) – resources to support this.

Kind Regards,

The Green Impact for Health Team