



GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024



Photo by Andre Guerra on Unsplash

Since the launch of the **new toolkit web platform**, there are now 1300 organisations with over 3000 individual users of the toolkit.

Toolkit Deadline

Reminder - The submission deadline for the toolkit is midnight on 30th September 2024.

To submit, one person from the team should [log into the toolkit](#), click 'toolkit' on the left hand column, then click the black 'Submit toolkit' button on the top right. If you do not submit before the deadline, your next opportunity for an award will be in Autumn 2025. Instructions on how to submit your toolkit are in the next section.

Following the deadline, we will be conducting audits to verify your award level. In some cases, a trained student auditor will review your toolkit and will ask you some questions (ideally over a video call). [You should let us know your availability for your audit, and preferred communication method, in the form here](#) (by 30th September also). **All practices hoping for an award must complete this form as well as submitting their toolkit.**

Thank you and well done to all practices who have taken part and will be submitting for an 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.



Green Impact for Health 2024 Toolkit

Toolkit Updates

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. How many people in a general practice does it take to achieve the Awards?

Green Impact works best when people collaborate to embed sustainability, so we encourage team-working and getting colleagues from all areas involved where you can. However, as a general guidance, one person working alone can probably complete the Bronze award, you probably need two people to achieve the Silver, and a team to achieve the Gold award and beyond.

See how the Aberfeldy practice approached doing the Green Impact toolkit – a 17 min [video](#) on Youtube.

Over the summer the toolkit has been reviewed and updated. If you spot something that does not work, needs updating or improving please let us know. **Thank you to all the reviewers who helped update the text in the toolkit.** 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

The following are useful websites for templates/posters/factsheets/resources for the Green Impact toolkit

- [Resource Bank](#)
- [Greener Practice Toolkit Resources](#)
- [Greening of life Posters](#)
- [Plant Based Health Professionals](#)
- [Net Zero NHS Resources](#)

Dorset NHS has a 'Only order what you need' campaign to reduce wastage of prescribed medicines. It has [resources](#) like flyers, posters etc that you can download.

South East London (SEL) ICS has a new [Inhaler Recycling Scheme](#) This project encourages patients to return their used or expired inhalers to pharmacies, where they will be sent to specialist facilities for recycling. These facilities will recover and repurpose the propellant gases, significantly reducing their environmental impact. Contact the project team at SElinhalerRecycling@selondonics.nhs.uk for further information.

Publications to know about

- o A new book **Climate Obstruction across Europe** details the intentional actions and efforts to slow or block policies on climate change. Their summary of the UK is [here](#).
- o The GMC has published a position statement: **planetary health and sustainable healthcare in medical standards and outcomes**
- o **Somerset Greener Practice Network** was launched at the July Green Impact conference at Frome.
- o **The Climate and Health evidence bank** finds the best evidence for what works to achieve a healthy net-zero future. Its [Pathfinder Initiative](#) is bringing together evidence and case studies on climate mitigation actions with the largest potential health benefits across sectors.
- o The Royal College of Physicians London has launched its [Green physician toolkit](#) to support doctors with a range of actions to incorporate into day-to-day practice to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. If you have any

questions or would like to provide feedback on the toolkit, please contact policy@rcp.ac.uk

- o What impact do our surroundings have on our health? And how can a neighbourhood's characteristics influence health inequalities? The Health Foundation's **analysis** answers these questions and more.
- o The **Earth for All 2024 Survey**, commissioned by Earth4All and the **Global Commons Alliance** and carried out by Ipsos, reveals overwhelming public support for progressive tax reforms and broader political and economic changes to reduce inequality and increase wellbeing.
- o **The GPNet-0 research study** – The Initial results from the after year 1 of a 3-year project **Implementation of decarbonisation actions in General Practice to help achieve a net zero NHS.**

Summary of the initial findings

- Costs associated with recycling services may act as a decarbonisation barrier.
- Time and administrative constraints impact on the planning and implementation.
- The practice's setting appears to impact the patients' and staff capacity to use greener modes of active transport
- Owning as opposed to leasing premises allows practices to adapt a wider range of decarbonisation initiatives.
- Co-benefits such as cost savings and financial incentives are potentially key drivers of decarbonisation action.
- Organisational culture may play a key role in shaping decision-making processes related to decarbonisation initiatives.

The survey received 328 responses from 163 practices (34% of total).

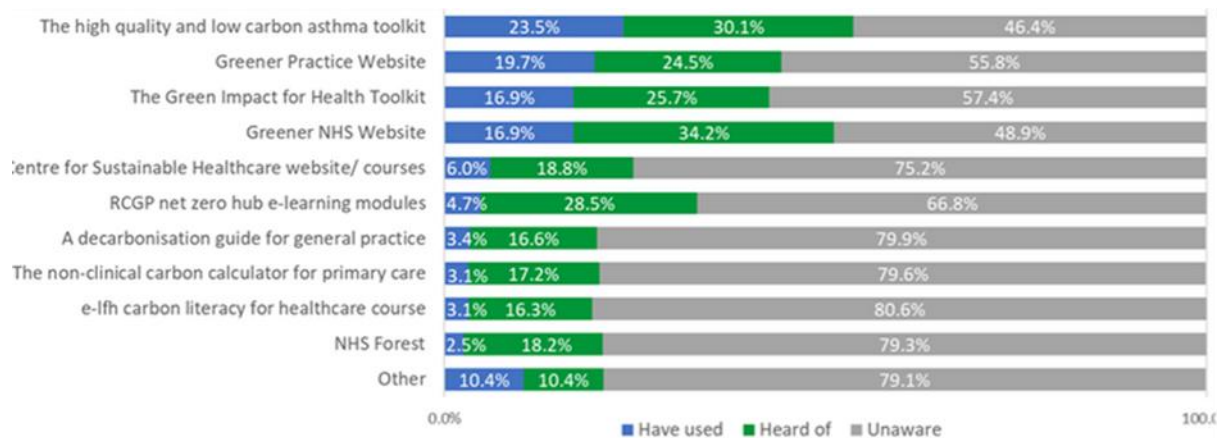
GP Partners made up the highest proportion of respondents (29.9%), followed by those in managerial roles (23.3%) and those in administrative roles (18.6%). 54 (33.1%) practices had more than one respondent, with the total number of respondents per practice varying from 2 to 23.

General practice staff showed an overall **willingness** to undertake decarbonisation actions. 69.8% of respondents agreed that acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from primary care was a legitimate part of their role.

Respondents showed **general unawareness** of the resources currently available to general practice teams to support decarbonisation initiatives. This was reflected when respondents were asked to indicate their awareness of 10 decarbonisation resources (see below).

There was a **disparity in understanding** of decarbonisation activities across multiple respondents from the same practice. A third of respondents answered

'yes' when asked if their practice had a lead for decarbonisation, equivalent to 35.6% of responding practices. The most highly cited job role of the individual in this lead position was a GP Partner (46.7%). 31% of practices with a decarbonisation lead had this reported by multiple respondents, however in some instances, there was disparity in the reporting of the role of the lead individual from members of the same practice. This suggests challenges in information sharing and a lack of strong leadership regarding decarbonisation. Practice level staff awareness of decarbonisation resources available to general practice



o Other newsletters you might like to get:

- **Greener Practice** [Sign up for their newsletter](#)
- **UKHACC** - Greener Practice is a member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, the main organisation in the UK representing healthcare workers. [Sign up for newsletter.](#)
- **CSH** -The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. [Sign up for their newsletter.](#)
- **Greener NHS** - [For wider NHSE net zero effort updates -Sign up here](#)
- **Cornwall's Primary Care Resilience Program** - gets a special mention for its amazing '[Green Rocket Fuel](#)' briefings.



Photo by The Climate Reality Project on Unsplash

Opportunities to know about

o The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has launched a major new pledge to climate change and sustainability in health and social care. The new research funding opportunity is intended to support the health and social care system to become more sustainable. From November 2024 NIHR will be welcoming **applications** for both:

- New primary research studies to establish the effectiveness of new, promising, or existing interventions, and
- Evidence synthesis to support the translation of effective interventions into policy and practice.

o **The Carbon Literacy Project and eLearning for healthcare**

In partnership with The Carbon Literacy Project and eLearning for Healthcare, Greener NHS has developed a training pathway for all NHS staff that bridges the

gap between climate policy and action to embed low carbon culture within the NHS workforce and support staff to deliver on Green Plans.

- The training consists of:
- Basic climate science
- Policy context
- The relationship between climate and health
- The co-benefits of climate action
- Identifying impactful carbon reduction actions
- Climate action and communicating with others

o Once you have completed the [eLearning](#), it is important that you book a place for an upcoming [follow-up workshop](#) to complete your training. NHS staff can become [facilitators](#) and begin delivering sessions internally for their staff using the bank of certificates held by Greener NHS (these usually cost £10 per learner). After becoming certified Carbon Literate, please

contact healthcare@carbonliteracy.com, who can instruct you on facilitating training and accessing supporting materials and certificates.

o The [Greener NHS training hub](#) brings together a large variety of training and educational offers, including the [Building a Net Zero NHS](#) module for an introduction to a sustainable NHS. If you are aware of high-quality training focusing on climate and health, please get in touch with us on greener.nhs@nhs.net

o The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme provides grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures. See the [full list of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme projects](#).

o National Institute for Health and Care Research NIHR has a new [£25m funding](#) being launched in November (£5m each year for 5 years) for bids usually between £250k - £1m per project/ This is an opportunity to research some of the questions that the GPNet0 study is already raising They are planning a collaborative workshop on 27/9 at the Wellesley Hotel Euston, London

Sustainability News

- [Coastal Cities Must Adapt Faster to Climate Change](#) , Science Daily
- [Labour needs to fix British fishing – will it stand by its principles now it is in power?](#) , Guardian
- [About 90kg of dead fish removed from Walsall canal after sodium cyanide leak](#), Guardian
- ['High level of ignorance': Majority of petrol and diesel car drivers misinformed about EVs, survey finds](#), Business Green

- 'Obscene': Energy firms have posted £457bn in profits since start of energy crisis, study shows, Business Green
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Kind Regards,

The Green Impact for Health Team