



GREEN IMPACT FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

General Updates

Toolkit Submission Deadline: 30th of September

You can submit your toolkit at any time before then, but you will only hear back from us after the 2025 deadline. In 2024 there were 218 submissions for awards. We want to provide positive feedback to practices as they become more sustainable and low carbon practices.

RCGP funds SOS to run 50 student-led in depth audits. These are mostly for the higher value awards platinum and gold. All the others submissions have spot checks. The spot checks look at 'engagement in the process' e.g. have the practice provided useful comments and/or sufficient evidence of achieving the actions/criteria. The spot checks are not a forensic examination of all the comments and evidence. This is a high trust process and practices are usually given the benefit of the doubt about some missing information in their applications. The evidence required for each criteria should not be onerous to collect and add to the submission. A few lines of text explaining what you have done, a relevant attachment or photograph may be enough.

A few practices who submitted for an award in 2024 provided no or very few comments or evidence to support most of the actions they report they have achieved. Whilst there is no need to enter comments or evidence in the toolkit when the toolkit is only being used as a checklist to prompt actions, if the practice does

want to be achieve an award, then it is necessary to add comments and/or evidence of achievement to gain recognition for an award.

If any practice feels aggrieved that they have not received an award that matches their documented achievements, we are happy to reassess their application and give a detailed feedback on their submission.

Toolkit Updates

All the criteria in the toolkit have been reviewed and updated if needed. There are some minor changes in some of the texts. There are also some new criteria:

VG005, VG006 and VG007 - relate to a heat-health plan to manage excessive heat in the practice and to address the problems associated with excessive heat on its vulnerable patient groups

NCM010- the practice has reviewed its existing health information materials (e.g. leaflets, pamphlets etc) to ensure they are accessible to patients with average levels of literacy.

Improving the Toolkit

At any time, your feedback and suggestions for improvement about any aspect of the toolkit are always welcome. Please send them [here](#).

22% of UK practices use the toolkit!

Since the reset of the toolkit on its new web platform in February 2023 there are now 1764 (22%) of 7861 UK GP practices/organisations using the toolkit. Future funding has been agreed by RCGP both to continue the web platform management by SOS until the end of 2028 and starting in 2026 the management of content will be by Greener Practice.

Publications & Useful Info

There were 2 short articles in BJGP Life

1. [The Fall of Icarus: Using art to teach medical students about planetary health](#)

2. [Embedding sustainability in primary care practice: Reflections on the Green Impact for Health Toolkit in City and Hackney](#)

Greenwashing?

WHICH has [an article](#) looking into greenwashing and green claims that investigates whether manufacturers and retailers are sticking to the Green Claims Code when you are shopping.

GP Curriculum

The RCGP has [updates to the GP curriculum](#) which will address topics around climate change and other environmental factors, recognising their impact on health in sections like Allergy and Clinical Immunology, as well as in the Population and Planetary Health Topic Guide. This will take effect from August 2025.

The New Greener Practice Website

...has lots of new projects, resources and more. These are all available for an annual subscription of £30 – but have a great return on investment value. See the ‘Sign Up’ box at the top right hand corner of the [Greener Practice webpage](#) for more details.

All the projects are ‘off the peg’ time saving detailed step by step guides with lots of information of why, what, how and who information. At launch there are >50 projects and these will be added to.

- Reducing Emissions Associated with Banking
- Switching Energy Provider
- Improving Staff Travel
- Improving Asthma Diagnosis
- Deprescribing Focused Structured Medication Reviews
- Saving Energy – Optimising Heating
- Optimising inhaler device choice in asthma
- Identifying Poor Asthma Control
- SABA overuse in asthma: strengthening systems
- Saving Energy – Reducing Electricity Use
- Improving Asthma Reviews
- Lifestyle Changes to Improve Cholesterol

- Show me your meds, please
- Saying Goodbye to Single-use Equipment
- Switching to a lower carbon Salbutamol pMDI
- Identifying Patients with Asthma on SABA alone
- Increasing Referrals to Social Prescribing
- Iron – Appropriate Prescribing
- Bath & Shower Emollient Deprescribing
- Formula Milk Appropriate Prescribing
- Vitamin D Testing
- PPI – Appropriate Prescribing
- Non-pharmaceutical prescribing for Depression & Anxiety
- Safe Medication Storage for Street Homeless Patients
- Re-useable Trays for Laboratory Sample Transport
- Become an active practice – boosting physical activity
- Creating a GP practice garden
- Reusable Sanitary Products
- Medicines Waste
- Informing Patients about Empty Inhalers
- Inhaler Recycling and Return
- Improving Chronic Pain Management
- Setting up a walking group for patients or staff
- Simpler Recycling & Waste Disposal
- Creating a Yoga Group
- Hypertension Identification
- Atrial Fibrillation – identification and treatment
- Investigations ‘Add-on’
- Lipid Monitoring
- Liver Function Test Monitoring for Statins
- Re-useable applicators for Estradiol pessaries
- Digital Fit Notes
- Air Pollution
- Becoming a breastfeeding-friendly practice
- Dual Antiplatelet – Appropriate Prescribing
- Birthday Month Recalls

- Helping patients keep warm
- Reducing rejected laboratory specimens
- Streamlining specimen container collection
- Boosting staff wellbeing
- Extreme Cold Weather Alert QIP

The Greener Practice Resource Library has >120 useful easy to find items on educational information, Policies & Guidance and Information for patients & staff.

Options for using Greener Practice:

1. The Free Network Membership

Stay connected with:

- The newsletter and join local groups
- WhatsApp Special Interest Groups
- The new Network Map to link with others working on similar projects

Or

2. NetworkPLUS Membership

Useful for practices, PCNs, and ICBs who are ready to act, and to support trainees.

Includes full access to:

- Over 50 ready-to-use QI projects with case studies to help save money and improve patient care
- A Resource Library with 100+ practical tools
- Tools to support greener, more sustainable care – and meet CQC sustainability expectations
- Access to the “Proud to be a Greener Practice” icon

ICB/HCB pricing example:

£1 per 100 patients = £15,000 for 1.5m population = 750 NetworkPLUS users

Once your ICB/HCB signs up, they will be able to generate their own code to disseminate to their PCNs and/or practices.

GP Practice/PCN sign-up costs are found [here](#).

Green Impact has a [free resources bank](#).

Greener NHS Carbon Literacy E-Learning Pathway

Developed by the Carbon Literacy Project in collaboration with Greener NHS and E-Learning for Healthcare, the Greener NHS Carbon Literacy E-Learning Pathway offers a deep dive into the vital link between climate change and healthcare.

This free course is open to all NHS colleagues with a valid NHS email address and includes:

- 5 short e-Learning modules of 30 minutes accessed on the [NHS Learning Hub](#).
- A live, half-day online workshop delivered by Lighthouse Sustainability. Available dates throughout the rest of the year.

Please note NHS employees must have completed the [e-learning module](#) before attending the workshop. [Sign up here](#).

Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Programme

Two new e-learning sessions focusing on sustainable endoscopy and green operating theatres have been added to the Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare programme.

Supported by Greener NHS and developed by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and the NHS England e-learning for healthcare programme, the sessions are designed to help endoscopy and theatre teams implement changes in their practice to improve patient outcomes, whilst reducing environmental impacts.

An updated version of the 'Building a Net Zero NHS' session is also now available.

[Find out more](#).

NHS staff with an interest in sustainability are invited to join the Greener NHS Knowledge Hub on FutureNHS. This workspace connects you to information, tools and resources, and provides a space for you to share your knowledge, ideas and best practice. You can also see a wide range of case studies and join our discussion forum.

[Join now](#)

Earth Overshoot Day 2025 was on 24 July 2025

It's the day humanity has used up nature's budget for the entire year. This means we are consuming resources at the rate of 1.8 Earths. [Earth Overshoot Day](#) marks the moment when our ecological footprint exceeds the planet's yearly capacity to regenerate. So from 24th July, we're living on an ecological credit for the rest of the year.

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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