



Royal College of
General Practitioners

There will be no newsletter in August! The next one will be on Friday 24th September 2021 when we launch the updated toolkit. We are arranging a **Green NHS Spotlight day on General Practice** fanfare for the toolkit by the NHS and others on that day and a challenge to everyone in primary care to get involved and do something. If you have any good ideas about what works best to get others involved then email me at Greenimpactforhealth@gmail.com.

The following week on 30th September -it's the first anniversary of the NHS England "Delivering a Net Zero National Health service, and there will be reports on its progress with carbon reduction.

There is planned website downtime on the 9th August. The GIFH toolkit will be down on this date and no one will be able to access, so please avoid trying to use the toolkit on that date. There will be no changes to the look or functionality of the toolkit for users after the 9th August; it is to upgrade the servers to make changes easier in the future.

Have you submitted for your Green Impact award yet?

There are 984 practices using the toolkit and they continue to submit for the awards when they are ready. There is a continuing stream of submissions. So far in 2021/21 10 pioneer, 23 Bronze, 7 Silver, 4 Gold and 3 Gold plus awards have been made. Well done to all of the teams who have submitted for an award!

The national hub Greener Practice is a network of healthcare professionals

empowering primary care to transition to environmentally sustainable healthcare. It has a rapidly expanding network of local groups <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/local-groups> and many shared resources that you can use. The RCGP has Faculty champions for Climate and Sustainability in about half its local faculties and wants to establish leads in each faculty - see <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you.aspx>

One thing to improve this month?

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by what you should be doing, so we are adding a 'one thing to do' each newsletter. A suggestion this month is to expand your local support network by inviting a colleague from another practice to discuss the criteria in the toolkit. Most people find it easier and more enjoyable to get involved in a new activity (e.g. making general practice more sustainable) if they are invited and accompanied by a friend. 'If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.'

Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

If you are interested to learn more about sustainability, health and healthcare, CSH has devised a range of courses containing a mix of core concepts, case studies, and the valuable

opportunity to meet others interested in sustainable healthcare and sharing interdisciplinary perspectives and experiences (<https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/courses>).

Upcoming courses include:

- [Sustainable Mental Healthcare](#): 8 September 09.00 - 13.00
- [Sustainable Primary Care](#): 14 September 13.00 - 17.00
- [Sustainable Quality Improvement](#): 15 September 09.00 - 13.00
- [Green Space and Health](#): 16 September 10.00 -14.00
- [Public Health Leadership for Sustainability](#): 21 September 13.00 - 17.00
- [Teaching Sustainable Quality Improvement](#): 22 September 13.00 - 17.00
- [Carbon Footprinting for Healthcare](#): 12 October 10.00 - 14.00

The climate and ecological emergency

The climate emergency is increasingly being described as the climate and ecological emergency and now [Legal experts from across the globe have drawn up a “historic” definition of ecocide](#), intended to be adopted by the international criminal court to prosecute the most egregious offences against the environment. The draft law defines ecocide as “*unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts*”. Is this a hinge moment - will we be ecocentric or egocentric?

Action on air pollution

Medical leaders and members of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change have [urged UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to cut legal levels of air pollution in the UK](#) and bring it below World Health Organization limits in response to the death of the schoolgirl Ella Kissi-Debrah from toxic air.

PPE Guidance in Primary Care

June 2021 guidance is [here](#) - This guidance for low risk primary care is ‘guidance’. If you wish to deviate from it with a good rationale and having made a case by case risk assessment that is okay. Many are using reusable masks and using other PPE gloves, aprons and visors only where really needed.

Annual servicing of the toolkit - What needs to be improved?

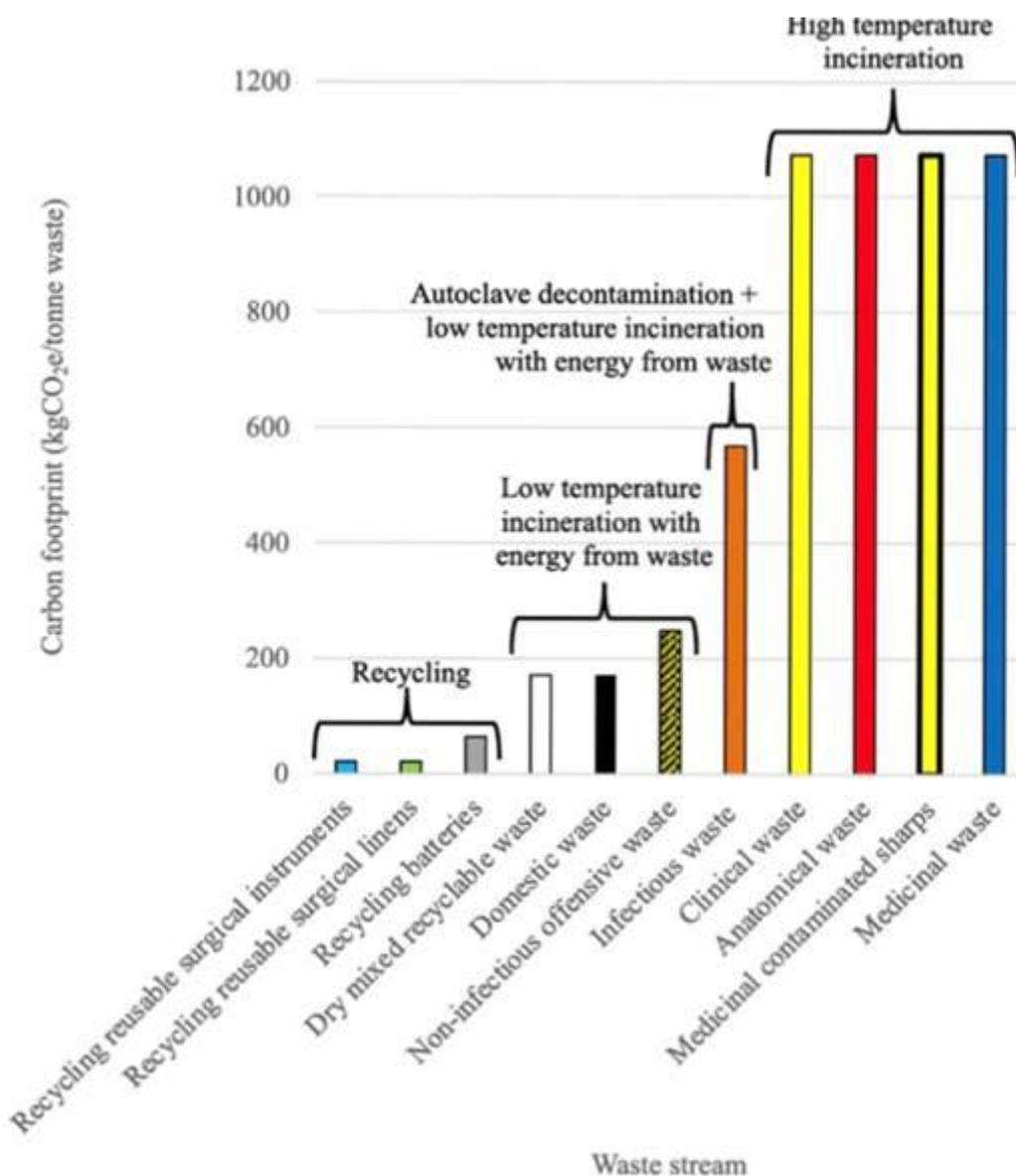
SOS-UK who run the website say they are updating the website and there will be new functionalities. The layout may change a little. Each year we also check the criteria to make sure the information is up to date. For example there are always some broken weblinks that have to be repaired, and new evidence to be added. This version 7 of the toolkit is continuing but from October it will be refreshed as v7.1. We can still retire old criteria whilst crediting the practices with any work and points that they have already completed. We can also add new criteria.

If you have any suggestions about how the toolkit can be improved or want to help with the review Please email me at greenimpactforghealth@gmail.com

The carbon footprint of waste streams in a UK hospital

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652620354925>

Choosing the correct waste stream is important. It can have an up to 50-fold impact on the carbon footprint. The waste streams with lowest estimated carbon footprint also have the lowest financial costs.



PLEASE DONATE TO SOS TO FUND THE TOOLKIT!

Please help fund and support Green Impact for Health. It is fully funded by a private donation for 2020/21 but we need to raise about £10k to assure the funding for the year after 2021/22. Since V7 launched, just over £2.5k has been donated. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, but we need practices to keep donating to ensure the continuation of the programme. Please donate to SOS-UK via our [charity PayPal account](#). It will take you less than a minute to make your donation today!

NEW USERS

If you are new to Green Impact then you can read past newsletters since October 2020 with helpful information. They are on the GIFH website at <https://greenimpact.org.uk/GIforHealth/about>

Thank you, and good luck!

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w. <http://www.greenimpact.org.uk/GiforHealth>

Registration code: 134



To keep up to date with SOS-UK's programme and campaign news, [click here](#) to sign up to our newsletter.

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