



## South Durham Health Approach to Green Primary Care

### Think Global, Act Local

Under this proposal, we suggest practices appoint a green primary care lead and implement the following actions to become an environmentally friendly practice as a part of the South Durham Health family. These proposals are based on the green impact for health toolkit from RCGP.

Climate crisis is an emergency and the time to act is now. The following steps will go a long way to reduce adverse impact from healthcare on the climate.

Practices that sign up and complete 14 actions out of the following 16 will be given a financial incentive of £1500 as a recompense for the time spent on this if they undertake a self-declaration that the actions are completed and send this to the Federation. All declarations should be completed no later than 30 September 2022.

The 16 Green Measures Practices should consider:

1. Are all printers set for double sided printing?
2. Do you recycle your toners cartridges from printers off to recycling?
3. Does the surgery promote electronic prescribing with minimum printed scripts and only where necessary?
4. Do you promote/publicise recycling of the inhalers at your nearest pharmacy?  
You may consider having a recycling box in your surgery and then liaise with the pharmacy to collect/deliver.
5. Do you only use recycled A4 paper in the surgery?
6. Does the surgery use recycled toilet paper?
7. Do you promote collecting email addresses of patients to send information and messages etc.?
8. Metered dose inhalers (MDI) alone account for 5% of the entire NHS carbon footprint. 63% end up in landfill sites, via patients' domestic waste.  
Do you prescribe more dry powder inhalers as these have a carbon footprint 1/18th of MDI and are equally as effective.
9. Do you recycle from your rooms what you can?

10. Have all staff within the practice been reminded about the difference between the waste bins (e.g. clinical, offensive, hazardous and domestic waste) within the last 6 months. Are waste bins clearly labelled?
11. Do you provide online links/apps etc to your patients where appropriate instead of patient information leaflets?
12. Have you stopped the use of single use coffee cups, single use drink bottles, cutlery, wipes, clear plastic fronted envelopes for your internal use and meetings?  
Consider reusing incoming envelopes.
13. Are the staff aware and regularly reminded to switch the lights off when needed?
14. Have you reviewed paper use in meetings i.e. print outs/agendas etc. so that this is kept to a bare minimum?
15. Have you appointed a staff member as a lead for these changes and also publicised this through your practice newsletter/website?
16. Have all GPs and nurse practitioners reviewed the relevant, at least the General Practice section, information on <https://www.choosingwisely.co.uk> .  
The time spent on reading can be claimed towards annual CPD hours.

**South Durham Health CIC Management Team**  
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