**Climate Emergency Letter to RCGP East Anglia Members (Dec 2021)**

This letter has been prepared by the RCGP East Anglia Faculty Board for its members, following the COP26 global climate negotiations and outlines our response to the climate emergency. We recognise that the climate emergency is a health emergency and acknowledge our responsibility to contribute to society’s collective response to this. As a Faculty we want this declaration to have an impact so have decided to put our money where our mouth is and invest in this issue.

Did you know?

* Climate change has been identified as the biggest global health threat this century.
* We have already had over 1°C of global warming.
* The NHS aims to reach net zero for the carbon footprint it controls by 2040.
* More than half of the carbon footprint of primary care is related to clinical practice.
* Over 10% of the carbon footprint of primary care arises from inhalers.
* There are new financial incentives in the Investment and Impact Fund for PCNs to prescribe more environmentally friendly inhalers.
* The RCGP has declared a climate emergency and divested from fossil fuels.

We have identified two key ways in which our Faculty will take action.

1. We will be vocal advocates for change.
2. We will actively support our members to take action and invest in this.

To this end our actions for the remainder of this financial year will be:

We will be writing to the three NHS Integrated Care Systems in our area calling for primary care to be a central part of ICS green plans, for each ICS to establish a lead for zero carbon primary care, and for a fair allocation of any funding for action to decarbonise the NHS to be spent in primary care.

We will be funding up to 3 RCGP members from each ICS area to attend the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare sustainable primary care course in January and supporting each attendee to present their learning back to local peers. (see below)

We will be running funded webinars for GP partners on decarbonising GP practices.

We will be calling for nominations for the East Anglia Green Practice of the Year and offering a prize for the winning practice.

In the next financial year we plan to build on these developments and continue to invest in supporting members to take action. If you have any suggestions for projects you would like to see us develop or fund please contact us via the email below.

**Apply Now:**

**Free Places on Sustainable Primary Care Course worth £200 per person**

We are funding up to 3 RCGP members from each ICS area (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Norfolk and Waveney, and Suffolk). The course is delivered virtually by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and is centred on a half day online workshop on 25th January 2022. Further course details can be found here: <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/courses/sustainable-primary-care>

We would like all GPs taking up funded places to present their learning from the course back to local GPs in their area afterwards and we will support them to organize this. This could be done individually or as a group.

Please apply by sending your name, one paragraph on why you are applying, the ICS area you are based in, and a short CV, to eanglia@rcgp.org.uk by 10th January 2022.

The RCGP nationally is taking action on climate change and has committed, among other things, to integrating sustainability into its own way of working, integrate sustainability more into curriculum and CPD and to promote more action through the Green Impact for Health award and network of faculty leads. There is a very useful list of resources here: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/rcgp-policy-areas/climate-change-sustainable-development-and-health.aspx>

Here we want to highlight our favourite **three key online resources** which could support you to take action in your practice:

1. Greener Practice – This is a wonderful national network of GPs and others working in primary care. Their website if full of great information and there now also an emerging network of local Greener Practice groups.

Main site: <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk>

Inhaler prescribing guide: <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/greener-practice-guide-to-inhaler-prescribing>

Local networks: <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/local-groups> (if there isn’t one where you are why not set one up)

1. Green Impact for Health Toolkit – This is a wide ranging toolkit which practices can use to get Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. It is get to use by a small team of different staff members. <https://www.greenimpact.org.uk/giforhealth>
2. GP Carbon Calculator – This is a new online tool to help practices calculate the non-clinical carbon footprint of their practice. Why not ask your practice manager if they could do it for your practice? <https://www.gpcarbon.org/#/>

Thank you for reading this letter. This letter has been written by Dr James Smith, Sustainability Lead for East Anglia Faculty. If you would like to get more involved please feel free to email James on drjnsmith@cantab.net