

Greener Primary Care Wales Framework and Award Scheme 2025 - 2027

Adaption

The practice has a Business Continuity Plan in place which staff are aware of and able to implement in the event of interruption to services due to the impact of climate change.

The practice has undertaken a practice-based risk assessment to understand the impact climate change could have on the practice and has developed adaptation action(s) to respond to the risk.

The practice has a system in place to inform and alert patients about access to the practice and/or information about self-care in the event of extreme weather or disaster affecting the practice.

The practice has put in place an adaptation action not covered in this framework, to ensure their service and patients are protected and avoid unnecessary harm due to extreme weather conditions.

Buildings & Estates

The practice adopts, wherever possible, the use of energy efficient lighting options.

The practice has made physical improvements to the building to make it more environmentally sustainable.

The practice ensures that the last person out of the work area switches off all appropriate equipment and lights and that there is a shutdown plan for holiday periods (if applicable).

The practice regularly monitors its energy use and is making progress in reducing the amount of energy used from various sources within the practice.

The practice has optimised and maintains its outside areas and green spaces for biodiversity and has increased the opportunities available for local wildlife to thrive, as well as supporting the benefits of green spaces to health and wellbeing.

Carbon Management

The practice has identified a named lead within the practice to encourage and engage practice staff to promote participation in the Greener Primary Care Wales Scheme and to work together to implement practice-based actions to qualify for an award.

The practice communicates and promotes (to patients, the public, and the local community) the practice's participation in the Greener Primary Care Wales Framework and Award Scheme.

There is a regular discussion with the practice staff and wider MDT about the health impacts of climate change, raising awareness of the adaptation and mitigation required. The discussion includes which actions they can take personally as well as within a work context.

The practice supports its respective professional bodies' and/or the Welsh Government's declaration of a climate emergency. The practice may also choose to declare a climate emergency more locally as part of a local cluster or professional collaborative.
The practice spreads its influence to a wider group of people including local practices, professional collaboratives, clusters, and/or further afield.
The practice has a Green/Environmental Sustainability policy in place, has put it into practice, and communicates this to its practice staff and wider MDT.
The practice can show evidence of ongoing learning around carbon literacy for practice staff and the wider MDT.
The practice has taken action to identify how sustainable their practice is by measuring their carbon footprint annually.
Share an example of best practice! Produce a short-written case study or mini guide to what you have been working on and how you have implemented this in your practice.
Change the default search engine on practice computers to a climate-friendly alternative.
Healthy Behaviours
Staff and the wider MDT are regularly encouraged and supported in the behaviours that promote better health. These behaviours are also actively promoted to patients.
The practice promotes physical exercise and active travel to patients, staff and the wider MDT and promotes a culture of physical activity and role modelling through a range of everyday activities.
A member of the practice staff or wider MDT has learnt about brief interventions and motivational interviewing via Making Every Contact Count and shares their learning with other staff.
Innovation & Co-Production
The practice has tested, introduced and measured a 'green' innovation not covered in this framework.
The practice has tested, introduced and measured a SECOND 'green' innovation not covered in this framework.
The practice actively involves and seeks feedback from patient groups and/or the local community on any changes to adopt a more environmentally sustainable practice.
Procurement
The practice reviews its energy provider and if necessary, changes to a more environmentally sustainable provider if not already in place.
The practice preferentially buys sustainable stationery and office consumables.

All tea and coffee purchased by the practice for staff and the wider MDT is Fairtrade certified. N.B. This only refers to tea or coffee bought with practice money, not products bought by staff. Staff and the wider MDT are however encouraged to purchase Fairtrade refreshments.

The practice has developed and introduced a stock-taking system for ordering materials to ensure low wastage. This may include stationery, pharmaceuticals or any other materials that are ordered on a regular basis.

Plastic products and packaging procured are re-usable or recyclable and incorporate recycled content, wherever technically and clinically appropriate.

The practice has reviewed its choice of business bank and if necessary, changes to a more environmentally sustainable provider if not already in place.

Transport & Smart Working

The practice regularly encourages and promotes more environmentally friendly/sustainable modes of transport for practice staff, the wider MDT and patients.

The practice carries out an annual staff travel audit for members of the practice team.

The practice has made efforts to minimise patient, practice staff, wider MDT and cross practice travel.

Waste

The practice preferentially buys rechargeable batteries instead of single use batteries to minimise its waste. Where this is not possible, single use batteries are recycled appropriately.

The practice is minimising the number of paper letters sent out by, or on behalf of, the practice. Where posting letters is necessary, the practice avoids using envelopes that contain plastic windows by using alternatives, such as purely paper-based envelopes or biodegradable options.

The practice recycles hard to recycle materials and/or becomes a collection point for patients.

Printing, copying and faxing is only used when necessary. Where it is necessary double-sided printing and paper made from recyclable sources is utilised.

Community Optometry Specific

The practice proactively informs patients about sustainable spectacle use.

The practice informs the patient about different contact lens options based on modality of wear and those that can more readily be reused or recycled, where clinical need is not compromised.

The practice advises patients, and where possible offers options, for patients to recycle their single use plastic contact lenses.

The practice encourages patients to reuse cases instead of a new case every time new spectacles are purchased.

The practice moves to paperless clinical records.

Community Pharmacy Specific

Practice staff support existing efforts to encourage patients to dispose of inhalers responsibly and safely via the community pharmacy through discussions with patients, information leaflets, posters and/or media.

Practice staff proactively inform and educate patients on the carbon footprint of commonly prescribed inhalers to promote patient-driven change.

The pharmacy uses paper bags and avoids the use of plastic bags wherever possible.

The pharmacy uses active travel or lower emission modes of transport for prescription deliveries.

Raise awareness to patients about medicines waste and encourage patients to return any unused medicines to the community pharmacy for disposal.

The practice has a repeat prescribing system in place which ensures patients only receive the medicines they require, are not regularly receiving non-repeat items and where possible medicines supply is synchronised.

General Practice Specific

The practice reviews and takes action to increase the proportion of dry powder inhalers (DPIs) and soft-mist inhalers (SMIs) prescribed compared to metered dose inhalers (MDIs), where clinically appropriate.

The practice reviews the proportion of carbon-intensive and high global warming potential (GWP) Salbutamol MDIs compared to alternative lower GWP inhaler types prescribed and takes action to reduce the proportion of high GWP Salbutamol MDIs initiated and prescribed on repeat prescription.

The practice has a system in place to regularly audit the prescribing of 'reliever' inhalers for all patients and only prescribe repeat prescriptions for those patients with a recorded clinical diagnosis and a clinical review within the last 12 months.

The practice actively socially prescribes, where appropriate, and refers patients to social prescribers, care navigators and / or community connectors etc. to identify the most appropriate non-clinical intervention to meet their need.

The practice promotes reproductive choice and education for women by providing timely access to contraception, emergency contraception and other services to prevent unplanned pregnancy.

The practice has a repeat prescribing system in place which ensures patients only receive the medicines they require, are not regularly receiving non-repeat items and where possible medicines supply is synchronised.

Primary Care Dental

The practice includes plastic-free oral hygiene products in its range of products for patients.

The practice ensures it only runs full loads in sterilisers and instrument cleaning units, reducing the number of cycles run each day.

Digital x-ray is used within the practice.

The practice can demonstrate a reduction in the number of car journeys to deliver laboratory work to/from dental laboratories, where clinically appropriate.

Practices engage with NICE risk assessment guidance for recall periods and discuss the environmental benefit of extending recalls with lower risk patients.

Patients are encouraged to book appropriate appointments on the same day to reduce travel. Remote assessment is used where possible to reduce the need for return visits.

SOS UK Green Impact Special Awards

Sustainability Hero

In no more than 300 words tell us who is the exceptional person within your or another team (including yourself!), who has really become your sustainability hero!

Innovation for Engagement

In no more than 300 words tell us how your team has engaged more people in sustainability activity and what results you have seen: what innovative techniques and ideas have you used to get people excited to take part?

Environmental Improvement

In no more than 300 words tell us about an innovative environmental improvement or initiative you have put in place to make a real impact in your practice, team or across the organisation. What have you done that is above and beyond the normal workbook criteria? What impacts have you seen?

Community Action

In no more than 300 words tell us about how your team has led, developed or participated in innovative community action throughout your Green Impact year. Who have you worked with? What action did you take? What positive impacts has it had?