

Bron Y Garn Surgery, Maesteg

WHAT WE DID

After registering for the Greener Primary Care Wales Framework and Award Scheme in 2022, we were eager to begin working towards achieving a Gold Award.

As our practice is located in a building managed by the local health board, we were limited in the structural or estate improvements we could make. Addressing issues related to the building and utilities was also challenging within the constraints of environment.

Despite these obstacles, we focused on actions within our control to reduce our carbon footprint by improving efficiency and minimising waste. This approach led to significant progress in areas such as deprescribing and inhaler management.

We introduced deprescribing initiatives to reduce unnecessary medication use and transitioned patients to greener, dry powder inhalers where clinically appropriate, aligning with a contractual Quality Improvement project at the time. This remains a priority, and we continue to see positive health outcomes for our patients on the new inhalers as a result of this change. Additionally, we adopted recycled paper and improved procurement practices. These measures have been embedded into routine operations, ensuring long-term impact.

WHAT ARE WE MOST PROUD OF

- Our tenacity to overcome challenges of working out of a health board managed building.
- Becoming the top prescriber of dry powder inhalers in the health board, reducing carbon emissions and improving asthma management.
- Successfully embedding sustainability into clinical and operational practices despite significant challenges.
- Engaging with the Health Board to address utilities waste and inefficiencies. Our persistent advocacy eventually led to improvements in building efficiency (e.g., window replacements).



**BRON Y GARN SURGERY RECEIVED A
GREENER PRIMARY CARE WALES
GOLD AWARD IN 2022**



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<https://www.bronygarnsurgery.com/>

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WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE

Environmental

From an environmental perspective, we aim to contribute towards a reduced carbon footprint through greener inhaler prescribing and improved waste management.

Financial

Financially, we hope to save money in the long-term by reducing printing needs, encouraging the team to work from bases closer to home, promoting carpooling, and opting for online meetings whenever possible.

Clinical

Clinically, by encouraging staff to complete Making Every Count (MECC training), we have seen more productive patient consultations, improving overall service quality.

Social

We decided to prioritise initiatives that could enhance the health and wellbeing of both our team and our patients. The Scheme has also proven to be an effective team-building exercise, strengthening collaboration across the service.

We made sure to consider everyone’s opinions in a non-judgemental way. Ensuring that all voices were heard while maintaining momentum required careful communication and flexibility.

WHAT NEXT

We plan to expand and streamline our social prescribing initiatives by working closely with community care coordinators. This will involve creating clearer referral pathways, improving communication between the practice and local support services, and ensuring patients can access a wider range of community-based resources to support their health and wellbeing.

In addition, we aim to develop sustainability-focused teaching sessions for GP registrars, fully aligned with the updated curriculum requirements. These sessions will provide practical guidance on implementing environmentally responsible practices in clinical settings, helping future GPs embed sustainability into routine care.

Finally, we will continue advocating for sustainability to be incentivised or mandated at a national level. By integrating green initiatives into contractual obligations or offering financial incentives, we can encourage wider adoption across primary care practices, ensuring that sustainability becomes a core component of healthcare delivery rather than an optional extra.



BRON-Y-GARN
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TOP TIPS

- Engage GP registrars, as sustainability is now part of their training curriculum.
- Begin with small, practical steps such as greener inhalers and recycled paper.
- Build strong relationships with stakeholders (e.g., Health Board, waste managers) to overcome infrastructure challenges.
- Advocate for-sustainability to be into contracts (e.g., GMS) or incentivise through quality improvement projects.

CONTACT

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