

Green Impact in dentistry

Frequently asked questions

This document answers some of the common questions we've received from practices regarding the launch and delivery of the Green Impact programme. We'll continue to add to it as the programme develops.

Who is Green Impact in dentistry for?

The 2019 programme is being funded by NHS England (East of England) and supported by the Local Dental Networks in Anglia and Essex. Therefore, any practice, whether they deliver NHS contracts or not, in this region are eligible to participate in the programme, fully supported by the Green Impact team, for free. If you're a practice outside of the region, you can still register, access and use the Green Impact online tool, but won't yet be eligible for full support including external audit.

What does it cost?

Due to the programme being funded by NHS England (East of England), there's no charge for participating practices.

How much time does it take?

It's basically completely up to you. You can set yourself realistic targets about what you want to achieve over your year of Green Impact, and then spread out your efforts over as much time and as many people as you like. You make the programme work for you.

What support is available?

There's a whole host of resources and tools within the toolkit to help implement particular actions – look at the 'Further Information' tab for each action to find these.

If you're in the Anglia and Essex region and participating in the programme, you'll get personal contact from the Green Impact team who'll periodically check in with you, see how you're getting on, signpost you to resources that will be of benefit to your work and help overcome any challenges.

We'll be running skills and knowledge development webinars (CPD accredited wherever we can) throughout the year.

Periodically you'll get programme updates and news stories about the programme but we promise never to spam anyone viewing or registered on the programme – you can reference our privacy policy [here](#).

Finally, we hope to be running a sustainability leadership course in parallel to the programme, but this is still in development.

nus

greenimpact

What is the role of the student auditor?

For people registered in the Anglia and Essex region, the audit is an opportunity for you to showcase your work, provide feedback on the programme, and get further support you may need. We'll also be reviewing your work to verify the results of the programme to ensure we're fair with the award levels we give out, recognizing and respecting data confidentiality and privacy as set out below.

The students who get involved with Green Impact are incredibly passionate about developing their skills and driving sustainability. The enthusiasm and innovation they bring will be a huge asset to your practice. In many cases they'll be studying to be dentists, or to work in healthcare.

We personally give them all the training they need to support your work in a professional and structured way, and they'll be absolutely confident about the process, your expectations and their responsibilities. The training is approved by [IEMA](#), and students will have signed a confidentiality agreement in advance of their audit so they just share their findings with the Green Impact team.

Why are NUS running a programme for dentists?

NUS has over a decades' experience running Green Impact as a way of enhancing and normalizing sustainability whilst also providing students with excellent development opportunities. In 2016 they were recognized by UNESCO as one of just nine global laureates for education for sustainable develop for the Green Impact programme. What started in students' unions is now being used by universities, hospitals, local authorities, businesses, museums, GPs, and now, dentists! The model remains the same for each individual Green Impact programme, but we adapt and tailor the toolkit, communications, and partners for each programme so it's completely fit for purpose.

How will the data I provide be used? Can I be assured it will remain confidential and meet all requirements for data security?

Upon registering for the programme you provide us with some basic contact details. These will only be used to contact you about the Green Impact programme – we won't ever share them beyond the programme team. You're also able to upload evidence about your sustainability work. This will be seen by the programme team and your trained student auditor. They'll have signed a confidentiality agreement. We'll only ever share information about your practice (for example as a case study or to celebrate your success) with your permission. Anonymous data about the programme's impacts will be collated throughout the programme and shared with various parties. All of our work is GDPR compliant and you can access our privacy statement with further information at any time.

Who's supporting the programme?

The programme is being delivered by NUS in partnership with PHE England and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. It's being funded by NHS England (East of England). The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare coordinates the Dental Sustainability Advisory Group which contains representatives from many sector bodies such as Health Education England, the British Dental Association, the Federation of General Dental Practice, the General Dental Council and British Dental Industries Association. This group oversees a dental scholarship programme for sustainable dentistry, and has fed into and reviewed the overall plans for Green Impact including its toolkit and are helping support the communications surrounding the programme. We're sure we're liaising with the right stakeholders and are very grateful for their input and support, especially the dental scholars for their input to the toolkit.

What's the benefit of participating for my practice?

Green Impact is a proven way of increasing sustainable attitudes and behaviours of people within an organisation and is a powerful communication and engagement tool for staff. However, what your particular practice gets out of the programme depends on a lot of things: your starting point, your enthusiasm and resources, your areas of interest etc. Some of the commonly reported benefits we've seen from the programme that we think we'll see realized in this programme for dental practices are:

- Increased environmental sustainability
- Cost savings
- Improved staff morale
- Demonstrable commitment to improving sustainability practices
- Efficiency through the model – enabling practices to learn from others
- CPD opportunities for staff
- In addition, there may be benefits for patients: fairer access, benefitting a larger proportion of the population, better oral health and equitable, sustainable care

How can I find out what other practices are doing in relation to sustainability?

You can follow what other Green Impact teams in dentistry and beyond are doing on social media using #GreenImpact. Please share your achievements and use this as a way to connect with others progressing towards a sustainable and just future.

Dental Susnet is a great resource provided by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare – it's a friendly online forum where you can share resources, ask questions, and stay up to date with the latest in sustainable dentistry. Being an active member of Dental Susnet is one of the actions in the Green Impact programme. Dental Susnet is available at: <https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/dental-susnet>.

You'll also receive periodic updates from the Green Impact team sharing good practice and helping overcome common barriers faced by practices.

As part of the Anglia and Essex programme, we plan to develop a team of clinical leaders who will be proud to share their work, and promote opportunities for others.

How does the toolkit work?

There is a user guide which you can refer to [here](#) which explains how to manage your personal and practice account, how to access the glossary, how to make and review comments and evidence, how to export or print the toolkit as well as submitting your toolkit. If you are still having problems with a particular toolkit functionality issue please contact charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk.

How do I progress through the levels? Do I need to wait until November?

We formally audit (although it's a very friendly audit!) once a year, which in this year will be November for those practices in Anglia and Essex. Again, if you're in that region, you'll get lots of support throughout the year – the Green Impact team will check in regularly with you, see how you're getting on, support you to progress through the programme and help overcome challenges.

We thoroughly recommend you start with Bronze – we anticipate that some people will aim for completion of Bronze in the first year, others will want to go further and can absolutely aim for Silver or even Gold in the first year. We'll support you to progress as is best suited for your practice, but you'll only be able to find out what you've officially achieved after the audit. However, it's very rare that an organisation doesn't achieve the award level its expecting.

My practice isn't in Anglia and Essex. How can I get involved further?

The online toolkit and the resources within it are available for you to access and use as you best see fit. We will be interested to hear any feedback you would like to give us by contacting charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk. The long term aspirations of the current initiative is to pilot the programme in the dental practice settings with a plan that, assuming evaluation is positive, we will pursue a wider roll out. If you wish us to keep in contact with you then please again contact charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk, and provide details of the NHS commissioning area where you work, if you know it.

Where can I go for further help?

If you have any questions that you can't find here, please contact charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk.