



## Bright Ideas in Health Awards 2024

### Category: Towards Net Zero Award

**This category is open to those based in the North East and North Cumbria**

Since 2008, the NHS has tracked and reported its carbon footprint, regularly improving its methods, and monitoring progress in meeting the commitments of the Climate Change Act (2008). Climate change and our impact on public health and the environment is recognised as one of the key global challenges of the 21st century. The health sector has a vested interest in improving public health by addressing the causes of air pollution and climate change.

The NHS long-term plan includes commitments to becoming a 'greener' NHS. Two clear and feasible targets emerge for the NHS net zero commitment, based on the scale of the challenge posed by climate change, current knowledge, and the interventions and assumptions that underpin this analysis:

- for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032
- for the emissions we can influence (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039.

Making these ambitions a reality will affect decision making across all areas of the healthcare system and require environmental impact assessment to become a key driver of innovative service delivery.

This award will recognise those organisations redesigning working practices to deliver greener and more efficient services, and who are actively adopting new innovations to reduce waste, water, energy consumption, carbon, and single-use plastics, whilst maintaining or improving NHS services/patient care.

Eligibility: All NHS organisations (including providers, partnerships, and systems), General Practice and primary care organisations.

The entry criteria for the **Towards Net Zero Award** are:

1. Does the entry address your organisational and/or the North East and North Cumbria ICB green plan Y/N
2. Please select the areas your entry addresses
  - Travel and Transport: Innovations to help reduce patient/business travel, Improve use of hospital fleet or better monitor patient/business travel.
  - Waste: Does your innovation reduce waste/plastic waste, promote a circular economy, or improve waste management.
  - Biodiversity: Does your innovation improve biodiversity or offer a solution to better manage biodiversity within the NHS estate.

- Medicines Optimisation: innovations in low carbon medicines or medicine management to reduce medicine waste.
  - Energy: Does your innovation help improve energy efficiency, offer an alternative solution to current energy supply or contain a renewable energy element.
3. Outline the scope of the project including the brief, aims and how this area was identified.
  4. Provide evidence that the project forms a key component of the organisation's Green Plan
  5. Can you demonstrate an estimated carbon saving from your innovation?
  6. Outline the targets set to measure the impact of the project, and the steps put in place to achieve them.
  7. What is the current status of the project?
  8. What efforts were made to involve all relevant stakeholders in the planning and execution of the project?
  9. Has the partnership project team gained any learnings which have been or have the potential of being applied to projects elsewhere within the NHS organisation or other local health economies?
  10. How have the project team worked together to disseminate best practice?
  11. Are you aware of any companies/organisations who offer similar products or services?
  12. Describe any challenges that may need to be overcome to further develop and/or implement your project
  13. Have any other people or organisations been involved with your idea? If so, who and how?
  14. Are you aware of anyone conducting research or trying to solve the same problem? If so, who?

**Entries will be assessed on the following:**

**Innovation:** originality of the idea

**Value:** impact of the initiative on patient care and/or service effectiveness

**Patient focus:** evidence that patient/service user need was central to the work

**Collaboration:** evidence of the involvement of other professionals, services and/or patients in the project

**Clinical effectiveness:** data proving how this initiative drives clinical enhancements

**Leadership:** evidence of entrants championing their innovation in their organisation or more widely

**Adaptability:** ideas that could be adapted for use elsewhere in entrants' organisations or other organisations

**Sustainability:** initiatives that can be embedded within organisations to operate without the input of the people who developed them

**The deadline for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

**For further information and to enter please visit: <https://brightideasinhealth.org.uk/>**

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