



Your guide to the

GREEN TEAM COMPETITION

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE





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WHY GREEN TEAMS?



- NHS organisations are legally mandated to become 'net zero' by 2040 which requires clinical leadership and innovation.
- There remains a gap in the knowledge and skills required to transform clinical practice among health professionals.
- The Green Team Competition offers both bigger picture understanding and guides practical changes to address this gap – transforming knowledge into action





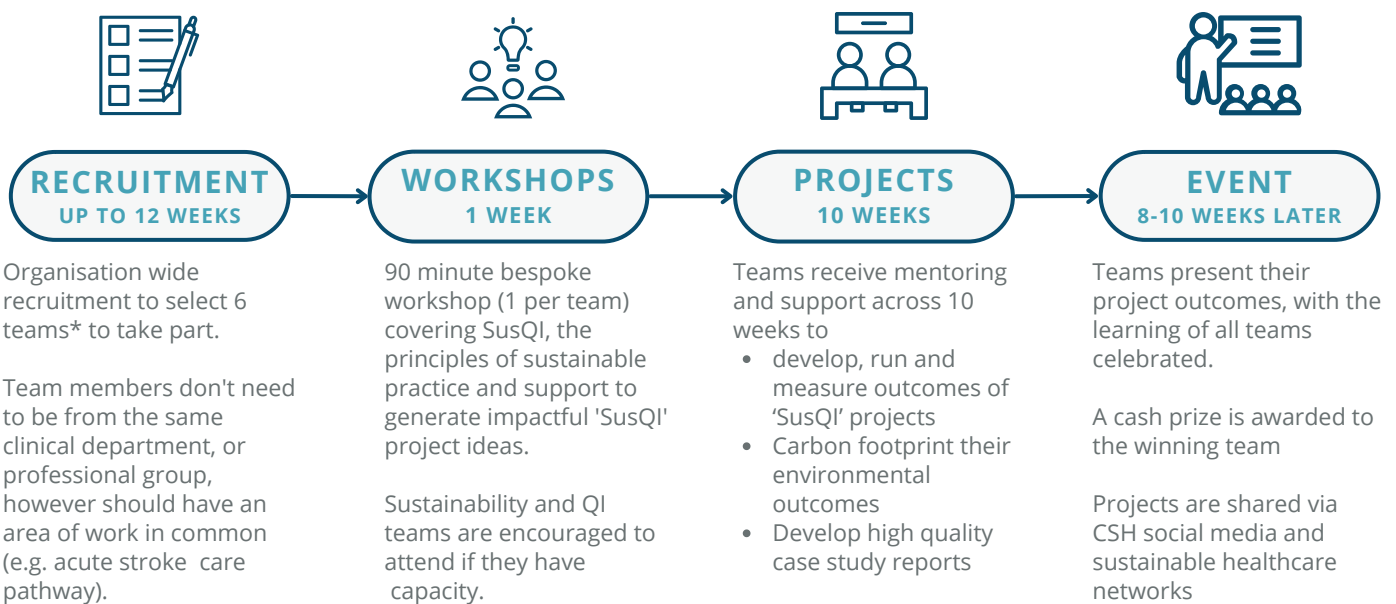
HOW IT WORKS

The Green Team Competition invites six teams from within the hosting organisation (e.g. NHS Trust or Health Board) to engage in a mentoring programme with CSH facilitators in implementing sustainable quality improvement, 'SusQI' projects.

Teams measure the impact of their projects across the triple bottom line of sustainable value:

$$\text{Sustainable value} = \frac{\text{Outcomes for patients and populations}}{\text{Environmental + social + financial impacts (the 'triple bottom line')}}$$

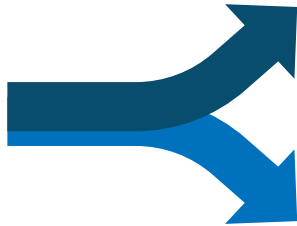
Competitions run in 4 phases over 8-12 months



IMPACT



Average annual savings per organisation* (with 6 participating teams)



56 tonnes CO₂e per year equivalent to **2,435** acute sector outpatient appointments



£59,000 equivalent to **1,400** GP appointments



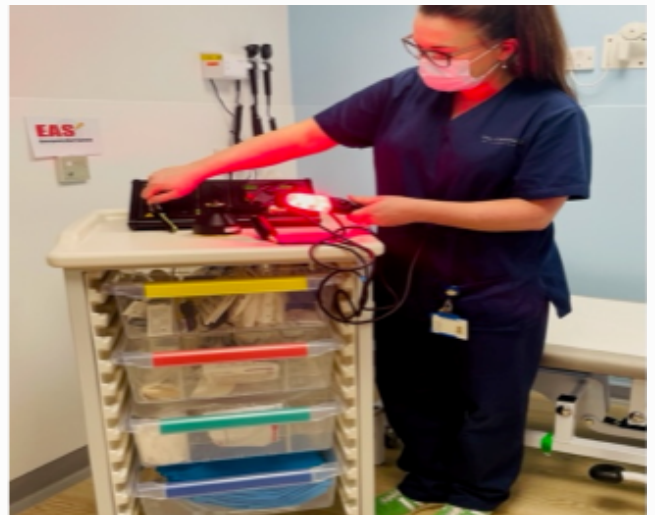
Green Team projects often bring positive social impacts to both staff and patients, such as

- Improved efficiency and time saved
- Align personal values with care / work
- Boost staff morale and job-satisfaction

*Average savings calculated from 2022 Green Team competitions. There is variation in individual team impacts and the average savings may not always be achieved.

Projects may also **improve clinical outcomes** for patients.

For example, the palliative care team at The Christie Hospital reduced side effects, medications and admissions associated with oral mucositis for base of tongue and tonsil cancer population, alongside savings of **£530,640 and 42,774 kgCO₂e per year**, equivalent to driving 123,197 miles!



[Read their case study here.](#)

BENEFITS

Organisation priority	Ways in which the Green Team Competition can support
Meeting NHS green / decarbonisation plan targets	<p>Healthcare staff need clear grounded information on why sustainability matters in their field and how they can contribute to it. The competition provides this education alongside tangible actions.</p> <p>Green Team projects vary widely, addressing many areas of green / decarbonation targets including workforce leadership, sustainable models of care, travel, supply chain and procurement, medications and food and nutrition.</p>
Reducing spending / cost savings	2022 Green Team organisations saw an annual return on investment of over 200%.
Better patient care	<p>Some projects will improve experience of care for patients (e.g., reduce waiting times, reduce low value / uncomfortable testing).</p> <p>Others may have direct clinical health benefits such as reducing risk of infection or reducing side effects of a treatment.</p>
Investment in staff - well-being - job-satisfaction - leadership skills - staff morale	SusQI evaluation has shown healthcare students taught the SusQI approach feel more hopeful, with one student saying <i>"It is easy to feel hopeless with news of climate change. SusQI gives concrete ways in which we can make a difference, rather than just learning about the problem"</i> ¹ .
Clinical engagement in and motivation for sustainability and/or improvement work	<p>Triple bottom line 'wins' are often more motivating for teams and lead to projects being better supported, embedded and scaled compared to projects that offer carbon or financial savings in isolation.</p> <p>SusQI evaluation has shown healthcare students taught the SusQI approach develop increased motivation for Quality Improvement.</p>
Build relationships and understanding between varied staff groups	<p>The competition enhances interdisciplinary relationships between clinical, non-clinical and senior leadership.</p> <p>Members of the organisation senior leadership join the judging panel at the showcase and awards event raising the profile of the team's work.</p>
Embed sustainability into QI (the framework for change in the NHS)	<p>Quality Improvement teams are welcomed to contribute to all stages of the competition to support integration of sustainability into QI at your organisation.</p> <p>The high-quality case studies developed can be used to disseminate learning and increase understanding of obstacles and how these may be overcome for others wanting to implement SusQI in your organisation.</p>

Case study: A Novel Care Pathway for Stable HIV Patients, Integrated Sexual Health and HIV services

Many stable HIV patients attend services with the same frequency as those HIV patients who are newly diagnosed or considered unstable. A 'very stable' patient definition was agreed among consultants and a new annual review pathway was implemented, eliminating a doctor review + blood test per year for each very stable patient.



[Click here for the case study report](#)

Outcomes:

based on approximately 90% of cohort being eligible, (800-850 patients)



Environmental sustainability:

25,957.8 kgCO₂e per year, equivalent to 74,763 miles driven in a car.



Economic sustainability:

£44,904.60



Social sustainability:

- 350 hours of B6 nurse time and 200 hours of doctor time per year redirected to higher value work, to cover existing pressure points, and to dedicate more time to unstable patients.
- Positive patient feedback
- Patient saving of £9.20 in travel costs + reduced loss of income



Clinical and health outcomes:

- Incentive to improve patient adherence.
- U=U (undetectable is untransmissible) is a powerful public health aim, with wider public benefits by reducing frequency of new HIV infections.

07

Case study: Streamlining Enteral Feeding Equipment, Home Enteral Feeding Team

The team made the following changes.

- Extend life of giving sets to 24 hours based on recent research (Nutricia 2021) showing sets are safe for re-use (previously single use).
- Switch from single use to newly available re-useable plastic bottle reservoir (Sterifeed bottle)



Outcomes:

[Click here for the case study report](#)



Environmental sustainability:

543 kgCO₂e per year saved at the neurological centre.
24,722 kgCO₂e saved if scaled across the patient cohort,
equivalent to **71,204 miles** driven in an average car.



Economic sustainability:

For both contracted items, the overall cost will remain unchanged. There is an increased cost of **£369** for adapters required for reusable bottles.



Social sustainability:

- Addressing patient concerns of environmental impacts of care.
- Increased staff awareness of the environmental impact of healthcare and actions to reduce this.
- 100% staff reported changes simple to implement.



Clinical and health outcomes:

No change to patient care.

TESTIMONIALS

"It has been exciting having the Green Team Competition running in our trust. We weren't sure in advance what the project outcomes would be as the timescale is challenging for busy staff. The CSH team supported the teams incredibly well and really challenged them to think broadly about the improvements they might investigate. The Awards Ceremony was an uplifting event particularly as the impact was so impressive across all the projects for patients and for staff. It is clear that our teams are really motivated to continue the work they have started. We look forward to taking the learning forward".

-Joanne Woolley,
Clinical Audit and Improvement Manager,
The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

The Green Ward competition is a great way of picking up new skills and learning how to make bigger reductions in your carbon footprint. SusQI projects are a great way of team building and putting a spring in the step of the people we work with and give treatment to.

Mark Wright, July 2022
Consultant Nephrologist and Haemodialysis Lead
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

COSTS

£19,700 excluding VAT and prize money for winning team.

Please note all communications and competition phases, including the event, will be virtual unless otherwise agreed.

Includes

- A communications pack and guidance is provided to the participating organisation for publicity and recruitment.
- An application form provided with shortlisting completed collaboratively with CSH and the host organisation.
- Facilitation of 6x 90-minute workshops (1 per team) with CSH clinicians
- Mentoring over the 10-week project period using SusQI methodology including
 - 6x carbon footprinting workshops (1 per team) and support as required to accurately calculate CO2e impact of projects
 - support to consider social, financial and clinical impacts with measurement as appropriate
 - Support to develop, guide and keep project work on track
- High quality case study reports (a template, guidance, editing feedback and data verification provided)
- Co-facilitation of an online showcase and awards event with social media promotion of team project outcomes and learning
- Case study reports shared via CSH sustainable healthcare networks and in a news post following the event (shared on our website and in our newsletter).
- We also encourage teams to share their work more widely and apply for additional awards, publications, etc as appropriate.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Hospital Charity
- Local AHSN
- UCL Partners
- QI team
- Estates team
- Education department
- Potentially HEE
- Royal Colleges

Supportive text for funding applications can be provided on request.

Contact Us

For further information or to schedule a 30 minutes Teams call, please contact Green Team Programme Lead, Rachel McLean.

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