The Green Ward Competition is for NHS Trusts wishing to improve their environmental sustainability, increase the quality and efficiency of care and enhance their reputation.
Green Ward Competition

Benefits

• **Patients** gain from a more efficient service and increased staff time for patient care. Simple sustainability initiatives can improve the immediate environment for patients.

• **Clinical teams** develop a better understanding of their use of resources and identify opportunities to prevent waste and save energy while improving care.

• **Trusts** gain from clinician engagement in sustainability and service improvements. Many initiatives produce significant cost savings\(^1\) alongside benefits to patient experience, quality of care and staff wellbeing. Successful projects can enhance reputation and be shared via events, conferences and media outlets as well as with staff, patients and the wider community.

“We find that a multidisciplinary team approach to green service developments can deliver environmental and financial savings whilst maintaining or improving the quality of patient care.”

*Dr. John Stoves, Consultant Nephrologist*

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\(^1\)Reference: *Cumulative Savings from Green Nephrology Innovations. Mortimer F, Stott I, Connor A. Poster presented at Renal Association - British Transplantation Society Congress, March 2013*
How it Works

• Clinical teams work with CSH clinical staff to develop and take forward a sustainability project in their ward over a couple of months
• A Trust senior executive/chair or senior clinician awards a prize to the team whose project has the greatest impact on sustainability
• A range of wards/units are supported to implement the winning or most generalisable project across the Trust
• The launch or prize-giving can be linked to NHS Sustainability Day, Earth Day or World Environment Day.

“This competition was a great way to get the clinical side involved in sustainable healthcare. The teams showed great passion for making efficiencies, improving patient care and coming up with exciting projects.”

Rajnika Patel, Sustainable Development Manager
Trust Requirements

- Buy-in from the Chief Executive or other senior Board member
- Input from an internal staff member who can assist in the coordination of the competition e.g. recruitment of participating teams and scheduling workshops and award presentations
- A prize to invest in further sustainability initiatives
- A small project team for around 6 wards/units: ideally a mix of nurses, AHPs, doctors, administrative and technical staff
- Staff time - about one hour for a workshop plus some time to carry out an action and measure the impact
- Communications input to publicise successes to staff, patients, visitors and the local community

The Green Ward Competition is run at a cost of £4,850 for the Competition and £2,450 to support the roll-out of either the winning project or the project with the greatest potential application across a range of wards/units. Including £500 of prize money to be reinvested in sustainability, the total cost per Trust is £7,800. Payback is estimated within 1 year. However, previous Competitions show potential continued annual savings of up to £90,000.

CSH Provides

- Guidance including recruitment of clinical teams, appointment of judges and criteria for judging entries
- Branded e-materials, such as posters and leaflets
- Up to 8 one-hour, tailored Sustainable Action Planning workshops for each team spread over 2 days (maximum of 4 per day)*
- Follow-up information and support by email, including contacts, links to relevant resources and assistance with demonstrating impacts
- A senior CSH staff member to join the Trust judging panel
- Support with hospital-wide rollout of one project
* Additional workshops can be provided by arrangement
“The Green Ward Competition engaged staff to reduce their carbon footprint. We increased the recycling of waste in Theatres from zero to 60 bags per week. CSH helped staff understand what they could achieve and ensured the results were meaningful.”

Director of Estates and Facilities, Whittington Hospital

FAQs

Q: What if only a handful of clinical teams come forward to take part?
A: Even with only a small number of participating wards or departments, the competition can generate ideas and interest in sustainability through word of mouth and internal publicity. An attractive prize and endorsement by senior clinicians can also help encourage more teams to come forward.

Q: Clinical teams are busy - would the whole team need to take part in the workshop?
A: No, the workshops can be very effective with just 3-5 people, ideally representing different perspectives, e.g. nurse, doctor, physio, HCA, administrative staff.
“By undertaking this project, we can see how small changes can have an immediate impact on our sustainability.”

Competition participant,
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust