The Green Ward Competition is a clinical engagement programme for NHS Trusts wishing to improve their environmental sustainability and reduce their carbon footprint.

**Benefits**

- **Patients** gain from the targeted use of resources where they provide most benefit. Often simple sustainability initiatives can improve the immediate environment for patients on the ward, while saving energy and waste.

- **Clinical teams** develop a better understanding of their day-to-day use of resources (environmental, economic and social) and identify opportunities to prevent waste and save energy while maintaining or improving care.

- **Trusts** gain from clinician engagement in sustainability and service improvements. Many initiatives produce significant cost savings, alongside benefits to patient experience, quality of care and staff wellbeing. Successful projects can be shared with the whole staff, as well as patients, visitors and the wider community.

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

Dr. John Stoves, Consultant Nephrologist, Bradford


**How it Works**

- Clinical teams work with CSH clinical staff to develop and take forward a sustainability project in their ward or department over a couple of months.

- Trust senior executive/chair or senior clinician awards a prize to the team whose project has had the greatest impact on improving sustainability or which shows the best potential for future impact.

- 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 on 26 March 2015.

“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 healthcare and coming up with exciting projects”.

Rajnika Patel, Sustainable Development Manager, UCLH

**Trust Requirements**

- Commitment from the Chief Executive or other senior Board member.

- Input from the Trust’s sustainability, health & wellbeing or other lead who can promote and coordinate the competition e.g. oversee recruitment of participating teams and schedule team workshops, judging day and award presentations.

- A prize to invest in further sustainability initiatives.

- A small project team for at least 6 wards/units: ideally a mix of nurses, AHPs, junior doctors, administrative and technical staff.
Staff time - participating wards need about one hour in a workshop and then 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. Conservative cost savings from Competitions run in 2015/16 show annual savings of £15k per Trust.

CSH Provides

- Guidance on running the competition, 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 a 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 Trust-wide rollout of one project
* Additional workshops can be provided by arrangement

“Working with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH), Whittington Health held a competition that engaged staff in 3 wards to reduce their carbon footprint. The results led to long-term benefits including increasing the recycling of waste in Theatres from zero to 60 bags per week. CSH workshops helped staff understand what they could achieve and ensured the results were meaningful.”

Phil Lent, Director of Estates & Facilities, Whittington Health NHS Trust

FAQs

Q: We are at an early stage in engaging clinical staff with Trust sustainability. 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 work-shop?
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

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare is the foremost institution in the world working on sustainable healthcare in research and practice. It has a particular focus on clinical transformation and engaging clinicians in sustainability.

A charity, based in Oxford, the Centre hosts and manages a range of clinical fellowship and scholarship programmes and works with Trusts, CCGs and other health providers to reduce resource use. It also runs the NHS Forest to engage staff, patients and the wider community on the links between health and the environment.

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