

Southall Medical Centre

Climate Change Emergency Declaration

Our GP practice recognises that the climate emergency is a health emergency that requires urgent action.

In 2020, the NHS became the first healthcare organisation in the world to commit to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

The NHS contributes to 5.4% of the UK's carbon emissions. In 2020, it emitted 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gases (equivalent to that of a small country).^[1]

The impact of air pollution alone in the UK each year is considered to contribute to 40,000 deaths and £157 million spent for healthcare-associated costs.^[3]

A piece of research published in the Lancet in February 2021^[2] demonstrated the potential health benefits of climate action. It found that if the UK achieved its 2040 climate targets, each year we could save 98,000 lives through better 'flexitarian' diets, 21,500 lives by people taking more exercise and 3,500 lives from reductions in air pollution.

Our practice is declaring a **Climate Emergency** and are committed to reducing our emissions, our overall environmental impact and will use our initiative to develop a more sustainable NHS GP practice.

As part of our efforts, we aim to:

- Reduce our carbon footprint across our estates, procurement of supplies and equipment and waste removal/recycling
- Prescribe sustainably and adopt environmentally-conscious clinical practice where clinically appropriate
- Discuss the green agenda regularly in team meetings and with our patients and adopt climate-aware decision making
- Promote public transport, active travel and sustainable options for staff and patients getting to their appointments
- Continue to evolve our practice as per national NHS sustainability goals

References:

(1) Health Declares, healthdeclares.org/the-science/healthcares-environmental-footprint/

(2) The public health implications of the Paris Agreement: a modelling study, The Lancet, February 2021, [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30249-7/fulltext#seccestitle10](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30249-7/fulltext#seccestitle10)

(3) Decarbonising general practice – Climate Emergency, Humber and North Yorkshire ICB, <https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/HNY-Emergency.pdf>