

Top Tips on Making Transplantation Green in your Unit

- **Communicate and Engage:**

- **Set up a Green/Sustainability Working Group in your unit with leadership representation**
 - Consider designating Green Champions to drive projects forward
 - The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare has a wealth of resources to help your Green Champion engage colleagues [Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#)
 - Ensure broad involvement across the service
 - *Examples e.g. anaesthetics, theatre management, outpatients, immunology services, dietetics, psychology and many others!*
 - Consider carbon literacy training
 - Use the way that Quality Improvement activity can overlap with better sustainability
 - Join the relevant sustainability networks through the [Sustainable Healthcare Networks Hub](#) to share good ideas, opportunities, and encouragement
 - Engage with Operational Delivery Networks [NHS England » Operational Delivery Networks](#) and other regional structures like Transplant Collaboratives on sustainability, sharing ideas, activity, and best practise
 - Get your patients involved as patient ambassadors on sustainability [Community Green Ambassador Role Description \(kidney example\)](#)

- **Reduce and Decarbonised Travel:**

- **Patient Travel**
 - Aim to offer at least 25% virtual clinics
 - Create / use one stop diagnostic / treatment hubs to reduce the number of visits
 - Look into reducing aborted transport (e.g. hospital transport sent to patients who are away or already in hospital)
 - Set up a regular review of hospital transport processes for your unit and a working group to reduce this over time
- **Staff Travel**
 - Use clinics localised to the patients where possible to reduce overall travel
 - Promote flexible working (including working from home where appropriate)
 - Actively avoid non essential flights (including for organ transportation)
 - Use low carbon routes to meetings and conferences <https://routezero.world/#/>
- **Use of Flights**
 - Make every effort to reduce use of flights whether for organ transportation, staff movement, conferences or supply chains

- **Adopt Green Theatres:**

- Adopt the Intercollegiate Green Theatre checklist:
 - [green-theatre-posters-rcsed-a4-161022.pdf](#) and [Green Theatre Checklist | RCSEd](#)
- Anaesthetic considerations e.g. Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) & re-usable equipment
- Preparation for surgery e.g. adoption of reusable textiles and reduction of water consumption
- Intra-operative equipment considering what is essential vs. optional: reduce, reuse, replace
- Post-operative care e.g. greener waste streams, recycling batteries/metals, power-off at close

- **More transplantation:**

- Find ways to increase the number of transplants in your particular patient population
 - Both live (where appropriate) and deceased

- Draw up specific and measurable targets to improve access to transplantation for disadvantaged groups, appropriate to the population the unit serves
- Improve organ utilisation - look at the Organ Utilisation Group recommendations and apply them to your unit [Honouring the gift of donation: utilising organs for transplant](#)
- For kidney units – remember that kidney transplants are greener than dialysis
 - Pre-emptive transplants help even more
- Set measurable strategic targets to increase live donor transplantation
- **Improve Graft Survival:**
 - Apply interventions that have been shown to reduce injury at transplantation and / or reduce post-transplant damage
 - Apply evidence based interventions to improve graft survival, and life years gained, in longer term transplant management
 - Make use of both prehabilitation and rehabilitation around transplantation
 - Focus on reducing poor concordance where appropriate

- **Get an Environmental Audit of Transplant Unit Buildings and Estate:**

- Ask estates and facilities for an environmental audit
 - This may have already happened, in many Trusts
 - There are a lot of things this can lead to, that help the Trust as well as the environment, for example:
 - Retrofit buildings to reduce heat loss with cost effective insulation
 - Improving resilience of the estate to cope with high temperature environmental events
 - Utilise smart heating (appropriate temperatures e.g. when buildings are occupied vs empty).
 - Switch all lights to LEDs.
- Work with IT to ensure energy efficient monitors and computers

- **At a Trust level, there's even more that leaders can do:**

Lead yourself in these areas or encourage your Trust leadership, and support them, in doing things like these:

- Decarbonise energy sources
 - Aim for 100% renewable
- Improve the impact of procurement
 - This is a significant component of carbon footprint. Any significant or recurring purchases need careful consideration from an environmental perspective.
- Banking – change what is funded by changing where funds are held
 - Switching accounts away from banks that promote funding for fossil fuels or single use plastics. This matters at an individual level too - www.bank.green
- Promote engagement with innovations that improve sustainability, for example:
 - Support innovation in environmental sustainability in all areas
 - Smart theatres
 - Unmanned organ transportation
- Help the transplant unit green/sustainability group engage with the Trust level sustainability group and strategy
- Promote the known positive overlap between Quality Improvement activity and sustainability