

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 include - 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 Network 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 Decarbonise 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 overtime

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](#))
- 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 donors)
- 👉 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
- 👉 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 are known to reduce injury at transplantation and/or reduce post-transplant damage
- 👉 Apply evidence-based interventions to improve graft survival, and life year gains, in long term transplant care
- 👉 Make use of both prehabilitation and rehabilitation services around transplantation
- 👉 Focus on reducing poor concordance where appropriate

Get an Environmental Audit of Transplant Unit Buildings and Estates

- 👉 **Ask** estates and facilities for an environmental audit. This may have already happened in many Trusts. There are a lot of things that 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 all monitors and computers are energy efficient

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