



Applicant Information

Join us in the Green Gastroenterology Challenge to champion sustainability and drive positive change in gastroenterology care.

Why do we need a Green Gastroenterology Challenge?

The NHS has committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2040, extending to suppliers by 2045. Gastroenterology professionals, as key contributors to patient care and leaders in services, play a crucial role. By making changes in working practices, they can lead action to minimise the environmental harm created from healthcare services while improving outcomes and experiences for patients and staff.

How to apply:

If you're interested in bringing together and leading a Green Gastroenterology Challenge team and running a project that will make your work more sustainable, please review the project timeline, read the below commitments and complete this [Application form](#). We will be in touch with you by 10th April 2026.

Who can apply:

Applicants must be employed within the **UK**.

Application and participation in the programme is **free**. (Please note no financial support is available through the Challenge).

Healthcare professionals working in gastroenterology care in the UK are eligible to apply. This includes (but is not limited to) all clinical teams working in:

- GI endoscopy
- Gastroenterology outpatient clinics
- Gastroenterology wards

The topics could include areas of endoscopy, hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), nutrition or broad GI areas including patient pathways.

We welcome applications from all members of the multidisciplinary team, including doctors, nurses, Allied Health Professionals, pharmacists and non-clinical staff. If you are a junior member of staff (e.g., a student, healthcare support worker or assistant practitioner), we strongly recommend applying with a senior colleague or qualified staff member as a joint project lead.

Details and contact information for **two project leads** are required to apply. These leads should be capable of engaging others and putting together a project team. There is no maximum limit to team size. **Team members do not need to be part of the same clinical team, department, or professional group;** however, they should have an area of work in common (e.g., changing screening practices or pathways).

Key Dates:

- Launch webinar and application period opens: 9th February 2026, 6:00pm
- Application period closes: 20th March 2026 5pm 2026
- Successful teams will be contacted by: 10th April 2026
- Workshops & start of project period: 27th April – 1st May 2026
- Deadline for project write ups and data to be submitted: 7th August 2026
- Showcase event: November 4th, 2026 (Time TBC). The judging panel will include:
 - Lucy Brown – Development Director, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare.
 - Dr Sandeep Siddhi – Consultant Gastroenterologist, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary BSG Sustainability Lead and Green Endoscopy Clinical Lead.
 - Nikki Husbands – BSG Head of Projects.
 - Dr Leigh Donnelly – Endoscopy Education Lead, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust, BSG Nursing Committee Chair & Sustainability Working group
 - Prof. Anjan Dhar – Professor of Medicine, Teeside University and Consultant Gastroenterologist, Darlington Memorial Hospital, BSG Sustainability Working Group

How teams are selected:

The shortlisting panel will include team members from CSH and partners.

We are looking for teams that are well supported, have sufficient capacity to complete a project and are open to mentoring and learning more about sustainable gastroenterology care. Six teams will be shortlisted, including at least two teams from outside the endoscopy specialty. The panel will consider whether the recruited teams represent a range of sub-specialties, geographical locations and multidisciplinary team members, with a range of project ideas likely to address varied targets and principles of sustainable clinical practice

Projects will be considered based on their potential carbon, social and health impacts and where possible will align with existing national priorities around quality and equity. Applications will be reviewed and scored in the below 5 areas:

- Why you would like to participate
- Problem identification and relevance of the problem to your local service users and the principles of sustainable healthcare (see below).
- Proposed solutions and feasibility
- Organisational commitment and support
- Overall application

How it works:

6 selected teams will have the opportunity to receive training and mentoring from the CSH to develop, plan, run and measure the impact of a sustainable quality improvement (SusQI) project that will add sustainable value to their service. Sustainable value means considering potential outcomes across social, financial, environmental and clinical domains.

Teams will be encouraged to tackle problems that align with the principles of sustainable clinical practice (on page 4). Mentoring will include education and guidance from the CSH environmental analyst team to carbon footprint the environmental outcomes of the project.

Following the project phase, teams will submit their work as a case study so that it can be shared and spread as an example for other teams and organisations. At an online showcase event all teams will present their projects to a judging panel and appreciative audience.

What will successful teams do? (Team commitments)

As a team, you will be expected to:

1. **Workshop week:**

- Participate in a **90-minute virtual workshop** covering sustainable healthcare, SusQI methodology and mentoring to further develop your project.

2. **Project phase: (16 weeks)**

- **Meet with CSH (virtually)** based on your availability and project requirements (average of 1x 45-minute meeting every 3 weeks).
- **Project work** (e.g., setting aims, planning and implementing changes, identifying measures, data collection, calculating impact of your changes – including carbon footprinting with CSH support).
- Complete a **SusQI Project report** covering the approach, context, results, impact and learning using a standardised template. Guidance and support will be provided. Once submitted your report will be reviewed and data checked by the CSH team. You will have an opportunity to respond to feedback before the report is shared).
- Share data for verification, team photos, and any materials that are produced, e.g., information for families, leaflets/posters.

3. **Showcase and Awards event**

- The showcase event will be held virtually (via Teams). The event will be open to anyone with an interest in sustainability within gastroenterology and healthcare. This may include Health care professionals, NHS managers, service users and the public.
 - Before the event:
 - Submit your report and data and prepare a 5–10-minute presentation.
 - During the event:
 - Listen to fellow team presentations.
 - Contribute to breakout room discussions on sustainability in the delivery of gastroenterology healthcare.
 - After the event:
 - Share your project in the CSH Sustainable healthcare resource library.
 - Continue with the next steps of your project.

4. **Invitation to debrief meeting with key stakeholders**

Best practice from the projects undertaken will be shared to the wider nursing community by CSH and partners via a range of platforms. We will ask for your input to shape the next stages of our project.

Principles of Clinical Sustainable Practice:

Teams will be encouraged to tackle problems that align with one or more of these principles.

- **Prevention**

Promoting health and preventing disease by tackling the causes of illnesses and inequalities to reduce service demand. Improvement in population and patient health subsequently reduces healthcare activity and waste.

Examples: educating patients on diet and lifestyle to prevent GI diseases, screening and early detection, rotavirus vaccination.

- **Patient empowerment and self-care**

Empowering individuals to take a greater role in managing their own health, wellbeing and healthcare. Meaningful discussions and co-production, allow them to make choices that are best for them and the planet. This can reduce the need for healthcare activity (e.g. appointments) and consumables (e.g. medications).

Examples: self-monitoring and home testing kits. optimising self-management of chronic conditions and shared decision making.

- **Lean service delivery**

Streamlining care systems to minimise wasteful activities and duplication and excessive use of consumables.

Examples: providing care closer to home, reducing inappropriate endoscopies and colonoscopies, reducing low value procedures in the management of chronic conditions and streamlining triage processes.

- **Low carbon alternatives**

Prioritising treatment and technologies with a lower environmental impact.

Examples: Switching to re-usable equipment such as gastroscopes and biopsy forceps, use of local anaesthesia for gastroscopy or transnasal endoscopy, use of sedation over full general anaesthesia for ERCP or colonoscopy and utilising serological tests for coeliac disease.

Please note: Projects purely based on ‘**sustainable operational resource use**’ (e.g., recycling, water waste, and energy reduction,) will not be accepted. These may form components of larger projects (e.g., in an endoscopy focussed, recycling procedure water bottles may form a part of a wider project to optimise care for patients).

About the Green Gastroenterology Challenge

The **Green Gastroenterology Challenge** will be delivered by CSH in partnership with the British Society of Gastroenterology. This work was commissioned and funded by Micro-Tech UK.

The Challenge is a national adaptation of the Centre for Sustainable healthcare’s [Green Team Competition](#) - an award-winning, tried & tested leadership and engagement programme to transform healthcare by cutting carbon, improving patient care and staff experience, and saving money. The [Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#) have been successfully reducing environmental impact and building social value in healthcare

through the competition for 9 years. You can view previous Green Team Competition impact reports and case studies [here](#).