

1. Executive Summary

Probus GP Surgery & Probus Surgical Centre have implemented a suite of sustainability and cost-saving initiatives, generating **annual financial savings of £43,758**. By replacing single-use items with reusable or biodegradable alternatives, the practice not only achieved solid fiscal benefits but also meaningfully reduced waste, lower procurement emissions, and supported NHS net-zero objectives.

2. NHS Net-Zero Alignment

- **Net-zero NHS Carbon Footprint by 2040**, Net-zero Carbon Footprint Plus by 2045, in accordance with Health & Care Act 2022 [england.nhs.uk+13england.nhs.uk+13england.nhs.uk+13](https://www.england.nhs.uk+13england.nhs.uk+13england.nhs.uk+13).
- Our measures support NHS Green Plan guidance calling for circular waste reduction, sustainable procurement, and lifecycle emissions accountability .
- The work exemplifies NHS business-case best practice: rapid-payback, dual carbon-financial wins, and public-health co-benefits .

3. Summary of Initiatives & Environmental Co-Benefits

Initiative	Savings / Waste Avoided	Environmental Impact
Porcelain mugs replacing cardboard cups	£4,560 p/a; ~8,000 cups diverted	Cuts single-use waste, supports circular reuse
CSSD pouch reuse	£3,005 p/a	Reduces procurement emissions; cuts disposal
Camera drapes for vasectomy gloves	£1,980 p/a; ~3,600 gloves saved	Avoids glove production/emissions
Bioguard spray & cloths	£3,500 p/a; 125,000 wipes; 5 trollies saved	Prevents single-use plastic, extends equipment life
Wipeable trays	£1,300 p/a; ~7,800 trays	Eliminates pulp tray waste
Biodegradable sutures supplier change	£7,512 p/a	Cuts plastic and synthetic waste
Reusable forceps	£12,000 p/a; ~1,100 forceps diverted	Reduces single-use instrument procurement emissions
Diluting iodine in BSS	£2,600 p/a	Less plastic waste from iodine bottles

Initiative	Savings / Waste Avoided	Environmental Impact
Pilocarpine vs Mephitel/Miochol	£4,560 p/a	Low ecotoxicity, simplified packaging
Non-sterile gloves bulk purchase	£3,120 p/a	Less packaging, lower sterilisation footprint
Reusable choppers	£3,667 p/a	Single-use tool reduction
Email instead of postal appointments	£8,204 p/a; 10,310 envelopes; 54 k sheets paper	Reduces deforestation, transport & energy use

Cumulatively, we have:

- **£43,758 in annual savings**
- Diverted tens of thousands of single-use items from waste streams
- Minimised procurement-related Scope 3 emissions

4. Health & Environmental Co-Benefits

- **Waste segregation & circularity:** advances NHS pledge to ‘no waste to landfill’ and ≥25% recycling by 2025 [thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)+[theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)+[reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com)+en.wikipedia.org+[15mse.nhs.uk](https://www.mse.nhs.uk)+[15wired.com](https://www.15wired.com)+[15property.nhs.uk](https://www.property.nhs.uk)+en.wikipedia.org+[4thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)+[4wired.com](https://www.wired.com)+[4cntw.nhs.uk](https://www.cntw.nhs.uk)+en.wikipedia.org+[2england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk)+[2nursingtimes.net](https://www.nursingtimes.net)+[2en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org).
- **Pharmaceutical footprint reduction:** aligning with NHS goal to reduce medicine-related emissions (~25–30% of NHS footprint) [nursingtimes.net](https://www.nursingtimes.net)+[1england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk)+[1](#).
- **Plastics & single-use plastics reduction:** mirrors NHS Plastic Reduction Pledge and supports NHSPS achievements of diverting 99% waste from landfill [cntw.nhs.uk](https://www.cntw.nhs.uk)+[1property.nhs.uk](https://www.property.nhs.uk)+[1](#).
- **Equipment longevity:** reusable materials extend life-cycle, reduce embedded carbon.

5. Strategic Value & Replicability

- **Rapid payback model:** most interventions paid for themselves within months, aligning with business-case best practice en.wikipedia.org+[thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)+[8england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk)+[8gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)+[8](#).
- **Supply-chain engagement:** switching to greener suppliers (sutures, gloves) echoes NHS Supplier Roadmap requiring low-carbon sourcing by 2027 [england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk).
- **Clinical sustainability leadership:** parallels NHS “green toolkit” urging prescribers to champion sustainability in clinical care [thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk).

- **Behavioural & cultural change:** low-barrier interventions like mugs and email letters are easy to implement, fostering an eco-conscious culture.
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6. Next Steps & Recommendations

1. **Embed into Green Plan:** update health centre green plans by July 31, 2025, per NHS statutory guidance [mse.nhs.uk+2england.nhs.uk+2england.nhs.uk+2](#).
 2. **Monitor carbon savings:** quantify reductions using NHS carbon conversion tools (e.g., petrol diesel, plastic waste).
 3. **Expand net-zero projects:** solar panels, low-carbon fleet options, digital-first consultations.
 4. **Train staff & patients:** include sustainability goals in team briefings and patient communications.
 5. **Share within ICS:** promote as replicable model for other primary care settings.
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7. Conclusion

Probus Surgery & Surgical Centre's environmental initiatives demonstrate how grassroots action aligns seamlessly with national climate-health goals. With £43,758 in annual savings, tens of thousands of disposables diverted, and strengthened stewardship of NHS net-zero commitments, this case study is a compelling template for sustainable primary care.

8. Supporting NHS Context

- **Greener NHS net-zero targets:** Carbon Footprint by 2040, Carbon Footprint Plus by 2045 [theguardian.comengland.nhs.uk+1england.nhs.uk+1](#).
 - **Public health and carbon-win synergy:** NHS net-zero actions yield health benefits through cleaner air, reduced chronic disease [reddit.com](#).
 - **Procurement transformation:** NHS supplier roadmap sets binding carbon-disclosure rules by 2027 [england.nhs.uk+14england.nhs.uk+14england.nhs.uk+14](#).
 - **Tangible success in NHS estates:** Trusts like NHSPS achieved 48% CO₂ reduction since 2017, linking ecology, cost and community outcomes [property.nhs.uk](#).
 - **Green clinical guidance:** clinicians encouraged to limit overprescribing, streamline single-use PPE when safe [theguardian.com+5thetimes.co.uk+5nursingtimes.net+5](#).
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By embedding fiscal responsibility into environmental stewardship, Probus is not only saving money—it's building resilient, future-proofed care aligned with NHS net-zero leadership.

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