



**Cornwall and  
Isles of Scilly**

# Climate Resilience & Neighbourhood Health Creation

## 2025-26



# ATLAS

**HEALTHIER PLANET**  
**HEALTHIER PEOPLE**

SUPPORTED BY



Volunteer Cornwall was funded by NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ICB to support the implementation of the NHS Green Plan “Healthier Planet, Healthier People” for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly during 2025/2026.



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# Introduction

In 2020, the NHS adopted the NHS Net Zero Strategy to deliver “[Healthier Planet, Healthier People](#)” and committed to becoming the first healthcare system in the world to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

This commitment was made in response to evidence that climate change is no longer a distant threat but is already affecting the health and wellbeing of patients and communities across the country.

The benefits of acting now reduce both the current and future impacts of climate change on our health services but also deliver more immediate and multiple co-benefits for local communities and our planet.

[The NHS 10 Year Plan for England](#) published in 2025 reaffirmed this clear and ambitious commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040 (for direct carbon emissions) and by 2045 (for emissions from its commissioned services known as the NHS Carbon Footprint Plus) through three significant shifts; Hospital to Community, Sickness to Prevention and Analogue to Digital.

In October 2025, NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Devon ICB published the first joint [southwest Peninsula Green Plan](#).



# Climate Resilience & Health Creation

To support the delivery of the NHS 2040 net zero carbon commitment, and the southwest Peninsula Green Plan, NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ICB funded Volunteer Cornwall to support the reduction of the local NHS Carbon Footprint Plus to help Primary care and other NHS community services on their carbon reduction journey.

NHS commissioned services including General Practice, Community Pharmacy, Dentistry, Ophthalmology and Community Hubs have been supported to embrace climate resilience and neighbourhood health creation actions by taking **15 simple climate actions and joining the dots between climate resilience and health and wellbeing.**

By taking these 15 climate actions, commissioned services can help create and nurture thriving, resilient communities, where it is easier for people to stay well throughout their lives, reducing preventable diseases, improving the health of our population and reducing demand for more acute healthcare.

This report celebrates progress made by NHS primary care and community hubs across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly during 2025-2026 and encourages local NHS commissioned services which have not yet started on their climate journeys to take that first step...



# The benefits of joining the dots

**01**

**Protecting our climate**

Reducing our carbon emissions to slow down the impacts of climate change



**Climate benefit**

**02**

**Restoring our ecology**

Reducing pollution and ecosystem damage to restore nature



**Ecological benefit**

**03**

**Saving our money**

Spending our money wisely to deliver sustainable outcomes



**Financial benefit**

**04**

**Caring for our health system**

Building a resilient system which adapts to our changing climate and protects our sites and services



**System benefit**

**05**

**Improving our health**

Optimising activity to nurture the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our patients, staff and within our neighbourhoods

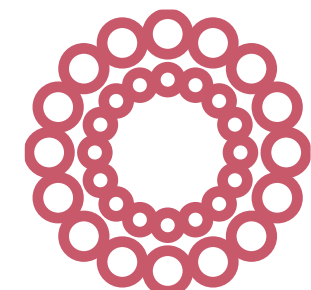


**Health benefit**

**06**

**Building our communities**

Investing in resilient communities where healthiness thrives



**Community benefit**

# The 2030 vision



Cornwall and  
Isles of Scilly

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1. **Our carbon is under control** every part of our health system is measuring and managing our carbon impact, meeting our Net Zero targets and reducing risk from climate impacts, extreme weather
2. **Our natural systems are thriving** every part of our health system has green spaces full of wildlife for staff, visitors and patients to rest and reconnect, leading to better physical and mental health for all, and we have stopped polluting our air and water with waste, emissions and drugs
3. **Our savings are increasing** our efficient buildings and systems reduce wasted materials, energy and space, saving us money every month, and making our buildings more comfortable for all to use, which means we have more to spend on health creation
4. **Our staff are fulfilled in their work** staff satisfaction and retention has rocketed as everyone is able to contribute to a positive low carbon, high quality health service; fewer patients with preventable disease are needing care and staff have time to breathe, and enjoy their crucial work
5. **Our collective health is improving** focusing on health creation has ensured more people have access to green space, cycling and walking opportunities, and good food, meaning they don't get as sick from preventable conditions, and so don't need as much health care - a virtuous circle!
6. **Our communities are places that sustain our health:** investing in our communities' strength to sustain health means they become places where it's easier to be well , people keep each other thriving and healthy.

# 15 Climate Action Targets

To achieve our 2030 vision, the Climate Resilience and Health Creation Programme has set 15 climate action targets.

These 15 simple actions support the NHS Net Zero Carbon Strategy and wider Greener NHS agenda and build on previous work undertaken with General Practice.

**100%**  
1: Declaring a climate emergency

**50%**  
5: Green Banking

**100%**  
9: Reducing, reusing and recycling

**100%**  
13: Connecting with communities

**100%**  
2: Greenhouse gas emissions

**100%**  
6: Optimising Prescribing

**100%**  
10: Toolkits for change

**100%**  
14: Learning and leading

**100%**  
3: Carbon footprints

**100%**  
7: Engaging patients

**100%**  
11: Green Spaces for health

**100%**  
15: Advocating for health creation

**100%**  
4: Energy efficiency

**100%**  
8: Active travel

**100%**  
12: Food for people and planet

# Monitoring progress

Information gathering, case studies and data collection from across primary care & hubs documenting and recording steady progress towards the 15 climate targets have been collated, reviewed and analysed by the Volunteer Cornwall Climate Resilience Team.

Regular e-bulletins, face to face & online meetings, regular surveys, talks & presentations, site visits, community events, integrated neighbourhood team development meetings and steering groups, integrated care area meetings, community hub events, social prescriber meetings, community of practice meetings, climate resilience network meetings on waste reduction, green spaces for health, energy and toolkit tune-ups have all culminated in a year of action-packed progress.

Moving towards 2026-2027, this work will extend further embedding the national Greener NHS agenda and the local SW Peninsula Green aims and objectives within Cornwall's new Neighbourhood Health Teams, alongside Primary Care and Community Hubs.



# UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the **United Nations** adopted a shared blueprint for people and the planet.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries developed and developing in a global partnership.

The goals recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The Volunteer Cornwall climate resilience and health creation programme supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** to help achieve a better, more sustainable future for all by 2030.



# Key to tracking progress

This document reports progress made by General Practice against each of the 2030 climate action targets during 2025-2026.

Each climate action target details the overall progress of GPs as a percentage of total GP surgeries in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly taking action, the co-benefits of each action, which UN Sustainable Development Goal the action contributes to, and new for 2025-2026, specific progress by the NHS Integrated Care Area (ICA).

Climate action progress by wider primary care is still developing and not yet reported quantitatively, however case studies and qualitative data are documented within this report.

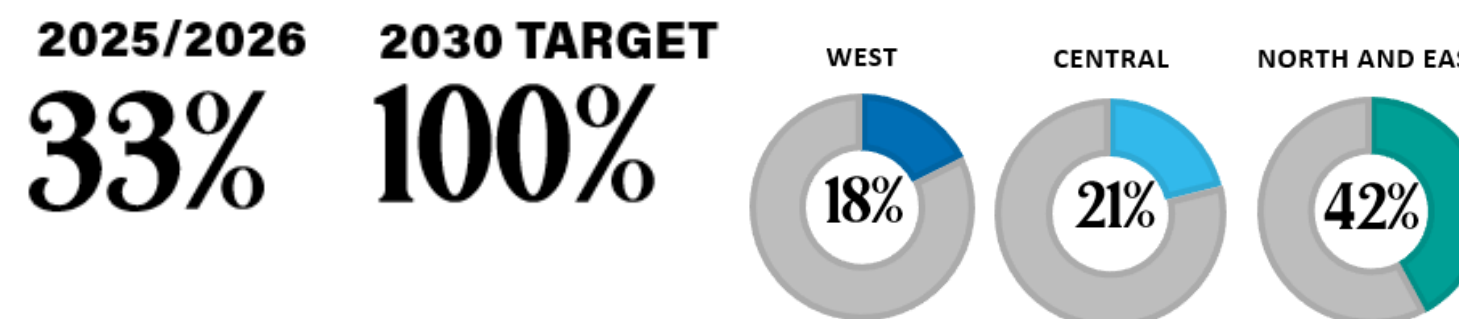
For 2026-2027, progress will be reported against all NHS funded primary care providers (dentists, community pharmacies, opticians, community hubs and neighbourhood health teams) and will align with the local SW NHS Green Plan.

## 01 Climate action

### The co-benefits of climate action



### NHS Integrated Care Areas GP Progress



### UN Sustainable Development Goals



# 01

## Declaring a climate emergency



# 01 Climate Crisis

Acknowledging the climate crisis is the first step.

The Council of the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall Council, local town councils, Royal Cornwall NHS Hospital Trust, Cornwall Partnership Foundation NHS Trust, local business and universities have all declared a climate emergency. We're helping primary care, community pharmacies, dentists, opticians and community hubs all do the same.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is experiencing more frequent severe storms, heavy rain, surface water flooding and transport & telecoms disruption as witnessed with Storm Goretti in Cornwall in January 2026.

% Practices have declared a Climate Emergency

**2025/2026**

**2030 Target**

**27%**

**100%**



Between 2020 and 2024 in England, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) estimated there were a total of 10,781 heat-associated deaths as a direct consequence of heatwaves in the UK. Projections suggest heat related deaths are set to rise to around 11,000 per year by the 2050s without adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Our changing climate is impacting our health and creating a greater demand on the NHS. We need slow down the rate climate change and adapt and prepare for what comes next.



**Marazion Surgery, Cornwall**

*As a Practice we declared a Climate Emergency in August 2024. We shared this with our patients on our website [Climate Emergency - Marazion Surgery](#).*

*We aim to be environmentally aware and as 'green' as possible, to improve patient care, health and wellbeing.*



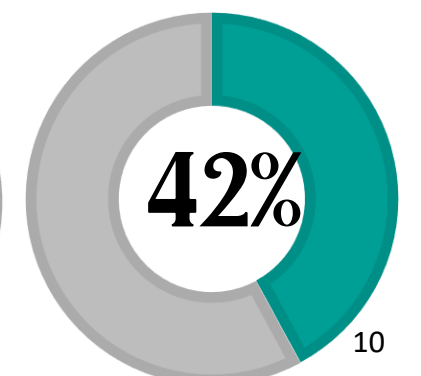
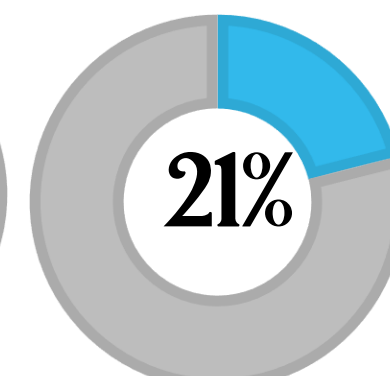
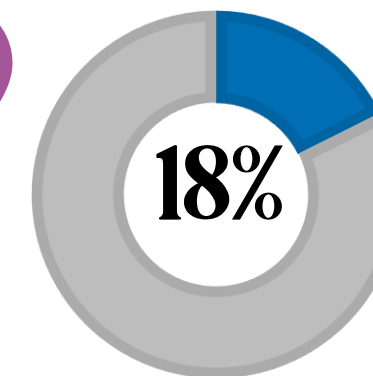
*I am really concerned about the impact of climate change on our patients' health, especially our most vulnerable patients.*

*Cornish GP*

**WEST**

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# 02

## Greenhouse gas emissions



# 02 Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change, which poses significant risks to public health.

From an NHS perspective, this leads to increased cases of heat-related illnesses, respiratory conditions, and the spread of infectious diseases. These impacts place additional demand on healthcare services, affecting system capacity and patient outcomes.

NHS prescribed inhalers are a notable source of greenhouse gas emissions. Many commonly used inhalers, especially metered-dose inhalers, contain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as

propellants, potent greenhouse gases with a much higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

Although inhalers are essential for managing conditions like asthma and COPD, their widespread use means they account for a measurable share of the NHS's carbon footprint.

Efforts to switch to lower-impact alternatives, such as dry powder inhalers, and to improve prescribing practices are helping to reduce these emissions while maintaining effective patient care.



*It is so great to see all the work going on in Cornwall - we are not doing anything - like this in the Midlands (yet) but you give us hope.*

*Keep up the great work!!*

# 3%

of all greenhouse gas emissions generated by the NHS come from inhalers prescribed for respiratory conditions.

**% Practices are managing their greenhouse gas emissions through low carbon inhaler support**

**2025/2026**

**2030 Target**

# 80%

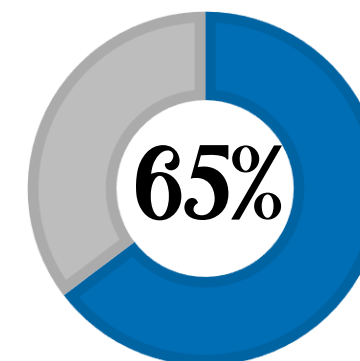
# 100%



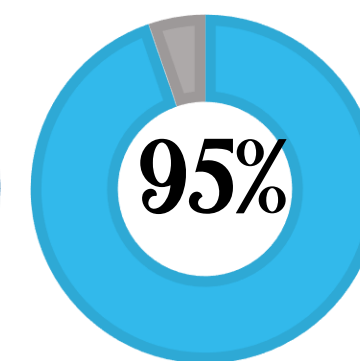
*Fantastic to see these incredible figures from Cornwall practices. They are leading the way nationally in achieving high quality and low carbon asthma care.*

**Dr Aarti Bansal**  
**UK Asthma Toolkit**

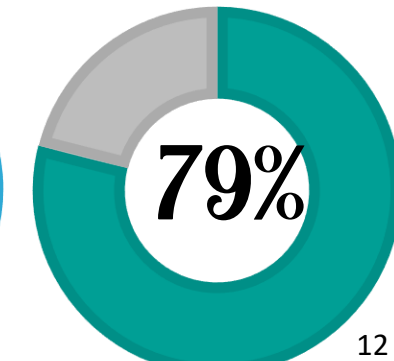
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# 03

## Carbon footprint



# 03 NHS Carbon Footprint PLUS

The NHS has committed to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2040 for its “direct scope 1&2” emissions and by 2045 for the “indirect scope 3” NHS Carbon Footprint Plus emissions.

The **NHS Carbon Footprint Plus** is the measure of all carbon emissions from NHS commissioned services e.g. Primary care, supply chain, medicines & prescribing, etc.

The NHS is responsible for almost 5 % of the UK’s total carbon emissions, and while direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2) have declined significantly, the **Scope 3 emissions** which are substantially larger than the direct footprint, highlights the scale of emissions embedded in goods and services the NHS relies on.

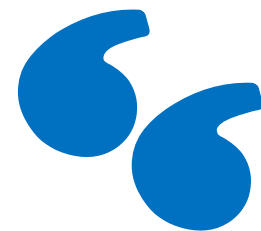
% Practices undertaking annual carbon footprints

**2025/2026**

**33%**

**2030 TARGET**

**100%**



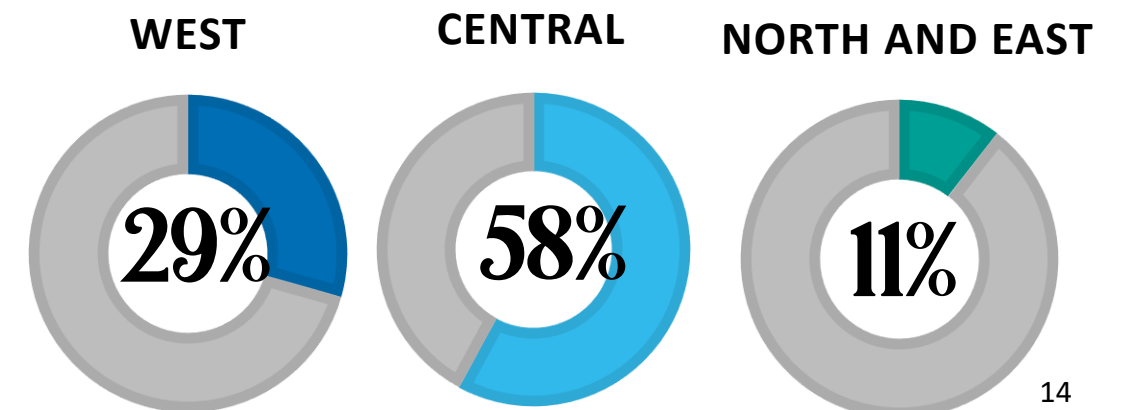
*We have ambitious aims to become a carbon neutral building by 2050, supported by cross team engagement covering everything from waste and water to advocacy and partnership working and digital footprint.*

*Into Bodmin Community Hub*

## Cober Valley Health, Helston

The new (retrofit) Cober Valley Health Centre in Helston opened in September 2025 and is constructed to **high environmental standards**, achieving an **A+ energy rating** including;

- **Solar panels** for renewable energy
- **Ground source heating** to reduce carbon emissions
- A **super-insulated “building within a building”** to improve energy efficiency



# 04

## Energy efficiency



# 04 Energy use

Energy use is a major source of carbon emissions across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Primary care consumes significant amounts of energy for heating, lighting, and medical equipment. This energy use contributes directly to the impact on the environment and their carbon footprint.

Reducing energy consumption through energy audits to identify energy efficiency measures, renewable energy options, and low-carbon technologies can play an important role in lowering carbon emissions while supporting sustainable healthcare delivery.

Following energy audits across GP practices completed by local Cornish charity **Community Energy Plus**, surgeries audited have identified.

£4,644 annual savings per practice and 119 tonnes of CO2 carbon emissions savings a year.

## Bodriggy Health Centre, Hayle

Bodriggy Health Centre recently replaced their gas central heating boiler with an air source heat pump. Partners agreed to make a significant financial investment in a new Air Source Heat Pump in 2025. The installation went very smoothly as the company worked overnight to avoid disruption. The result is a warm building and a good supply of hot water that is better than the old gas boiler.



## Homecroft Surgery, Voguebeloth

The energy audit carried out at Homecroft Surgery, identified a series of energy efficiency savings including switching to a competitive renewable energy tariff, switching out all remaining non-LEDs and considering the movement sensors to minimise wasted energy, reducing heat consumption and behaviour change, communication and management.



% Practices undertaking energy audits

**2025/2026**    **2030 TARGET**

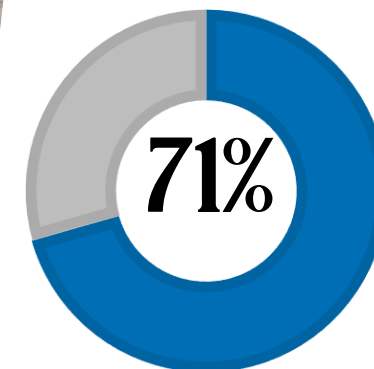
**78%**    **100%**



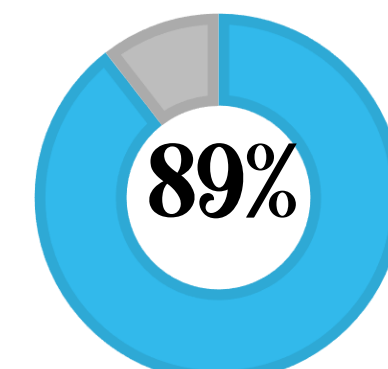
*In the summer months our solar panels provide 120% of our energy needs*

**Penryn Surgery**

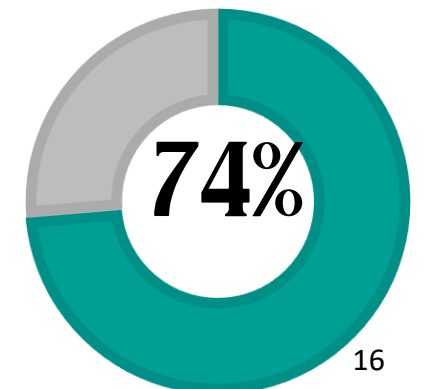
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# 05

## Green banking



# 05 Green banking

**Green and ethical banking directs financial resources toward environmentally and socially responsible projects, such as renewable energy, sustainable housing, and community initiatives.**

Primary care can align financial practices with environmental sustainability and ethical investment principles. This starts with reviewing where money is held and choosing banks that avoid financing fossil fuels and instead support renewable energy and low-carbon initiatives.

Switching to ethical banks or accounts with strong environmental policies can significantly reduce the indirect carbon footprint of a practice.

Practices can adopt digital banking to minimise paper use, consolidate accounts to improve transparency, and work with suppliers and pension providers that follow sustainable investment criteria.

Primary care networks can use their collective influence to advocate for greener financial services and ensure that procurement and commissioning decisions reflect environmental values.

Green banking is a relatively simple but high-impact step that supports the NHS's broader commitment to net zero while demonstrating leadership in responsible resource management.

## Bodriggy Health Centre, Hayle

The practice decided that they wanted to divest away from companies that invested in fossil fuels and other unethical operations. They worked with MotherTree to find an alternative bank that aligns better with their values, hoping to switch this year



% Practices have switched to green banking

**2025/2026**

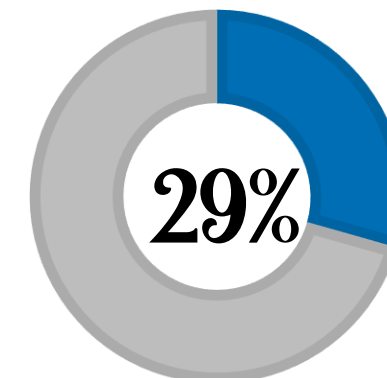
**2030 TARGET**

**29%**

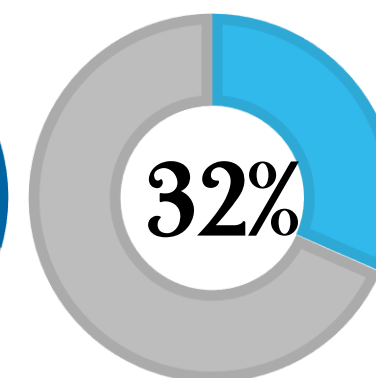
**50%**



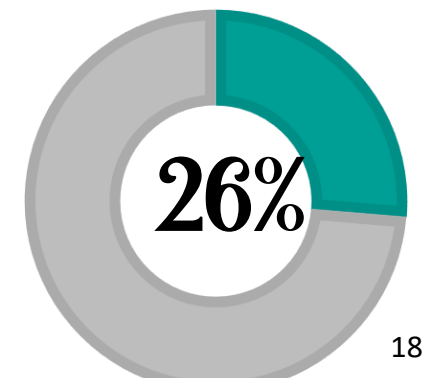
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# 06

## Optimising Prescribing



# 06 Optimising prescribing

Pharmaceuticals contribute around 20% of the NHS carbon footprint of which 79% is prescribed in primary care and community services, 13% in acute services and 5% in mental health services.

Moving towards social prescribing, instead of pharmaceutical prescribing, offers an alternative for the patient and the planet, improving well-being, and can deliver on significant environmental co-benefits.

Green Social Prescribing (GSP) is the practice of supporting people to engage in nature-based activities for their mental and physical health. In 2024, the national evaluation of the Treasury funded, Cross Government, "Preventing and

% Practices optimising their prescribing

**2025/2026**

**80%**

**2030 TARGET**

**100%**

## Download the Green Social Prescribing Toolkit

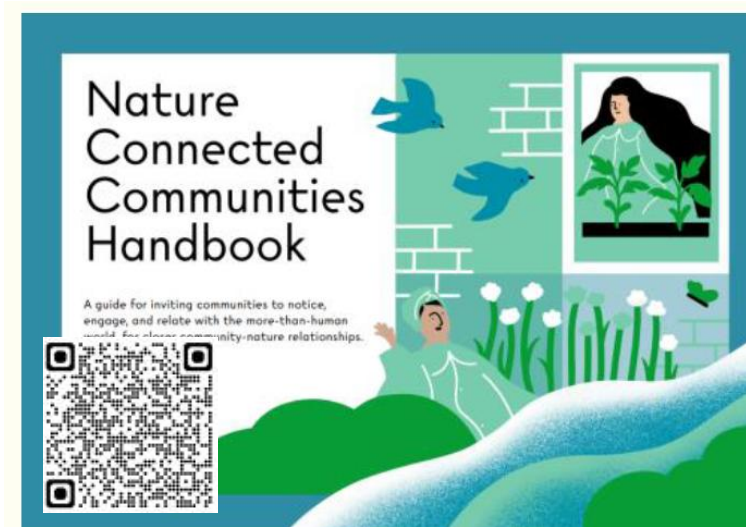
Tackling Mental ill Health through Green Social Prescribing Programme, "estimates that for every £1 invested by central Government, the programme generated a social return on investment of £2.42 in benefits. As well as saving money, the GSP programme report also showed an increase in happiness and life satisfaction and reduced anxiety [Learn more here.](#)

By supporting people through community activities and non-medical interventions, social prescribing can reduce reliance on medications, which in turn lowers pharmaceutical production, packaging waste, and the environmental impact of drug disposal in water systems.

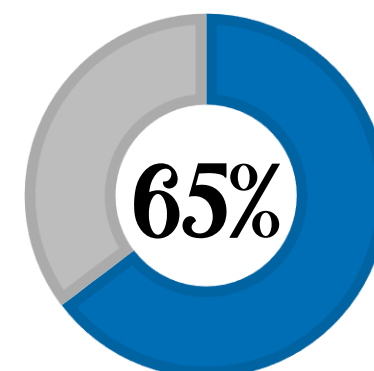
This approach promotes more sustainable healthcare by addressing root causes of illness such as social isolation or inactivity while helping to decrease the carbon footprint associated with medicine use.



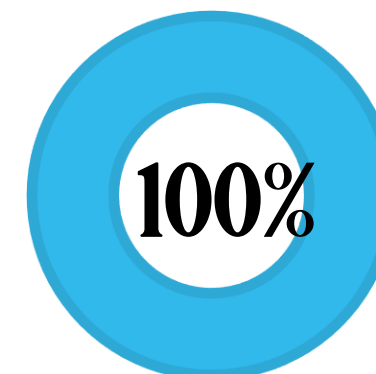
The Nature Connection Handbook



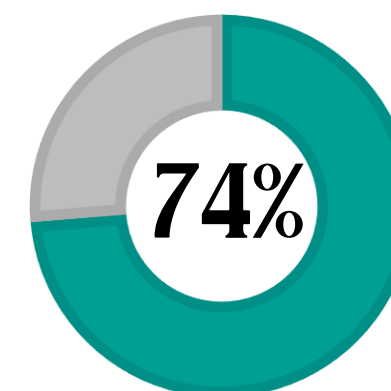
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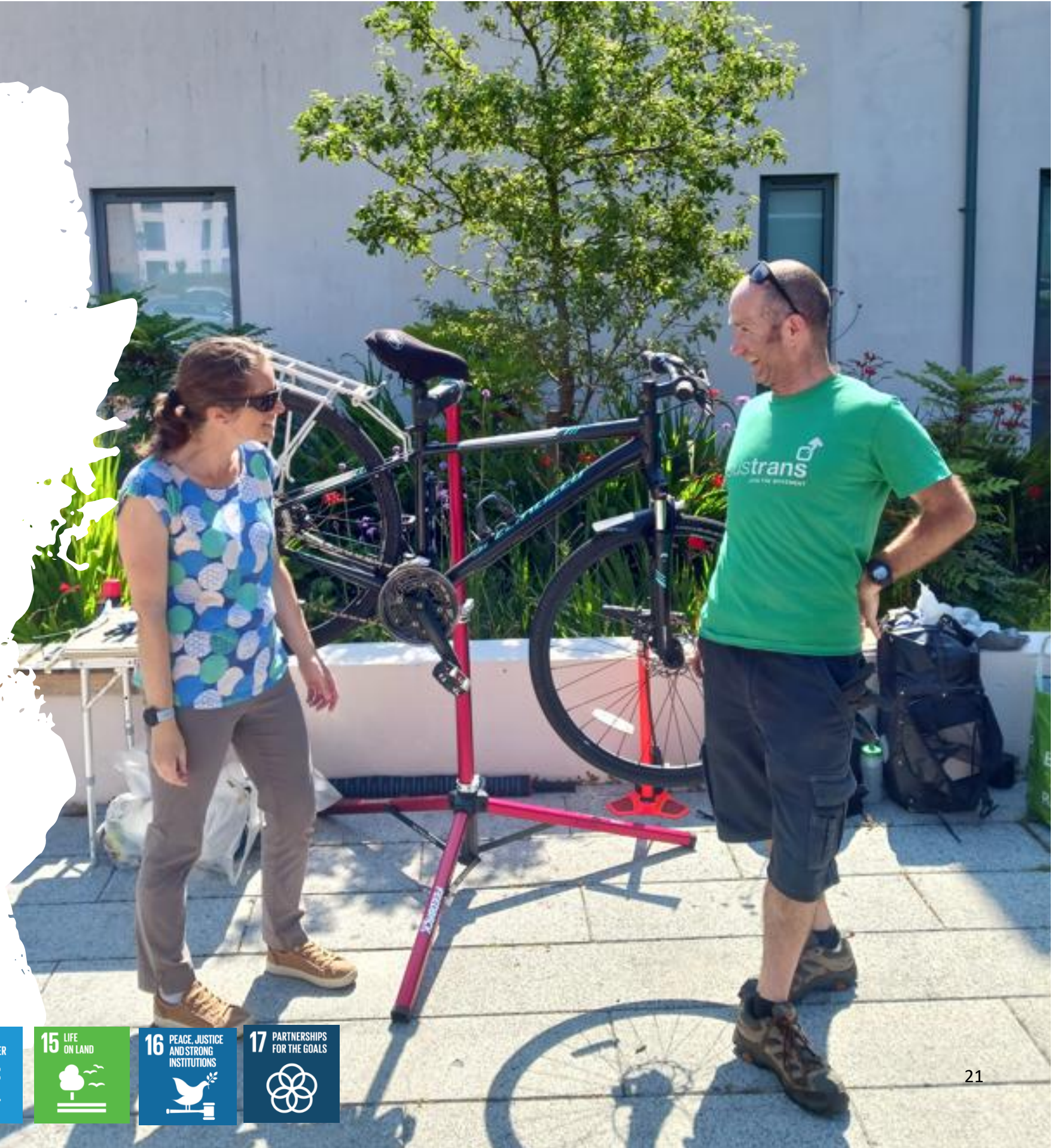


NORTH AND EAST



# 07

## Engaging patients



# 07 Engaging staff & patients

**Climate change is arguably the most significant global health threat of the 21st century.**

Engaging our patients in our task to care for human and planetary health is key. Primary care is a fundamental part of our communities. Climate impacts are a collective threat; climate resilience is a collective endeavour.

Engaging both patients and staff in climate change and resilience enables a coordinated, whole-system response to a growing health threat. Climate change is already affecting service demand, workforce wellbeing, and

**% Practices working with staff and patients on climate resilience**

**2025/2026**

**76%**

**2030 TARGET**

**100%**

patient outcomes, so raising awareness among staff ensures they are equipped to deliver sustainable, resilient care and adapt to emerging challenges such as extreme weather or changing disease patterns.

At the same time, involving patients encourages healthier, lower-carbon lifestyles and improves community preparedness.

When staff and patients are engaged together, it fosters a shared culture of responsibility, strengthens trust, and supports meaningful behaviour change at both individual and organisational levels.

This collaborative approach not only helps reduce the environmental impact of the NHS but also enhances prevention, continuity of care, and the NHS's ability to remain resilient in the face of future climate pressures.



*Our objectives are aimed at raising awareness about sustainability, keen to do more, we are involved in Climate Action Newquay and climate cafe opportunities but would like to do*

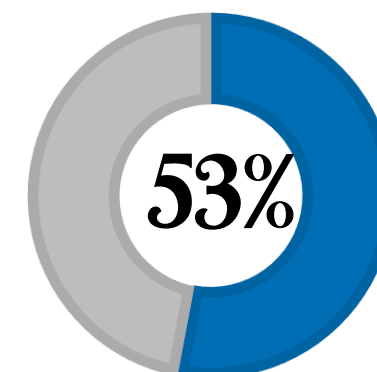
*more*

**Charlotte Hill**

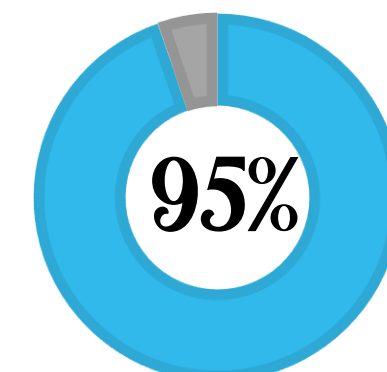
**Newquay Orchard Community Hub**



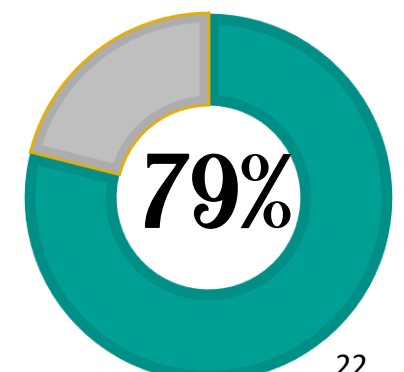
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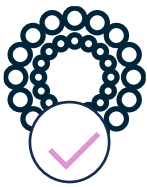


**NORTH AND EAST**



# 08

## Active travel



# 08 Active Travel



Active travel, such as walking and cycling benefits both the environment and health and wellbeing at the same time.

By replacing short car journeys, it reduces air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and traffic congestion, helping to tackle climate change and improve local air quality, whilst also building physical activity into daily life, which can improve cardiovascular fitness, support mental wellbeing, and lower the risk of conditions like obesity and heart disease.

Ways to activate your travel...

- ❖ **Lead by example** Walk or cycle for short trips instead of using a car.
- ❖ **Plan safe routes** Use and share well-lit, traffic-calmed streets, bike lanes, and pedestrian paths.
- ❖ **Encourage others** Support patients, friends, family, or colleagues to try walking or cycling.
- ❖ **Advocate for infrastructure** Participate in local campaigns for bike lanes and cycle paths.
- ❖ **Combine travel with errands** Walk or cycle to shops, schools, or work when possible.



New data and research revealed on Social Prescribing Day has shown how parkrun is saving NHS England money in the treatment of key health conditions with 7 in 10 Britons also backing GP's to socially prescribe parkrun to patients.



Sport England (2026)

New data shows parkrun is saving NHS England millions



% Practices promoting active travel for staff and patients, with messaging and kit.

2025/2026

2030 TARGET

75%

100%



We promote sustainable travel by boot, bus, bike and car-sharing for all our open days

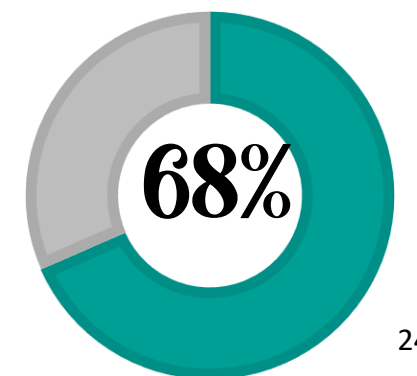
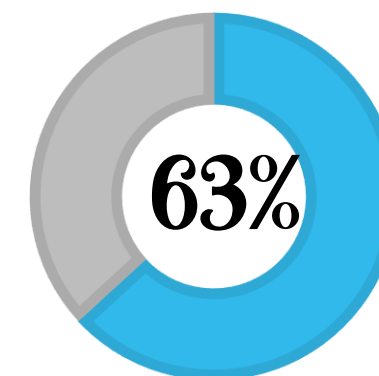
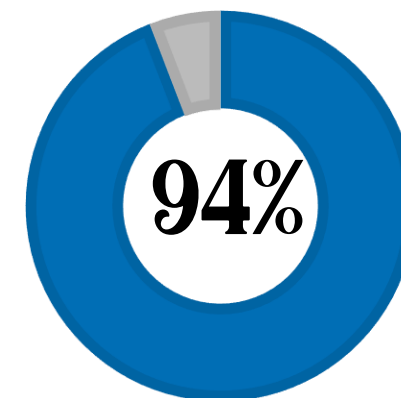
Bosavern Community Farm



WEST

CENTRAL

NORTH AND EAST



# 09

## Reducing, Reusing and Recycling



# 09 Reducing, Reusing & Recycling

**Reducing, reducing and recycling waste helps conserve resources and reduce carbon emissions from waste transportation, treatment, disposal or incineration.**

Throughout primary care, reducing single-use items and properly recycling materials lowers the risk of pollution and contamination, which can directly impact patients, staff, and local communities. On a broader scale, minimising waste helps decrease greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and incineration, conserves natural resources, and reduces the extraction and

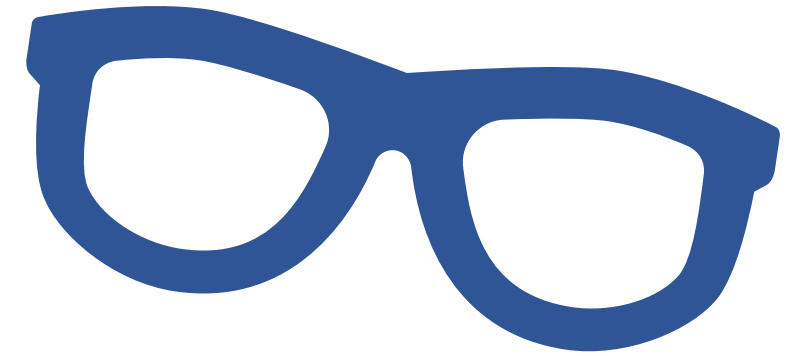
production pressures that drive environmental degradation.

By embedding sustainable practices into primary care including the careful management of waste, primary care and community services not only reduce their environmental impact but also model responsible behaviour for the communities they serve, linking planetary health with human wellbeing.

## Raison Opticians, Helston

*Raison Opticians is a small, family-owned opticians in Helston that has over 70% of its business from NHS customers.*

*The business has made several decisions that lower its impact on the environment including stocking WaterHaul frames and straps - a local company which makes glasses from 100% recycling fishing gear.*



**% Practices reducing clinical and non-clinical waste and linked health inequalities**

**2025/2026**

**2030 TARGET**

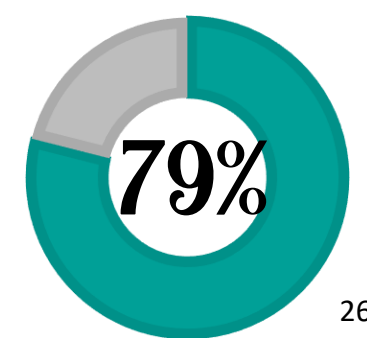
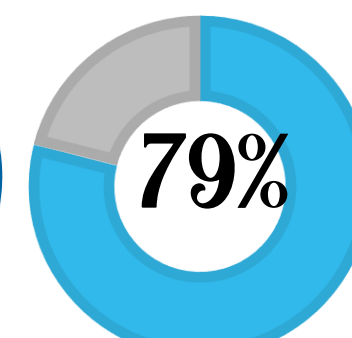
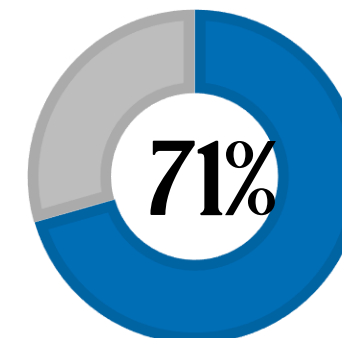
**76%**

**100%**

**WEST**

**CENTRAL**

**NORTH AND EAST**



# 10

## Toolkits for change



# 10 Toolkits for change



We are encouraging all our local Community Hubs to start using the Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum Green Footsteps Guide

Using structured toolkits for change, such as **Green Impact for Health** and the **Greener Pharmacy Toolkit** can help provide practical, evidence-based frameworks to implement sustainability initiatives.

These toolkits guide primary care teams through simple measurable actions, ranging from reducing energy use and waste to promoting low-carbon prescribing, making it easier to integrate environmental responsibility into everyday practice.

Toolkits such as these also encourage staff engagement and collaboration, as teams can track progress, celebrate achievements, and share best practice across primary care in Cornwall, and

nationally. By translating sustainability goals into tangible steps, toolkits help the NHS reduce its carbon footprint, improve resource efficiency, and foster a culture of environmental accountability, all while maintaining high standards of patient care and community health.

**71%** of General practices are engaged with the Green Impact for Health toolkit, **11%** are registered at bronze award level, and we are continuing to support practices to achieve silver (**18%**), gold (**24%**) and platinum (**7%**) levels.

Huge congratulations to a local NHS Cornish dentistry provider Smile Together who were the first dentists in the UK to achieve the much-coveted B-Corp certification in 2022.



% Practices using Green Impact Toolkit

**2025/ 2026**

**2030 TARGET**

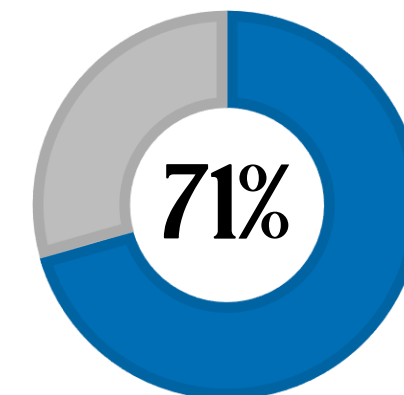
**71%**

**100%**

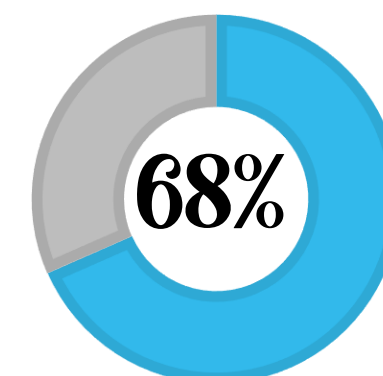
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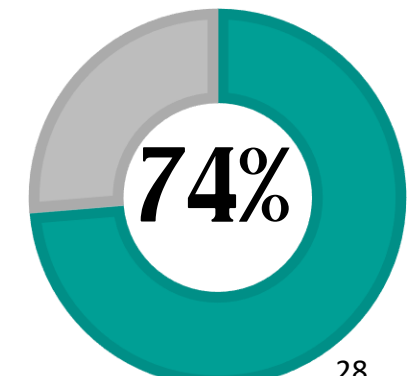
**WEST**



**CENTRAL**



**NORTH AND EAST**



# 11

## Green Spaces for Health



# 11 Green spaces for health

**We rely on the health of our planet for our own health, with nature and biodiversity underpinning the processes that support all life on earth.**

We need healthy ecosystems for the air we breathe and the food we eat. Imagine if we had a natural patchwork of green spaces dedicated to nature and wellbeing, made up of little nature corners, quiet spots under trees, sensory herb gardens and wildflower meadows all with the aim to provide healthier spaces for people and nature throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly....

The String of Green Pearls project began with Stennack GP Surgery in St Ives which had a small unloved garden. The surgery now has the most

**% Practices developing green spaces for staff, patient, visitor and planetary health**

**2025/2026**

**2030 TARGET**

**76%**

**100%**

beautiful sensory garden, full of wildlife with aromatic pollinator friendly herbs and plants, accessible seating, a touch finger maze and dedicated patients who manage the garden for nature, patients and staff.

Since then, more community-based organisations such as GP surgeries, community hubs and local hospitals have created their own green spaces and a beautiful String of Green Pearls has begun to grow. Nature friendly gardens and green spaces have sprung up across the county and are beginning to flourish.



**Our staff regularly enjoy their lunch on the benches outside and doctors hold informal non-clinical meetings in the garden. The funding and connections with local community organisations have greatly improved the outside space.**

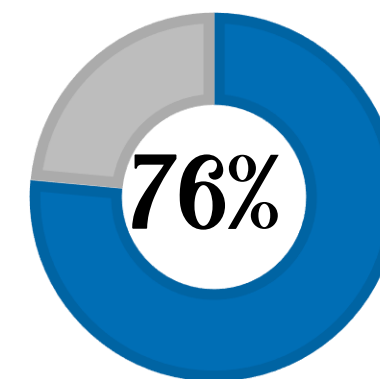
**Marazion Surgery**

## Marazion Surgery, West Cornwall

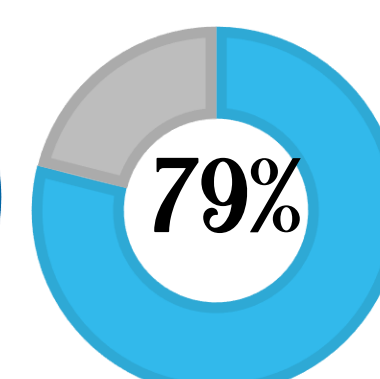
Marazion staff and patients have benefitted greatly from being part of the String of Green Pearls network.



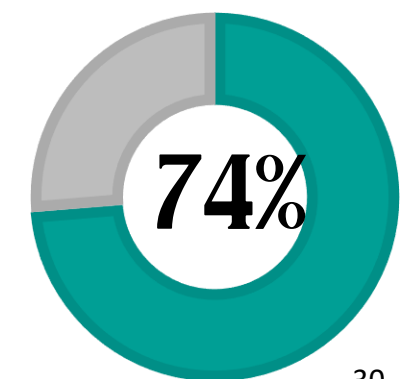
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**CENTRAL**



**NORTH AND EAST**



# 12

## Food for people and planet



# 12 Food for people and planet

Locally grown food is beneficial for both people and the planet because it supports agroecological practices that work in harmony with nature while improving everyday wellbeing.

By focusing on soil health using agro-ecological farming techniques, growers help build fertile, living soils that store carbon and sustain biodiversity. This also protects water quality, as fewer synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are used, reducing pollution in rivers and groundwater. Pesticide-free or low-input farming methods mean cleaner, healthier food for consumers and safer conditions for farmers and wildlife.

WellFed Cornwall demonstrates how access to local food systems can strengthen communities by making fresh produce more accessible and connecting people to where their food comes from. Beyond the food itself, getting involved in local community growing projects can improve physical and mental health, encouraging exercise, reducing stress, and even helping to reduce social isolation by bringing people together with a shared purpose.



*WellFed at Goonown Growers has done my mental health the world of good. It's not just about the food and the veg box - it's about the people that are here. It's just so nice.*

WellFed participant  
October 2025



% Practices offering food, learning and activity in our community

**2025/2026**

**2030 TARGET**

**53%**

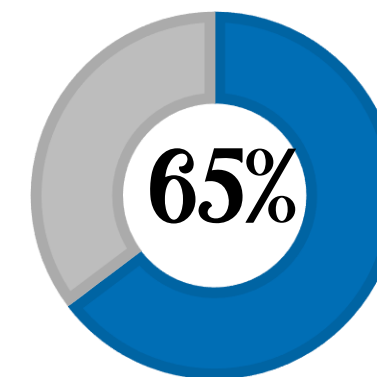
**100%**



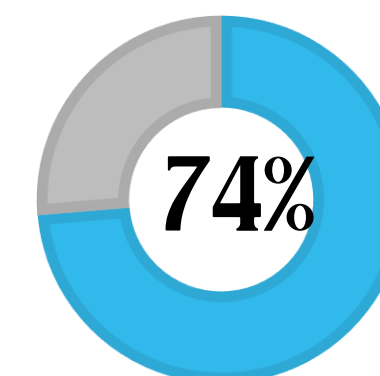
*We had our first plant-based communal staff lunch, and it was a great success! We are now going to do one every month.*

Harris Memorial Surgery

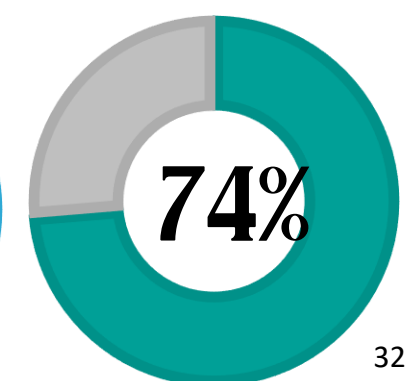
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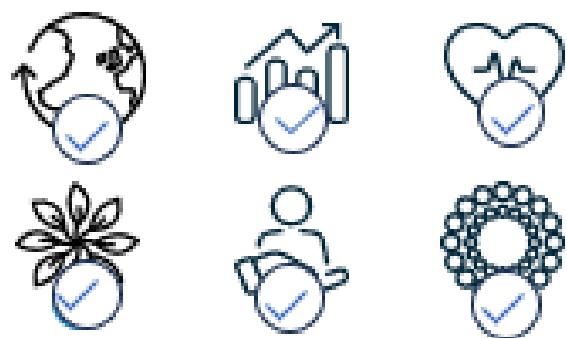


NORTH AND EAST



# 13

## Connecting with communities



# 13 Connecting with communities

It's important for primary care services and community hubs to build strong connections with their local communities because these relationships are key to both climate resilience and health creation.

When services are rooted in the communities they serve, they can better understand local needs, vulnerabilities, and strengths, allowing them to respond more effectively to challenges such as poor local environmental quality, extreme weather events, food insecurity, and health inequalities.

**% Practices working with their community on climate resilience and health creation**

**2025/ 2026**

**75%**

**2030 TARGET**

**100%**

By working collaboratively with local communities, they can support preventative health creation approaches to health, focusing not just on treating illness but on creating the conditions where people can thrive and to stay well in the first place within their own communities.

Community engagement also helps strengthen social networks, which are crucial during times of crisis, reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing.

Locally connected services can also encourage sustainable behaviours, such as active travel, local food initiatives, and energy efficiency, which benefit both personal health and the environment.

Overall, strong community connections enable primary care and community hubs to play a vital role in building healthier, more resilient populations in the face of a changing climate.

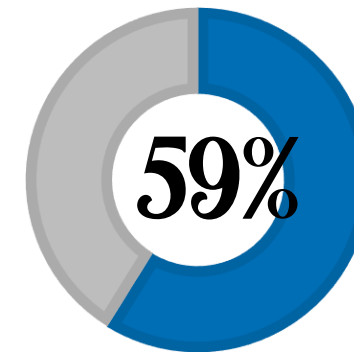
## Bodriggy Surgery, Hayle

Bodriggy Surgery ran a patient drop-in session to encourage more patients to use the NHS App. The session was delivered by Bodriggy's Patient Advisor and Social Prescriber, who provided hands on support & help using the NHS app, and in turn raising awareness about reducing paper consumption, improving digital inclusion and raising awareness about sustainable healthcare, and also Sustainable Hayle and how they can get involved.

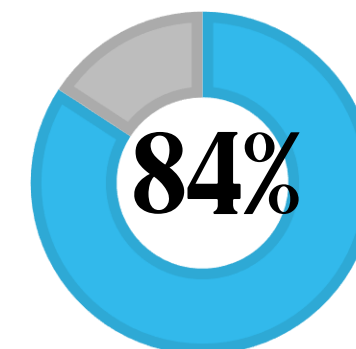
One patient said, "she loves the app so much she has made her husband have it!"



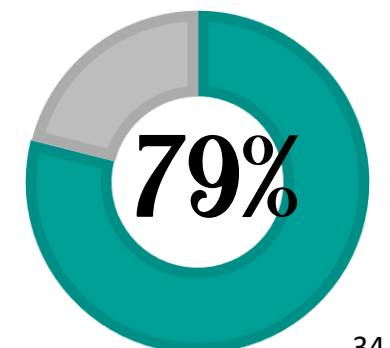
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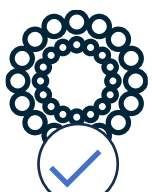


**NORTH AND EAST**



# 14

## Learning and leading



# 14 Learning & Leading

**Learning and leading are crucial for climate resilience as it enables people, communities, and organisations to anticipate, adapt to, and respond effectively to our rapidly changing environment.**

Through learning, individuals gain a clearer understanding of climate risk such as extreme weather, disruption in our community infrastructure and wider health impacts, and the practical steps that can reduce vulnerability.

Leadership then turns that knowledge into coordinated action, helping to mobilise resources, build partnerships, and inspire

**% Practices are learning, training and communicating climate resilience**

**2025/ 2026**

**80%**

**2030 TARGET**

**85%**

collective effort. Strong, informed leadership also supports long-term ensuring that decisions made today strengthen future resilience rather than create new risks.

Together, learning and leading empower communities to be proactive rather than reactive, fostering the skills, confidence, and collaboration needed to navigate uncertainty and protect both people, places and community infrastructure they depend on.



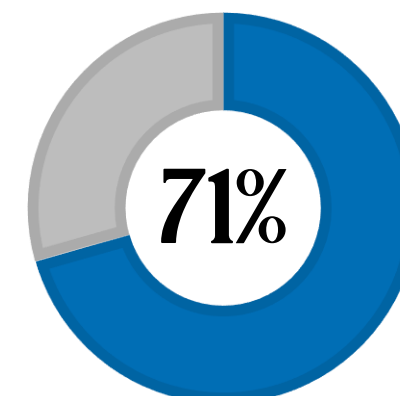
*Throughout the placement, I was exposed to a wide range of information relating to conservation, sustainability, wellbeing and social prescribing...*

*Regardless of role or responsibility, everyone demonstrated a genuine commitment to protecting the natural environment and improving people's relationships with nature....*

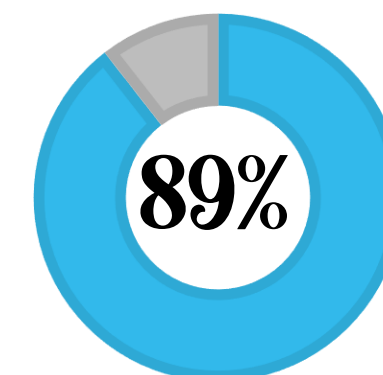
*Student Nurse Placement  
University of Exeter  
Natural England*



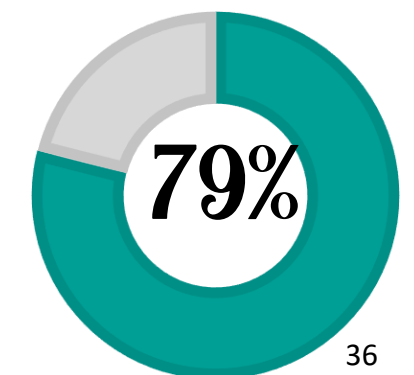
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# 15

## Advocating for climate resilience and health creation



# 15 Advocation

Climate resilience advocacy is increasingly vital for NHS primary care and the communities it serves, as extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and shifting disease patterns directly affect population health.

By actively promoting climate resilience, primary care providers can help communities prepare for and adapt to these challenges, reducing the burden of climate related illness such as heatstroke, respiratory conditions, and vector-borne diseases.

**% Practices are advocating for climate resilience and health creation**

**2025/ 2026**

**45%**

**2030 TARGET**

**100%**

Embedding climate resilience into primary care through sustainable infrastructure, emergency planning, and health education strengthens the NHS's capacity to maintain essential services during environmental crises.

Advocacy also empowers communities to move towards health creation, embracing sustainable health, improving public awareness, and fostering partnerships with local authorities and organizations, ultimately creating healthier, more resilient populations while aligning healthcare delivery with broader environmental and social responsibilities.



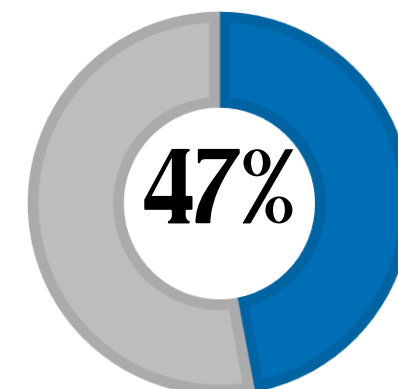
**Spencer Casey, Primary Care, Cornwall**

Spencer Casey is nationally recognised for his work in environmental sustainability within healthcare, having led pioneering Net Zero and green initiatives across Cornwall.

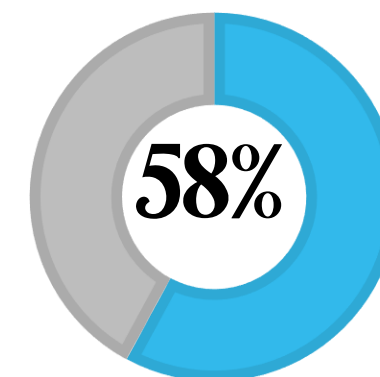
His work has been instrumental in supporting Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) across the UK in developing and implementing their own sustainability strategies.



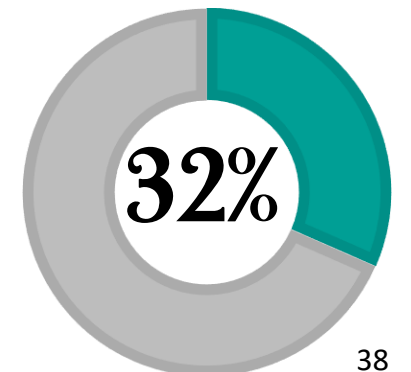
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# Our Partners

## Partnership and collaboration is everything

We work across the statutory, voluntary and community sector within **Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly** to deliver climate resilience and health creation. We also work nationally sharing best practice with **NHS Sustainability Leads and Greener NHS**.

### NHS

We are governed by **NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Devon Integrated Care Board** alongside **Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust** and **Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust**. We are working closely within **NHS Integrated Care Areas** to support the development of local **Neighbourhood Health Teams**.

### Cornwall Council

We work closely with Cornwall Council colleagues, particularly **Public Health, Nature Recovery** and **Climate & Energy Team**.

### Natural England

Working alongside **Natural England** and local **Nature Recovery** groups and charities to protect and restore nature.

### Universities

Working with our academic colleagues at the **Universities of Exeter, Bath & Cardiff** to measure and report on health creation projects, as well as provide training for future medics.

### Greener Practice

We work alongside both our national and local **Greener Practice Network**, a group of passionate clinicians who are making the links between human health, planetary health, physical and mental health, climate and nature and primary and secondary care.

### Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise

We're working with our **VCSE partners**, **community hubs, local energy charities, wildlife and conservation groups, community growers, Cornwall Bicycle Project and the Walk, Wheel Cycle Trust** and many more ...



**Cornwall and Isles of Scilly**

SUPPORTED BY



*Many of your case studies are now being replicated across the country, such as the successful Cornwall GP Practice Energy Audits, which is being rolled out in the Midlands, in the hope that Cornwall practices' carbon and financial savings will be replicated.*

*We would highly recommend an extension of the program into the rest of the UK.*

**Dr Katrina Davies**  
**Chair of Greener Practice CIC**



# Contact us

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