

## **GREEN IMPACT DENTISTRY SUMMARY OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND PILOT**

### **1.0 YEAR ONE PILOT**

1.1 In March 2019 green impact pilot was launched. Green impact is a practical tool to help dental teams improve their environmental sustainability. The pilot focuses on practices in the East of England and Essex area. Any practice in the UK can use the tool free of charge but there is additional support and the option for an external validation of progress (carried out by students trained as assessors) for practices in our region. The initial phase of the pilot is coming to an end in March 2020 and we now need to consider the options for green impact moving forward from April 2020.

1.2 The rationale behind funding the pilot was to provide a practical resource for dental teams that would assist them to understand how they could be more environmentally sustainable. Green impact is available across industry sectors and was developed by the National Union for Students (NUS) in response to the level of interest from students to environmental issues. NUS are no longer the delivery partner following a decision by NUS to set up a dedicated charitable company to manage this workstream called Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK-UK). We joined forces with the NUS now SOS-UK because of a shared ambition and passion to create a sustainable dental sector and a willingness to work together to refine the tool and create something industry specific.

1.3 There is group of national and regional dental partners called the Dental Sustainability Advisory Group (DSAG) that have been championing the sustainable dental agenda. They set up as a group nearly 3 years ago to oversee the research of fellows on improving sustainability in the dental sector. Their research findings have been incorporated into green impact and they have taken a watchful eye over its progress and supported the promotion and engagement with this tool. DSAG has representation from many of the key dental partners including, CQC, BDA, BDIA, GDC, NHS commissioners, PHE, OCDO, HEE, academics and the Centre for Sustainable Health Care. The views of this group have been sought when developing and reviewing our future options as their support to future activity will be vital.

1.4 Green impact is based on a model of empowerment and behaviour change. It seeks to focus on what people can do and encourages and levers the enthusiasm of staff at all levels to support change. There is a strong emphasis on taking action, evidencing greening actions and validating progress and celebrating success. Undergraduate students (from any discipline) are trained as assessors and they visit dental practices to validate activity and sign off the achievement of awards that

demonstrate the commitment and progress toward being a sustainable dental practice/service.

1.5 The hosting of the tool, support for users and assessment has been funded by NHS East of England Commissioners. HEE have funded a fellowship post to support sustainability in dentistry generally with a focus on supporting green impact and a leadership programme to engage system leaders and dental professionals. In addition, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare provided resource to tailor this practical tool to the latest research in dentistry.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF WHAT GREEN IMPACT COVERS

2.1 The basis of green impact is an industry wide tool. The version that we are using has been especially developed for general dental practices.

- It is an online tool based on a model of behaviour change
- It is source of information to support those that want to know more about sustainability
- It assimilates actions which are already mandatory or statutory and offers ideas that are innovative and go far beyond legal obligations
- It is tool to those that want to record and be recognised for their sustainability via an external assessment and an awards system
- It has content that is generic and very specific to dentistry.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
<b>Amalgam &amp; restorations</b>	4	3	7
<b>Waste</b>	2	4	15
<b>Water</b>	1	1	4
<b>Energy</b>	4	6	5
<b>Procurement</b>	1	3	9
<b>Staff engagement</b>	2	2	7
<b>Strategy &amp; Policy</b>		1	2
<b>Communicating Sustainability</b>	2	3	2
<b>Travel</b>	2	2	6
<b>Data</b>	4		3
<b>Food</b>			2
<b>Biodiversity</b>	1	1	7
<b>Health &amp; well being</b>	4	2	5
<b>Charity &amp; Citizenship</b>		1	1

## 3.0 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ONE

3.1 At the start of the year SOS-UK-UK worked together with DSAG and the other partners listed in 1.3 to develop an online toolkit of greening actions dental surgeries could take to reduce their environmental impact. The toolkit was developed

collaboratively to ensure it was relevant, and to encourage a 'shared ownership' approach.

3.2 The toolkit was open to all dental practices across the UK, and across the year was accessed by 70 dental professionals from 48 teams representing dental practices, or groups of practices, in the UK.

### Location of green impact teams



Representatives from **48** practices across the UK have accessed the toolkit. **31** of the 48 participating teams are based within the East of England region and **17** are from outside the region

**18** teams completed actions on the toolkit and received an award. **11** of these were from practices in the East of England, with the other **7** from outside of the region.

Collectively the teams completed **618 actions**, ranging from small but effective buildings management improvements like reducing energy wastage, to purchasing more environmentally sustainable dental products.

3.3 The teams were audited by a group of 10 volunteer undergraduate students, who received training and support from SOS-UK. The training was originally planned to take place in-person at a university in the East of England, however due to the disruption of COVID-19 it was moved online. Some practices or Green Impact leads from within participating practices were not available within the planned timescale, but have been given a provisional award level (based on evidence submitted on line) until their audits can take place. As a result, of COVID-19, and the need to use an online assessment process, we are now exploring how we can utilise virtual meetings to facilitate access to assessments and reduce the costs. We expect to offer both types of assessment going forward as each has different benefits. We are keen to preserve a process that is efficient and effective for dental practices but also provides a good work experience opportunity for students, which is a key part of the model for SOS-UK.

### 3.4 Audited teams

Team	Award	Is the practice within the East of England region?
Antwerp House Dentistry	Bronze	Y
Devonshire House	Working towards Bronze	Y
Diamond Dental Group	Gold	Y
Evergreen Dentistry	Gold	Y
Goldsworth Road Dental Centre	Silver	N
Oracle Dental Group	Working towards Bronze	Y
Pure Periodontics	Bronze	N
Suffolk Orthodontics	Silver	Y
The Dental House	Working towards Bronze	N
Wallasey Orthodontics	Bronze	N

### 3.5 Teams not yet fully audited (will take place later in 2021) but provisional award based on evidence submitted

Team	Award	Is the practice within the East of England region?
Anglia Orthodontics	Bronze*	Y
Bucks Priority Dental Service	Bronze*	Y
DENTALANGEL	Gold*	N
Down Town Dental Clinic	Bronze*	Y
Natural smile dental practice	Bronze*	N
Down Town Dental Clinic	Bronze*	Y
Parkview Dental Centre	Bronze*	Y
Whitehouse Dental Surgery	Bronze*	N

\*Provisional score subject to audit

3.6 During the audits we asked assessors to gather some feedback from green impact users on what their experience had been like and we also gathered feedback from the assessors on their experience and below are a few examples of what they told us.

### Student Volunteers

- As a dentistry student I now know what to look out for to make a practice more sustainable!
- It was a great opportunity; it was really impressive to see all the ways the dentist had found to become more environmental
- Thank you for the training, it was informative and interesting. I hope to work in sustainability and learnt a lot about how it can be applied everywhere

### **Antwerp House**

- They wanted to thank Green impact for all its efforts. They are looking forward to continuing next year and achieving even more actions.
- As a result of Green Impact, all the team are now actively involved in sustainability and colleagues have proposed new ideas and given feedback.

### **Diamond Dentistry**

- Our team have been more engaged in sustainability. For example, they organised to clean the local park. They now have a "sustainability wall" in the waiting room. They are involved with "Colgate Recycling Point" and promote recycling of unused dental products e.g. old tooth brushed and empty tooth paste tubes. Individuals within the team are now more aware of energy consumption and the temperature within the room. A few of the colleagues have changed their energy suppliers at home after gaining a deeper knowledge of sustainability.
- We did a travel survey which found most staff drove to work despite living close. More staff are now cycling

### **Evergreen**

- We've saved money through Green Impact- by moving patient communication to email we have gone from sending out over 100 letters a month to just 5. Likewise, all communication between staff is done by email and printing is kept to a minimum.
- The changes to staff have been significant. Green Impact has really galvanised the team and brought everyone together for a common purpose. I regularly get given suggestions by members of staff on potential changes without prompt, which never happened before.
- "It's a fantastic programme, I just hope a lot more places sign up as we did!"

### **Goldsworth Road**

- We're using less electricity and we've made patients aware of the different means of transportation they can use to save carbon

- It's a very good programme. We like the idea that they have different stages of the award and that they can advertise the award on their website once they have received it

## 4.0 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR YEAR TWO

3.1 At the start of the year SOS-UK-UK worked together with DSAG and the other partners listed in 1.3 to develop an online toolkit of greening actions dental surgeries could take to reduce their environmental impact. The toolkit was developed collaboratively to ensure it was relevant, and to encourage a 'shared ownership' approach.

3.2 The toolkit was open to all dental practices across the UK, and across the year was accessed by 89 dental professionals from 65 teams representing dental practices, or groups of practices, in the UK.

### Location of green impact teams



Representatives from **65** practices across the UK have accessed the toolkit. **32** of the 65 participating teams are based within the East of England region and **33** are from outside the region.

**27** teams completed actions on the toolkit and **5** teams were audited and received an award **3** of these were from practices in the East of England, with the other **2** from outside of the region

Collectively the teams completed **785 actions**, ranging from small but effective buildings management improvements like reducing energy wastage, to purchasing more environmentally sustainable dental products.



3.3 The teams were audited by SOS-UK. We elected not to use students as assessors this year (normal model) due to COVID, as there were too many complications and we only had a few dental teams ready to be assessed.

### 3.4 Audited teams

Team	Award	Is the practice within the East of England region?
Cairn Brae Dental Practice	Bronze	Yes
Evergreen Dental Practice	Gold	Yes
Suffolk Orthodontics	Bronze	Yes
The Pinner Dental Practice	Bronze	No
Whitehouse Dental Practice	Bronze	No

3.6 During the audits we asked assessors to gather some feedback from green impact users on what their experience had been like and we also gathered feedback from the assessors on their experience and below is an examples of what they told us.

“It was a pleasure to be part of such a rewarding project that has taught us a lot about steps to take to become more sustainable and more friendly with the environment. We are aiming for the Bronze this year, but as we are growing and doing more and more, we are hoping to go for Silver, Gold and even further. Many thanks for this opportunity, hoping to take part next year as well, though our greening process will never stop.”