



Carbon reduction plan

2023-2026

Responding to the climate emergency is a strategic priority for the College within the [Strategic Plan 2023-2026: building a sustainable future for general practice](#), as we recognise the inextricable link between human and planetary health.

This carbon reduction plan outlines the key actions that the College is taking to reduce emissions within this three-year period.

Carbon emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3) are reported separately within the [RCGP annual report](#).

Summary

In line with the NHS, RCGP is committed to reach net zero carbon emissions by:

2040 for areas we directly control

by 2045 for areas within our influence

Net Zero Targets

KPI	Description
Resource engagement	Over 5,000 healthcare professionals (excluding AiTs) engaging with RCGP sustainability education resources by 2026. Continue development of sustainability education resources, incorporating elements of 'One Health' and 'Prudent Healthcare' principles.
MRCGP assessment	Updated GP Curriculum (including a Topic Guide on "Population and Planetary Health" launched Online version of the Curriculum available. "Supercondensed" Curriculum Guides available
Sustainability group engagement	Work closely with the College's Faculty sustainability group, engaging with them on relevant College policy, and working with them to organise College events on sustainability, such as conferences, summits and roundtables

Supporting GPs and practices to improve their sustainability and reduce emissions

KPI	Description
Policy influencing strategy	Working with external stakeholders, develop (within a year) and implement a policy influencing strategy (across the following 2 years) designed to convince national and system level decision makers to support primary care to adapt to the climate emergency and reduce its carbon footprint derived from physical estates.
Prescriptions action plan	Develop (within a year) and promote (across the following 2 years) an action plan to reduce overprescribing and promote green prescribing
ICB influencing	Build relationships with system Net Zero leads with a view to promoting the work of the RCGP and influencing their system wide green plans.

Lobbying governments
and decision-makers to
deliver system-level
change

KPI	Description
RCGP Carbon Reduction Programme (scope 1 & 2)	Use the heat decarbonisation plan to reduce scope 1 & 2 emissions at 30ES, pending availability of funding.
RCGP Carbon Reduction Programme	Publish Sustainability Policy
RCGP Carbon Reduction Programme (scope 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a reduction in business travel emissions (75% reduction in carbon emissions from short haul flights on College business and a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from non-air travel by 2026 compared to 2019-20). 2. Develop a waste policy. 3. Develop a plan for capturing and reducing wider scope 3 emissions.
Plants-first action plan	Implement plants-first action plan to support colleagues to provide healthy, high-quality plant-based options as standard at meetings and events, where it is feasible to do so.

Embedding sustainability across RCGP