

South West Division Prizes Guidelines on the 'Sustainability and climate change' category

In recognition of our responsibility as psychiatrists to help combat the climate and ecological crisis, we are introducing a sustainability category for all prize submissions. By using the term 'sustainability', we mean sustaining the natural world and the ecosystems we belong to, rather than our current unsustainable way of life. The sustainability scores will count towards the final score for the submission to encourage us to embed sustainability in all our current projects.

The sustainability category will be scored along the Four Principles for Sustainable Healthcare ([Centre for Sustainable Healthcare: Integrating Sustainability Into Quality Improvement](#)). These principles aim to improve health and reduce carbon, by lowering healthcare activity and the carbon intensity of our work, and are as follows:

1. Prevention: Promoting health and preventing disease by tackling the causes of illnesses and inequalities.
2. Patient Self-Care: Empowering patients to take a greater role in managing their own health and healthcare.
3. Lean Service Delivery: Streamlining care systems to minimise wasteful activities.
4. Low Carbon Alternatives: Prioritising treatments and technologies with a lower environmental impact, bearing in mind across the NHS the highest carbon emissions come from pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

Scoring criteria (score out of 5 based on the extent that the project applies one or more of the following):

1. Prevention: Promoting health and preventing disease by tackling the causes of illnesses and inequalities.
2. Patient Self-Care: Empowering patients to take a greater role in managing their own health and healthcare.
3. Lean Service Delivery: Streamlining care systems to minimise wasteful activities.
4. Low Carbon Alternatives: Prioritising treatments and technologies with a lower environmental impact, bearing in mind across the NHS the highest carbon emissions come from pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.