



YHKN Sustainability News

Bradford Renal Unit Leading by Example

The YHKN invited Dr John Stoves to summarise the various sustainability projects that have been introduced across the Bradford and Airedale renal service over the past two decades.

Our starting point was a 'call to arms' from the national 'Green Nephrology' movement that was championed by our Renal Tsar Donal O'Donoghue, Charlie Tomson and others, and delivered with the support of our UK Green Nephrology Fellows working with Frances Mortimer. This is highlighted in a presentation that we made at UK Kidney Week 2024 in Edinburgh and the 2024 UK Annual Dialysis Conference in Manchester.

You may access the 'Bradford Experience in sustainability' presentation here:

['Bradford Experience in sustainability'](#)

We have made sequential changes to our practice across Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Living Donor assessment pathways, starting with an innovative e-consultation service for primary care teams in 2005.

[Electronic consultation as an alternative to hospital referral for patients with chronic kidney disease: a novel application for networked electronic health records to improve the accessibility and efficiency of healthcare – PubMed](#)

We published our initial experiences in the Green Nephrology report library hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and shared our work at the annual UK Green Nephrology meetings, also the 2020 British Association of Paediatric Nephrology (BAPN) conference.

Case studies for Sustainable Kidney Care:
<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/case-studies-kidney>

[Mapping Greener Healthcare | Mapping Greener Healthcare \(sustainablehealthcare.org.uk\)](#)

To help us deliver a continuing programme of activities, we formally named our MDT group of enthusiasts the Bradford Renal Sustainability Group (BRSG).

National colleagues involved in sustainable healthcare asked us to share our near 20 years' experience of delivering carbon saving initiatives, demonstrating that sustainability can be sustainable and carbon saving often equates with cost saving. From an independent analysis, it has been calculated that we have made cumulative carbon and cost savings of around 1,000 tonnes CO₂eq and £2 million respectively.

[Sustainable health care in a renal centre – carbon saving is coupled with cost-efficiency.](#)

We have continued to work closely with Frances Mortimer in her role as Medical Director of the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, also with the UKKA Sustainable Kidney Care Committee, NHSBT and the Health Foundation to create a carbon calculator for the living kidney donor assessment pathway. This work now sits within the national ESIT (Environmental Sustainability in Transplantation) group.

[Mapping the living kidney donor pathway project – Sustainable Healthcare](#)

More recently we have supported our regional KQIP sustainability initiative (TRUNC-HD), involving the regional team in our review of procurement practices (supported by use of the ICHD Carbon Calculator developed by Newcastle) and also working with other centres to reestablish our previous daily haemodialysis machine disinfection protocol and optimise recycling of plastic dialysis acid cannisters (until all of our units have central acid delivery systems, supported by the Trust's Estates department and Sustainability Lead and an 'invest to save' calculator developed by Gareth Murcutt). Some of these projects were presented at UK Kidney Week 2025.



Bradford Renal Unit
Sustainability Group



Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Our 3 UKKW 2025 abstracts and ERA abstract can be accessed here

Future IT developments will help to increase automation and reduce paper consumption. We already provide incremental dialysis and have shared materials to support another regional KQIP project.

We recently summarised our activities as part of the BTHFT Green Plan review, supported by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. We have also contributed the Action, Learning and Education Subgroup within the UKKA Special Interest Group for Sustainable Health Care. As part of this, we have produced an e-learning package (available on the CSH website) and promotional materials to support our model of driving sustainable sustainability of health care in all units through unit champions, and the development of a sustainability toolkit within the Renal Services Transformation Programme (RSTP).

[Sustainable Kidney Care | Centre for Sustainable Healthcare](#)

If further information would be helpful, please contact the BRSg team:

Stoves632@btinternet.com
Shiraz.Bismillah@bthft.nhs.uk
Liza.Bajet@bthft.nhs.uk



Resources

12 steps to Green Your Kidney Unit:

<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/resources/12-steps-green-kidney-unit>

Case study examples:

<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/case-studies-kidney>

UKKA Sustainable Kidney Care benchmarking survey:

<https://skc.ukkidney.org>

How-to guides will be provided very soon on the above page.

GM's Central acid delivery calculator:

<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/resources/sustainability-impact-calculator-installing-central-acid-delivery-system>

Planning your project:

<https://www.susqi.org/>

Join a sustainable network:

CSH Kidney Care Sustainability Network –
<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/kidney-care>

Greener NHS Knowledge Hub on FutureNHS

Use your regional kidney network / get in touch with your trust sustainability team to share ideas.

Calculate your unit's carbon footprint:

<https://ichdcarbon.org/>

How-to guides will very soon be up on this page.



sth.yhkidneynetwork@nhs.net

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Kidney Network