

Green Surgery Survey and Statement

June 2023

Vascular Society Green Surgery Survey

We need to start with a stocktake of what is being currently delivered. We ask members to **complete the survey** to establish what carbon saving practices are currently being implemented in UK vascular units. This will give us a directory of good practice that we can spread across the membership.

Survey link: https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6QIqazYZJMwwUjc



The Vascular Society recognises that healthcare is a major contributor to the overall carbon footprint of a population.

The Society believes that we must take steps to both recognise where vascular surgery contributes to carbon production and take steps to reduce our environmental impact.

The aim is for sustainability whilst maintaining excellent standards of patient care.

If carbon emissions are not reduced, we believe this will have a greater detrimental effect on global health than we cannot offset with the services that we deliver.

We therefore fully support the aim of delivering 'net zero' by 2045.

We can impact the carbon footprint of our care in multiple areas of the patient pathway, from telephone consultations to reduce travel emissions, to conservative non interventional care for our patients with intermittent claudication.

We can tackle waste segregation in our operating theatres as well as reducing the environmental impact of the medical supply chain. This means working with our industry partners to reduce packaging, produce disposable equipment from compostable materials, and ensure other equipment can be repaired.

To achieve this ambition will require work across multiple fronts to reduce the carbon footprint of the care we deliver. Investment will in addition be needed in green energy, green travel, and carbon capture.

We plan to seek engagement with our industry partners to address areas around packaging and supply chain. At this year's ASM in Dublin we will bring together a session to look at some of the solutions and our UK experience.

We plan to take this forward with the Journal of the Vascular Societies of Great Britain and Ireland (JVSGBI) to publish a tool kit to help our vascular units maximise their contribution to the control of climate change.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Garnham', with a stylized, flowing script.

Andrew Garnham

Consultant Vascular Surgeon
HEWM HoS Surgery
Vascular SAC member and National Selection Lead
Vice President VSGBI
JSF exam lead RCS Ed. Vascular Specialty Board