

## **BSG Strategy on Climate Change and Sustainability 2021**

**Andy Veitch, BSG President Elect, on behalf of the BSG working group on climate change and sustainability**

### **Introduction**

The impact of climate change and sustainability on health and healthcare provision is of concern to our members, as it is to our patients and the wider population. Many of our members are already involved in projects to address these issues. Globally, climate change has major adverse effects on gastrointestinal and liver health, and the ability to deliver effective healthcare. Environmental sustainability of healthcare provision causes concerns including emissions, lack of recycling, use of non-recyclable plastics, and unnecessary travel for patients. The NHS net zero ambitions are world-leading, and BSG and its members have an opportunity to contribute to these aims. We also have an opportunity to collaborate with other national and international partners. The issues around sustainability are complex, and research opportunities exist.

BSG Executive committed to developing a strategy on climate change and sustainability, and commissioned this working group.

### **Mission statements**

BSG recognises that there is a global climate emergency, and that this has adverse effects on health.

BSG is committed to support and promote environmental sustainability across all aspects of its practice nationally and internationally, and to support the NHS in its aims to achieve a net zero service.

BSG will promote sustainability through its charitable objectives of research, training and education, and will provide leadership through example, in its business and membership activities.

### **Strategic objectives**

#### **Personal**

BSG will promote awareness and share knowledge regarding climate change and sustainability with regard to gastrointestinal and liver health, and delivery of services. We will not be advising members on how to conduct their personal lives with regard to sustainability.

#### **Professional**

BSG will share knowledge on relevant issues, and advise on how sustainability can be practiced and promoted within our professional services. This will align to the NHS net zero strategy, and innovative practice will be encouraged and developed. Within BSG professional practice, higher committees and sections will consider how sustainability affects their field of practice.

#### **Organisational**

BSG will aim to achieve, where practicable, sustainable practice across all aspects and activities of the organisation.

#### **Political**

BSG will consider direct or collaborative options to highlight the gastroenterology and hepatology issues with regard to sustainability at a governmental level, with an aim to improve practice where evidence for this exists.

### **International**

BSG will collaborate with other professional organisations internationally to achieve the aims of our climate change and sustainability strategy. This will be in coordination with BSG International Committee.

### **Research**

BSG will encourage, promote, and support research into opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint arising from gastrointestinal, hepatology and endoscopy services. This has been incorporated into the BSG Research Strategy

### **Activity plans: Year 1**

1. Survey of BSG members + non-member trainees and nurses on knowledge and attitudes to sustainability in endoscopy. The aim is to canvass a mandate for the BSG sustainability strategy
2. Sustainability webinar prior to AGM July 2021
3. Present draft strategy to BSG Executive and Council September 2021
4. Discuss Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy at BSG strategy meeting October 2021
5. Launch BSG Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy at annual meeting November 2021. Symposium at meeting Day 1.
6. Collaborate with other stakeholders nationally: RCP, Green Endoscopy, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (multi-stakeholder alliance with potential political impact at government level), 4-Nation engagement with NHS organisations. International collaboration: World Gastroenterology Organisation (currently has a very active globally represented climate change committee including Andy Veitch), forge links with other international professional societies.
7. Raise awareness: social media, newsletter, publications, press
8. Develop research strategy on sustainability: BSG Research Committee chair and deputy chair.
9. Request development of sustainability strategy from all sections and higher committees
10. BSG to commission analysis of carbon footprint of the organisation. Determine objective measures to monitor improvements, and determine an achievable timeline to make events and meetings run by the BSG carbon neutral.
11. This working group will continue to lead and implement the climate change and sustainability strategy in year 1, reporting to Executive, Council and Trustees. Ultimately consider new section/committee or subgroup of CSSC to coordinate and monitor sustainability activity.

### **Benefits for patients**

- Potential positive impact on adverse environmental factors for gastrointestinal health
- Positive contribution towards a more sustainable health service
- Potential benefits from our contribution towards the global effort to mitigate adverse health effects of climate change

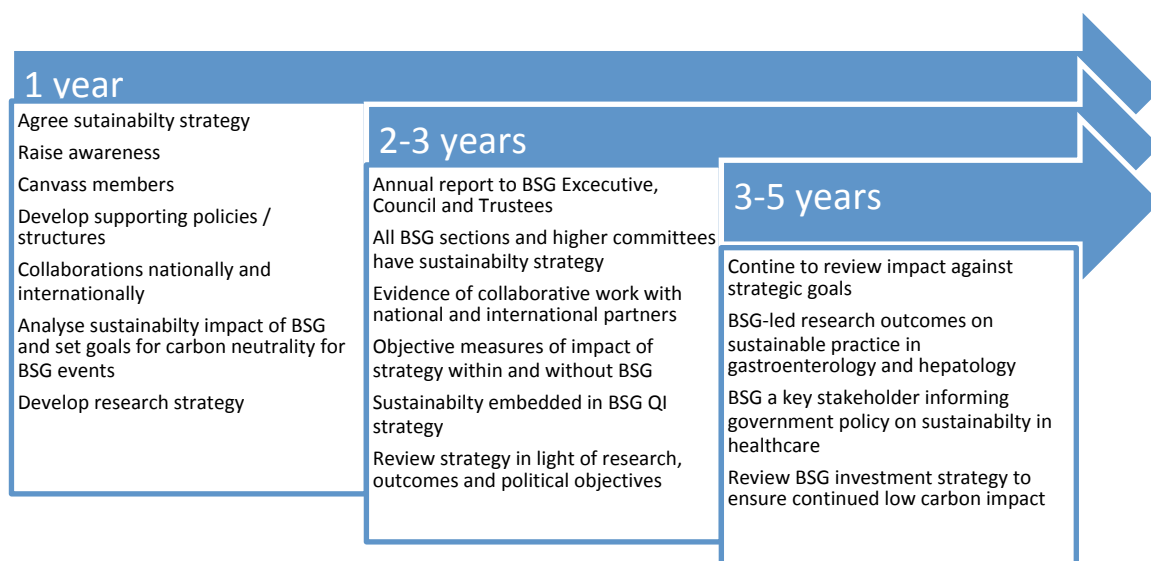
### Benefits for BSG members

- Opportunity to contribute towards sustainable healthcare, including NHS net zero aims
- Opportunity to influence political agenda with regard to climate change and sustainability
- Opportunities for research into sustainability issues
- Opportunities for national and international collaboration

### Benefits for BSG

- Improve sustainability of the organisation
- Contribute positively to a global crisis
- Increase current member engagement
- Potentially attract new members
- Increase international engagement
- Contribute to positive benefits for our patients and wider society

### 5 year objectives



### Members of BSG Climate Change and Sustainability working group

Andy Veitch, Chair, BSG President Elect

Mark Hacker, BSG CEO

Bu Hayee, Gastroenterologist, Green Endoscopy representative

Mhairi Donnelly, Hepatologist, Liver section representative

Lil Ratcliffe, Trainee representative

Sarah Marshall, JAG Lead Nurse, BSGNA representative

Bernard Brett, Gastroenterologist, CSSC representative

Shaji Sebastian, Gastroenterologist, BSG Research Committee