

# Projects on Green Endoscopy

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# Conflict of interest statement

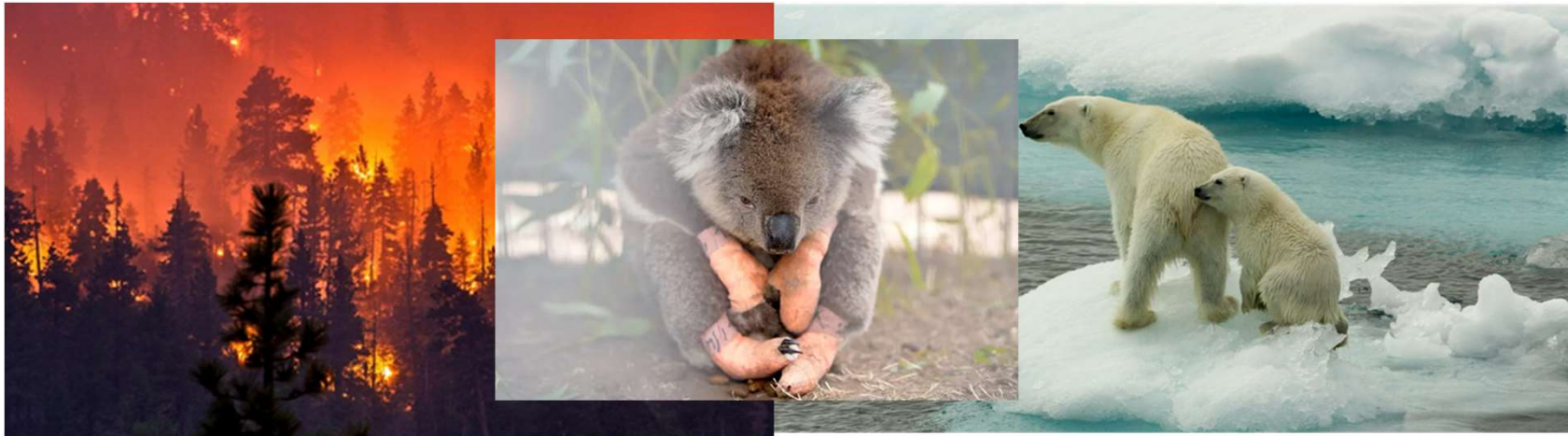
I herewith declare anything that may potentially be viewed as a conflict of interest during the past three years such as paid or unpaid consultancies, business interests or sources of honoraria payments:

*Nothing to declare*



*“The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything.”*

*Greta Thunberg*



# Background

- In the UK Endoscopy is the third highest emitting hospital department generating about 3.09kg of waste per bed day
- Which is equivalent to burning 39 million pounds of coal or 13,500 tons of plastic
- Each endoscopic procedure generates approximately 2kg of disposable waste



# Climate change and health

“Climate change is a major threat to health and threatens to undermine the last 50 years of public health gains,”

(Haddock et al 2021)

- Respiratory health due to pollution and smoke from wildfires
- Future pandemics like Covid-19
- Enteric pathogens due to raising water levels and flooding
- Malnutrition due to crop failure



## What we need to do...

- Highlight the problem
- Engagement from your Teams
- Buy in from Management
- Close working relationships with local recycling centres
- Start with the simple things first



Small changes make significant impact

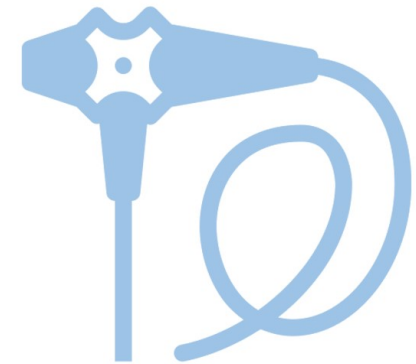
# Making a change – how to start

- Change in Culture and Behaviour
- Creating a team of “Green Champions” or “Green Team”
- Sorting waste – separating clinical waste from domestic
- Recycling hard plastics & instruments
- Networking with waste management teams
- Work with local recycling centres
- Creating a sustainability promise



# Appropriate patient selection & reduction in the amount of endoscopy could have the largest impact on carbon emissions

- Can surveillance procedures be reduced?
- Are there alternative investigations?
- Are procedures over used?
- Can we source reduced waste packaging
- Can we digitalize documentation



This will require a shift in behaviour patterns and attitudes



# First steps

- Sort domestic, clinical and recycling waste streams
- Think about reducing paper
- Consider accessories recycling
- PC shut downs
- Motion sensor lighting
- Explore reducing alternatives to sterile water
- Explore Reusable PPE
- Reduce histology where appropriate



# What's next – A motivated team!

- Sustainability Champions
- Education and training
- Management support
- Clinician Input
- Challenge industry
- Engagement with policy makers
- Patient engagement
- Keep up the enthusiasm!



"What do you want to be  
when you grow up?"



"Still here," said the  
polar bear.



# References

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