

## Announcing **SQUIPs!** Or... Sustainability QUIPS

Providing healthcare has a huge environmental impact which produces a healthcare burden in itself, let alone the wider issues. The Trust Sustainability Working Group ([sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk)) has recently formed to coordinate ongoing sustainability activity, identify areas for improvement, and support staff engaging with sustainability. We need the energy and ideas of foundation doctors to make the NHS sustainable for another 70 years. Dr Higham is kindly supporting sustainability activity in the QUIP programme that will qualify for your portfolios.

A SQUIP is like any other quality improvement project in terms of process, but the focus is on sustainability activity. If you like the idea of driving improvement in the Trust *and* saving the planet and humankind at the same time, this is your chance. Our aim isn't to displace/compete/duplicate the current QUIP programme, but support sustainability projects within it. Contact us ([sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk)) when you are developing your project so we can help you succeed. We are also coordinating business plan training to take you SQUIPs to the 'next level', and ear-marked sustainability project funding in the future for effective programmes that can be rolled out to other departments.

### Process

1. When you are developing your proposal (or looking for ideas) for submission to OxSTAR, contact [sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk) to help develop your sustainability QUIP
2. When submitting, identify your project as a SQUIP in the proposal title and add the Sustainability Working group [sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk) as one of the MDT members
3. Save the world

### Advantages

- **Shape the agenda** – The Trust's sustainability strategy is still at a very early stage, so you have the opportunity to have real influence on its direction
- **Low-hanging fruit** – identify and claim the quick wins in your department or future specialty of interest!
- **Business plan training** – after your successful QUIPs, maximise its impact. Being able to produce a coherent business proposal sounds boring, but is an important consultant skill
- **Grab the thistle** – the sustainable NHS is one of the looming issues that will dominate our consultant careers. Take the opportunity to get ahead of the curve.

If you'd like to propose a QUIP with a sustainability theme, please contact use at [sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainabilityWG@ouh.nhs.uk) so we can support you with available resources, link you with others who have experience you may find useful, or even provide you with some ideas if you are keen but in need of inspiration.