



Taking Part in *GreenED*

GreenED is the Royal College of Emergency Medicine's (RCEM) environmental sustainability accreditation programme. The programme is run by The College and currently offered to UK-based Emergency Departments (EDs).

In these FAQs, we answer common questions regarding taking part in *GreenED* - the aim is to provide the information you need to understand the programme and register with confidence.

If you have further questions, our team will be happy to help – please email GreenED@rcem.ac.uk with your query.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *GreenED* programme and why should we sign up?

GreenED is the first environmental sustainability accreditation for EDs, awarding accreditation to sites that have applied the *GreenED* Framework to their department.

GreenED was created by RCEM's Environmental Special Interest Group (ESIG), a team of emergency medicine professionals committed to tackling the climate crisis within the speciality. With support from Greener NHS, NHS England, and Green Labs Associates, ESIG created the *GreenED* Framework; the *GreenED* Framework details actions ED's can undertake to improve their sustainability whilst maintaining or improving patient care standards.

After a [successful pilot in eight UK-based EDs](#), RCEM officially launched the *GreenED* as an accreditation programme in September 2023, open to all UK-based [Type One EDs](#) to improve their environmental sustainability.

As above, the Framework outlines the actions EDs can undertake to quantify and improve their department's environmental sustainability. Addressing framework actions has additional financial, workforce and service delivery benefits such as:

- Cost saving.
- Reducing wastage and streamlining local processes to increase efficiency.
- Contributing to hospital sustainability plans and wider net zero health system targets.
- Improving professional knowledge and standards.
- Improving and/or protecting patient care quality.

The Framework is split into Bronze, Silver, and Gold actions - by accrediting at given level, an ED is certified by RCEM as having improved the environmental sustainability of their department, and maintained or improved patient care.

What does it mean to accredit as a Bronze/Silver/Gold GreenED?

GreenED is a nationally recognised accreditation for EDs that have applied the Bronze, Silver and/or Gold levels of the *GreenED* framework to their department.

By accrediting at Bronze/Silver/Gold, an ED is certified by RCEM as having improved the environmental sustainability of their department, contributed to national net zero targets, created financial savings, and maintained/improved patient care.

What does an ED get from registering?

If an ED participates in the programme, they will receive the following over a 12-month period:

- Access to the *GreenED* Framework Portal.
- Access to submit for accreditation.
- Induction and monthly group support meetings from the *GreenED* team.
- Additional topic-specific support sessions, such as accreditation preparation workshops and carbon calculator walk-throughs.
- Ongoing support from the *GreenED* team for Framework and operational queries.

If an ED wishes to continue with the programme, they can renew their registration by paying the annual registration fee before the end of the 12-month period.

Who can take part in GreenED?

The *GreenED* programme is for [Type One EDs](#). Interested EDs register by completing the [registration form](#) and paying the registration fee.

We recommend regional groups of 6 -12 hospitals register together and participate at the same time - this enhances an ED's success in the programme, increases financial savings, and improves sustainability across the group as whole.

Can EDs outside the UK take part?

At present *GreenED* is offered to UK-based EDs, however the programme is exploring its adaptability to international EDs and contexts. If you are from outside the UK and are interested in the programme, please contact our team at GreenED@rcem.ac.uk

When are registrations accepted?

Registrations are taken in the spring of each year. Before registrations open, the *GreenED* team will review capacity and announce on the [GreenED website](#) when the window for registrations will be opening.

If the programme is oversubscribed, we may pause new registrations and open a waiting list for when new intake can resume. Please check the [GreenED website](#) for updates on the current status of the programme.

How can an ED register?

EDs can register by completing the [registration form](#) and paying the annual fee.

On the registration form, EDs will need to provide the following:

1. Name of the registering hospital/Trust
2. Contact details for the project leads
 - The project leads will be the main point of contact for the programme.
3. A purchase order (PO) for the registration price

Upon registering, EDs will receive a registration confirmation, access to the web-based Framework portal, and details of your induction session.

What is the price of the GreenED programme?

In 2025, the registration fee is £2,000 per ED for the 12-month period.

For group registrations of six or more EDs, RCEM may offer bespoke pricing. Please contact the *GreenED* team for more details.

What does the registration price cover?

GreenED is a non-profit initiative and all fees go towards covering operational costs required to run the programme. Registration fees cover the following:

- Resource creation and maintenance
- Staffing costs – including RCEM staff and *GreenED* clinical leads
- Programme development and growth
- Website and portal maintenance
- Conference attendance and stakeholder engagement
- Communications and marketing
- Operational overheads

Who pays for registration?

The registration fee can be paid by:

- The ED's hospital/Trust;
- Local Integrated Care Board/System (ICB/ICS);
- Other overarching body, such as NHS regional teams;
- National or local government.

We recommend regional groups of 6-12 hospitals register together and participate at the same time - this enhances an ED's success in the programme and improves sustainability at systematic regional level. This group approach also multiplies financial savings, enables sites to collectively map their efforts to regional sustainability targets, and creates regional support networks for further improvement.

I need RCEM's address to obtain a purchase order number.

Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Octavia House, 54 Ayres Street, London, SE1 1EU. Please contact finance@rcem.ac.uk for bank details.

What happens when the registration ends?

When an ED is approaching the end of their 12-month participation in the programme, the *GreenED* team will contact them three months before and ask if they wish to continue for another year.

- If an ED wishes to continue past the 12 months, they can renew their registration by providing a new PO for the annual fee before the 12 months end.
- If an ED does not wish to continue, their registration will end once the 12 months are complete. They will cease to have access to the above elements outlined in the section *What does an ED get from registering?* The ED will be welcome to re-register in the future if registrations are open.

If I have any questions about registration, or about the GreenED programme, who can I contact?

You can email the team via GreenED@rcem.ac.uk and we will get back to you. Additionally, you can phone us 020 7404 1999 and select option 2.

Where can I find further information on GreenED?

All information on the programme is posted on the [GreenED website](#). *GreenED* holds a public mailing list for *GreenED* updates and newsletters; any interested parties can join this mailing list via the [GreenED website](#) homepage.