

Carbon footprinting clinical trials: drop in clinics

In 2023, the MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP) convened the 'Greener Trials' group as a forum to share resources and facilitate consideration and uptake of more responsible research practice in clinical trials.

Following publication of an NIHR-funded [method and guidance to calculate the carbon footprint of clinical trials](#) and [testing of the approach on 10 trials](#), the TMRP awarded funding to the development team to disseminate the method and train academic trialists in carbon footprinting via monthly drop-in clinics, recorded webinars and workshops.

About the drop in clinics

The aim of the clinics is to support teams who would like to carbon footprint a completed trial, part of a trial, or activities planned in a new trial, to inform lower carbon trial design.

Part 1 of the monthly clinic is aimed at new users. We introduce the 'NIHR-funded Detailed Guidance and method to calculate the carbon footprint of a clinical trial' and data collection tools and answer any initial questions.

Part 2 of the clinic is for anyone applying the guidance to their trials, to provide ongoing support and advice in the real-life calculations.

Increasing the evidence base

Although the method and guidance are publicly available for use, we would like to ask anyone using them to contribute their clinical trial activity data and any new emission factors identified to the development team at ICR-CTSU. Any data that is shared will be added to our database and used to update and refine the guidance to increase the applicability to a wider variety of trials, and enable users to perform footprinting more easily. The database will also facilitate research into carbon hotspots and mitigation strategies.

2026 drop-in clinic dates:

- 13th January 2-4pm
- 10th February 2-4pm
- 10th March 2-4pm
- 7th April 2-4pm
- 12th May 2-4pm
- 9th June 2-4pm
- 7th July 2-4pm
- 4th August 2-4pm
- 1st September 2-4pm
- 13th October 2-4pm
- 17th November 2-4pm
- 15th December 2-4pm

The first hour (Part 1) is an introduction to carbon footprinting and how to use the resources. The second hour (Part 2) is for those with carbon footprinting questions to drop in for 1:1 support.

How to join

If you are interested in joining a drop in clinic or would like more information, email cict-icrcts@icr.ac.uk. To join the Greener Trials group, email Lisa.fox@icr.ac.uk.

FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

LIVERPOOL
CLINICAL
TRIALS CENTRE
LCTC

ICR The Institute of
Cancer Research