**Greener inhalers set to improve patient care and help towards a zero carbon Greater Manchester**

A new campaign launches this week with the release of a brand new video that sees patients sharing their experiences of switching to greener inhalers, with lower emissions. The aim is to raise awareness of the environmental impact of some inhalers and encourage more patients to make the change.

Inhalers, prescribed for those with asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), are making a significant contribution to Greater Manchester’s carbon footprint. In any given month, there are over 300,000 inhalers prescribed in the city region - equivalent to the emissions from 28,000 cars.

Most inhalers in Greater Manchester are metered dose inhalers (MDI), which contain propellants known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are powerful greenhouse gases. Many people find a more environmentally friendly dry power inhaler (DPI) helps to relieve their symptoms at least as well as the alternatives, and their carbon footprint is substantially lower.

Those who switch may find they have inhalers leftover at home. All inhalers should be taken to pharmacies for safe disposal. If they are included with general waste, they can become damaged, releasing residual greenhouse gases and medicines into the environment.

An increase in the use of greener inhalers will help the city region to achieve a net zero carbon footprint by 2038 and is part of ambitious plans from NHS GM for a greener NHS for Greater Manchester. [Read the NHS GM Green Plan](https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/gm-green-plan-2022-final-v1.pdf) to find out more.