The Vet Sustain Greener Veterinary Practice Checklist outlines the points a veterinary practice may consider to become more sustainable.

**PRACTISE RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE USE**

- Reduce fossil fuel use for energy and heating by remembering to turn appliances off and switching to renewable energy
- Reduce disposable materials usage, including single-use plastics, such as disposable surgical textiles, where possible
- Use paper-free management systems where possible and ensure responsible paper sourcing, use and disposal
- Put water-saving measures in place
- Make sustainable choices when purchasing equipment or consumables
- Review and optimise waste management: reduce, re-use, recycle

**USE MEDICINES RESPONSIBLY**

- Practise responsible antimicrobial and parasiticide use
- Avoid drug wastage through good stocking principles
- Dispose of drugs correctly (avoid ecotoxicity).

**EMPOWER THE TEAM**

- Support staff wellbeing and development, eg through sustainability education and projects, and encourage formation of a ‘Green group’
- Recognise that good health and wellbeing supports all aspects of practice operations. Empower your team to make changes.

**BE SUSTAINABLE IN YOUR OPERATION**

- Include eco-principles in building design or adaptations where possible
- Ensure environmental legislation compliance
- Use evidence-based infection control measures and minimise use of ecotoxic chemicals
- Minimise the greenhouse gas impacts of anaesthetic agents
- Enhance on-site green spaces and promote biodiversity in surroundings
- Promote animal welfare
- Support sustainable welfare-friendly agriculture when advising farming clients
- Create a travel policy to reduce emissions from business travel, commuting and freight
- Support walking, cycling or public transport use, by staff and clients
- Reduce carbon emissions from conferencing, education and practice meetings

If you can take these steps and note your improvements, you’re ready to write your Sustainability policy for your practice.

- Create a “Green group” of passionate team members
- Communicate what you are doing with your clients

Look into gaining environmental management accreditation!

vetsustain.org/resources/vet-practice-checklist #Greenervetchecklist