Small Animal

Sustainable Energy Management in Small Animal Practice Checklist

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Energy sourcing & monitoring:

- Green energy tariffs
- Onsite generation (e.g. rooftop solar PV, wind turbines)
- Energy usage monitored and reduction targets set

Energy efficiency of buildings:

- EPC checked and suggested changes noted for action
- Cavity wall and roof space insulation
- Leaky windows and doors draft-proofed and draft excluders used where appropriate
- Double/triple glazing

Energy-efficient heating and cooling practices:

- Practice sustainable heating and cooling policy in place
- Heating/AC only used when required; set to lowest/highest comfortable temperature
- Doors/windows never left open with the heating/AC on
- AC never running at the same time as heating
- Automatic timer functions used to ensure heating/AC units off when rooms not in use
- 'Automatic' mode used for combined AC/heating units
- Temperature settings lowered overnight to 16-18°C
- Patient-specific warming utilised rather than increasing ambient temperature
- Internal blinds/curtains closed at night during cold weather to reduce heat loss
- Internal shading with blinds/curtains and windows closed during the day but open overnight during hot weather to reduce heat
- Fans and air coolers used preferentially to AC
- AC units serviced regularly to prevent coolant leaks
- Fossil fuel heating systems replaced e.g. with heat pumps
- AC systems used for heating preferentially to gas system if both installed
- Boiler water temperatures set to 55-60°C
- Insulation of hot water cylinders and piping
- Hot water tanks upgraded to more efficient versions
- Thermostatic radiator valves set to 'frost protect' for rooms not in active use
- No radiators blocked with boxes, furniture etc.
- Reflective panels behind radiators
- Portable electric heaters avoided where possible

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Lighting:

- LED light bulbs
- Motion activated lights
- Use of daylight maximised
- External lights off during daylight
- Light fittings, windows and skylights kept clean to maximise effectiveness

Energy-efficient appliances:

- A* rated white goods chosen where possible
- Regular maintenance of all appliances
- Regular checks on fridge and freezer thermostats
- Fridge and freezer units kept as far away from heat sources as possible
- Freezer units defrosted frequently

Energy-efficient laundry:

- Machine always has a full load before commencing a wash
- Lower wash temperatures (40°C for unsoiled patient bedding)
- Segregation of laundry to minimise washes needing higher temperatures
- Washing hung outside to dry in good weather

Energy-efficient equipment use:

- Brightness reduced on computer monitors
- All equipment switched off when not in use
- Automatic ‘sleep’ mode on computers when idle for a set time period
- ‘Standby’ settings avoided in favour of full shut down for TVs, printers etc.
- Photocopiers and fax machines set to ‘energy-saving’ mode
- Only the amount of water needed boiled in the kettle; store excess hot water in a flask
- Wall-mounted water boiler for hot drinks if demand is high enough
- Microwaves switched off at plug socket when not in use

Team empowerment:

- All staff know how to correctly maintain and switch off relevant equipment
- Team members briefed on practice sustainable energy management policy
- Someone assigned at the end of each day/shift to do a ‘switch off’ round
- Switch off reminder stickers on equipment, posters and guidance documents for staff
- ‘Switch off’ campaigns, energy saving competitions etc to increase engagement