

Vet Sustain

The Greener Veterinary Practice working group have compiled a list of environmentally conscious products, services, and educational resources available from suppliers and organisations working within the veterinary sector. In practice, we do not always have the time to do market research before purchasing consumables, so this list of recommendations will enable sustainable procurement decisions for those wishing to reduce the environmental impact of clinical work. This list is the intellectual property of Vet Sustain and represents the views and personal experiences of members of the working group. Last updated by the Greener Veterinary Practice working group in December 2022.

SERVICE	MORE INFORMATION	LINKS TO RESOURCES
Albus Environmental	Sustainable clinical waste disposal specialists who guarantee zero waste to landfill and partner with a conservation charity.	https://albusenvironmental.com/
Ecosia	Web search engine which plants trees.	https://www.ecosia.org/?tt=9d525bf1&gclid=CjwKCAjw3qGYBhBSEiwAcnTRLImQIBVFTdQx63f6amHlJniN07cMqkbOR7jf8iWEGxHsAfVbOs0WUxoCfBQQAvD_BwE
BBVA Bee Friendly Practice scheme	British Bee Veterinary Association offers a free pack to help encourage biodiversity in open spaces at veterinary practices.	https://britishbeevets.com/
Investors in the Environment accreditation scheme	An environmental accreditation scheme designed to help businesses reduce their environmental impact, save money and time and get promoted for their green credentials.	https://www.iie.uk.com/
VetMedAid	Student led charity collecting and distributing unused medical equipment from UK practices to overseas charities.	https://www.facebook.com/vetmedaid/
Stericycle's Bio Systems sharps containers	UN-approved puncture resistant hard plastic containers for disposal of sharps waste which are collected, disinfected and re-used up to 600 times, rather than incinerated after one use as is usually the case. Stericycle provide the containers and collection system.	https://www.stericycle.co.uk/en-gb/solutions/bio-systems-sharps-management?referrer=/solutions/bio-systems-sharps-management
Sharpsmart	Resuable clinical waste bin solutions for all hazardous waste streams.	https://www.sharpsmart.co.uk/veterinary-clinics
RESOURCE	MORE INFORMATION	LINK
BVA/ Vet Sustain/ VDS 'Greener Veterinary Practice' webinar series	Six-part webinar series focusing on different topics around sustainability-discussing the key points and ideas for how to embed the key principles into your workplace eg energy efficiency, responsible medicines use and the use of consumables.	https://www.bva.co.uk/take-action/working-towards-a-greener-profession/
Vet Sustain Case Study series	Case studies on practices who have taken steps to reduce their environmental impact.	https://vetsustain.org/work?work=9298

RESOURCE	MORE INFORMATION	LINK
Vet Sustain 'A Veterinary Approach to Sustainable Food and Farming' Course	This course will empower veterinary professionals working with farm animals to unlock their unique toolbox of skills and knowledge to help producers attain multiple sustainability objectives – for the benefit of the animals under our care, rural communities, wildlife and the wider environment. This online learning course has been written and developed by a collaborative team from Vet Sustain and VetSalus.	https://learn.vetsustain.org/
BVA/ BSAVA/ BVZS policy on responsible parasiticide use	The joint policy statement underpinning the need to use parasiticides responsibly and how this can be implemented in practice.	https://www.bva.co.uk/media/4352/bva-bsava-and-bvzs-policy-position-on-responsible-use-of-parasiticides-for-cats-and-dogs.pdf
BSAVA 'Protect Me'	Resources from the BSAVA encouraging responsible prescribing of antibacterials to cats and dogs.	https://www.bsava.com/Resources/Veterinary-resources/Position-statements/Responsible-use-of-antibacterials
SCOPS- 'Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep'	Resources on practising responsible use of parasiticides and control of parasites in sheep.	https://www.scops.org.uk/
RUMA	A set of guidelines on the responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture.	https://www.ruma.org.uk/antimicrobials/
BEVA 'Protect Me'	Resources from BEVA encouraging responsible prescribing of antibacterials to equids.	https://www.beva.org.uk/Protect-Me
BEVA Sustainability Working Group- Top Tips	Tips for sustainability in equine practice.	https://www.beva.org.uk/Home/Guidance-and-Resources/Sustainability-in-Practice
Davies Veterinary Specialists- Low Flow Rates	Resources on practising lower flow rates in anaesthesia in small animals to reduce the use of volatile anaesthetic agents.	https://vetspecialists.co.uk/oxygen-conservation/
West, E. (2021), Reducing the environmental impacts of veterinary anaesthesia. Veterinary Record, 189: 360-363.	Paper by Ellie West quantifying the global warming potential of volatile anaesthetic agents and how the veterinary profession can reduce this impact.	https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.1147
Recycle Now	A website which allows you to identify ways to recycle household items.	https://www.recyclenow.com/
West, E., et al. (2020), How to manage healthcare waste and reduce its environmental impact. In Practice, 42: 303-308.	Paper by Ellie West explaining how to correctly manage hazardous waste streams to reduce its environmental impact.	https://doi.org/10.1136/inp.m1678

PRODUCT	MORE INFORMATION	SUPPLIERS
BD Emerald Syringes	Made using 30% less plastic than other syringes, using non-toxic materials in the production process and renewable energy at the manufacturing facility.	IMS Euro, Pioneer and more
GREENCOL buster cone	Made using 80% recycled materials and 100% recyclable. Transparent polypropylene, fast fastening system.	IMS Euro, Vet Direct and more
B-Braun AESCULAP Aicon sterile kit storage system	An aluminium instrument storage system that eliminates the need for autoclave bags completely whilst maintaining sterility.	B-Braun
Reusable Scrub Hats	Scrub hats made from reusable materials.	All Scrubbed Up, many other retailers
Reusable surgical gowns	MIP sell reusable surgical gowns which are certified to EN13795 standards used in NHS theatres and have some fluid resistance. JAK Marketing and Vet Direct also sell a reusable theatre gown made from polycotton.	MIP, JAK Marketing, Vet Direct
Reusable cloth surgical drapes	Reusable fenestrated and non-fenestrated drapes made from balloon cotton woven cloth.	JAK Marketing, Vet Direct
Water distiller	Reduces plastic waste from purified water containers. Makes around 4 litres of purified water over 6 hours.	Burtons, Vet Direct
Reusable incontinence pads	Incontinence pads that can be washed and reused.	Many retailers
Reusable lint rollers	Lint rollers which can be reused instead of the plastic versions with the disposable sticky paper.	Many retailers
B-Braun Ecoflac IV fluid bottles	Electrolyte solutions in polyethylene bottles which can be recycled. When incinerated doesn't produce any harmful compounds. PVC free. Comes in many sizes.	B-Braun, DMS, MWI
Econix Bio-bin	Paper-based clinical waste container for non-sharps waste- 96% less plastic. Comes in a flat pack for easy storage and has a waterproof lining to absorb liquid. Is collected by most clinical waste contractors.	PCS, Econix
TerraCycle waste bins	Recycle waste streams typically not recyclable. TerraCycle offer a number of free and paid-for waste recycling streams.	Terracycle
Velcro reusable tail guard for large animals	Reusable tail guard for horses/ cows- to use instead of plastic rectal gloves or disposable dressing materials.	Many retailers