



2024 Impact Update

Enabling and inspiring the veterinary profession to become leading forces for sustainability

Welcome to our highlights report

Vet Sustain has been working to support sustainability in the veterinary professions since 2019. And now, as we approach 5 years since our launch, it's time to stop and reflect on the progress we've made towards our mission to enable and inspire veterinary professionals to continually improve the health and wellbeing of animals, people and the environment, through achievement of our six Veterinary Sustainability Goals.

Diverse and abundant wildlife



A good life for animals



Health and wellbeing



Net zero warming



A no waste society



Enough clean water for all



Enabling and Inspiring in Extraordinary Times



'Since our launch in 2019, Vet Sustain have strived to enable and inspire veterinary professionals working at the human-animal-environment interface to champion sustainability in their day-to-day work, and through the animals under their care.

The last 5 years have seen an acceleration of the global climate and ecological crises, entrenched animal welfare problems and public health threats. We need a One Health, One Welfare approach to unite our profession in making the changes we need for a sustainable future.

We are extremely proud of the critical role that Vet Sustain has played during this period. Staying true to our vision, mission and goals, we have continued to support veterinary professionals on their sustainability journey and are looking forward to what the future will bring'.

Ed Bailey Chair of Vet Sustain

A Heartfelt Thank You

We are hugely grateful for the generous support we have received from organisations and individuals from across the profession, in particular our partners and supporters.

Our Supporters

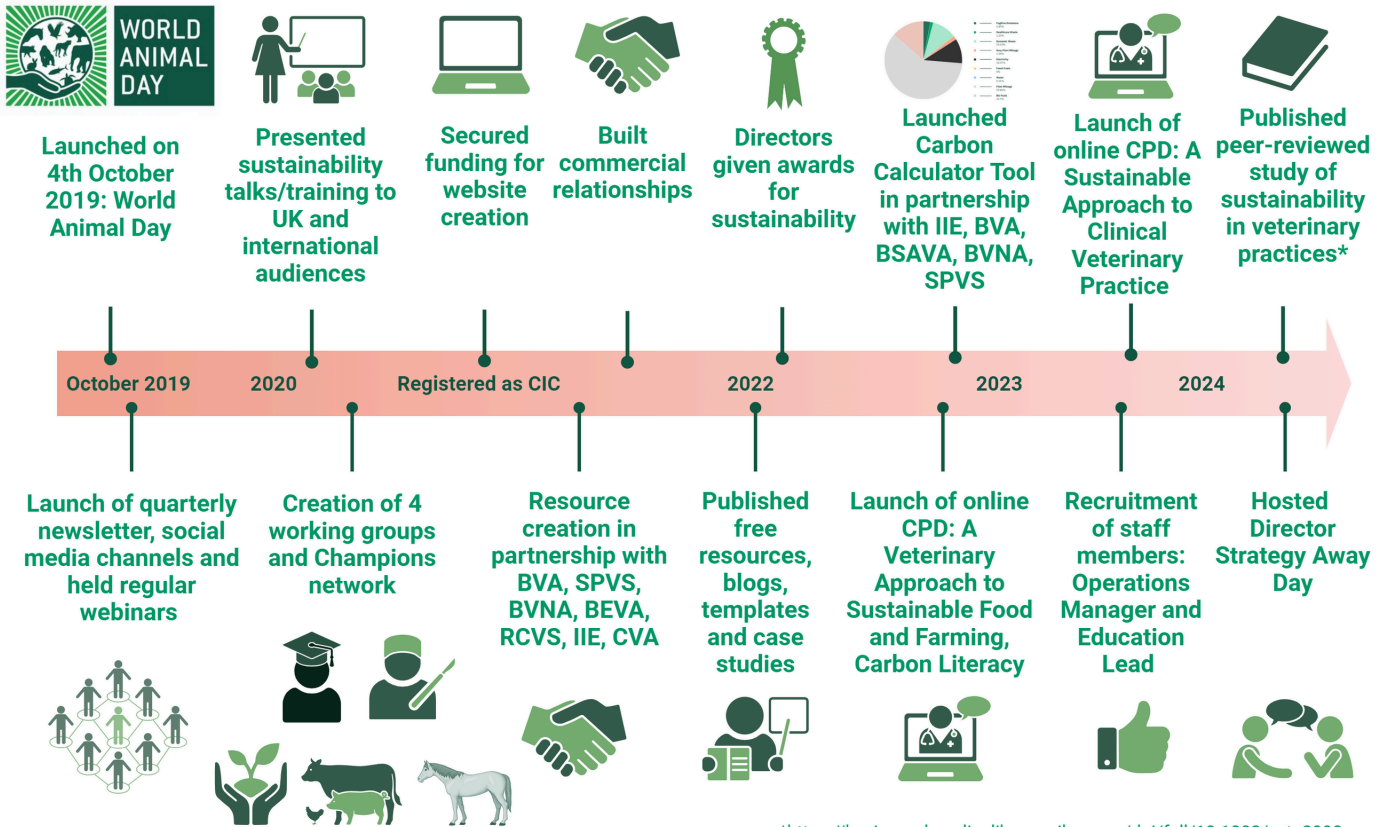


Our Partners



www.vetsustain.org/network

Our Sustainability Journey So Far



*<https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/vetr.2998>

Our Wider Reach

“ Vet Sustain’s impact update is a testament to the dedication and hard work behind its myriad of initiatives that are collectively driving vital sustainability actions across the veterinary professions. The influence Vet Sustain has had in creating a more One Health conscious and environmentally aware profession is significant. BVA is proud to have collaborated on and supported its carbon calculator and sustainability webinar series and will continue to encourage and support vet teams to consider their role in improving environmental sustainability. ”

Dr Anna Judson, BVSc, MSc, MRCVS
BVA President

“ Bristol Vet school is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its foundation as we roll out a new curriculum which has sustainability teaching at its core. The new curriculum is case-based and focussed on students developing enhanced communication and clinical skills, with the intended learning outcomes of all teaching being reviewed against the Vet Sustain Veterinary Sustainability Goals. ”

Professor David Barrett BSc, BVSc, FRCVS, Cert CHP(RCVS), DBR(Liv.), DCHP(RCVS), Dip ECBHM, FHEA
University of Bristol

“ Vet Sustain’s establishment and growth over the past 5 years has marked an important and welcome development in the UK veterinary professions, at a time when societal and planetary issues are so pressing. I have always been keen to encourage veterinary professionals to be strong advocates for mitigating climate change, particularly by improving animal welfare and efficiencies in livestock farming, and Vet Sustain’s tools and resources support these solutions, amongst many more. It has been a pleasure to be an Ambassador for Vet Sustain since their inception, and I look forward to supporting progress in the years to come ”

Professor the Lord Trees FRCVS, FMedSci, HonFRSE
House of Lords

“ Veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses have an important role to play in the sphere of environment and sustainability. Their work with animals, from livestock to pets, gives them a unique opportunity to advise and support owners in this area. It is also important that the veterinary professions find ways to increase the sustainability of their own work. We commend the work of Vet Sustain, whose activities have provided many useful resources to aid the veterinary professions in this critical area. ”

Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS, RCVS President
Lead for Sustainability

Our Achievement in Numbers

ENABLE

3

Modular CPD courses developed

A Veterinary Approach to Sustainable Food and Farming
Carbon Literacy
A Sustainable Approach to Veterinary Clinical Practice

21

Free Webinars Run

142

Free Resources Created

5

Sustainability Guides created

Environmental Sustainability Policy Template
Greener Veterinary Practice Checklist
Greener Veterinary Practice Procurement Guide
Student Sustainability Guide
Food and Farming Factsheet

420

Hours of CPD provision for veterinary professionals

In collaboration with SPVS

65

Blogs written

1

Veterinary Carbon Calculator created

37

Sustainability press articles released

INSPIRE



116

Veterinary professionals trained in carbon literacy

>90,000

KG CO2e saved



100

Veterinary professionals trained in sustainable food and farming



793

Registrations for GVP webinar series

>20

Conference presentations, workshops, posters, key note speakers

BCVA
VetEd
BSAVA



5

Awards to Directors and community members recognising commitments to sustainability

Sean Wensley

World Veterinary Association Global Animal Welfare Award

Laura Higham

RCVS Inspiration Award

Zoe Halfacree

Green Veterinary Individual of the Year

Paragon Vet Group

Outstanding' in the RCVS Environmental Sustainability Award

Laura Binnie

Webinar Vet Green Individual Vet Personality of the Year

NETWORK



4

Working groups created

78

Members across curriculum, farming, equine greener veterinary practice



10

UK Vet Schools represented in the curriculum working group



>3500

Members of our Veterinary Sustainability Forum

2500

Followers on Facebook



2250

Followers on LinkedIn

1350

Followers on Instagram



26

Members of our Champion Network



20

Commercial supporters and partnerships



14

Sustainability case studies showcasing sustainability initiatives in practice

Hear from our Team

**Ellie Duffy: Vet Sustain
Operations Manager**



“Over the last five years Vet Sustain has grown significantly as an organisation and community. Our expansive network of volunteers, working groups, consultants and partners have enabled us to equip the veterinary profession with a huge number of brilliant sustainability tools, training and resources to enact change for a more sustainable future. It gives me hope for the future to see dedicated people from across our professions pushing for, and actioning, sustainable change through their work, and it’s brilliant to see the role that Vet Sustain has had, and continues to have, in enabling veterinary professionals to be the change-makers we need.”

“It has been such a pleasure to join the Vet Sustain team this last year. Despite learning so much about the complex sustainability issues that our wonderful planet is facing in this role, I have realised that my knowledge is just the tip of the iceberg, and that there is so much more to learn and do. As such, I have really appreciated the community support and perspective that Vet Sustain brings. I am in awe of the wonderful volunteers who give up their time and expertise and who are the main forces behind the wonder that is Vet Sustain! I am looking forward to the next 12 months as we look to the future together.”

**Hannah Davies: Vet Sustain
Education Lead**



**Dr Laura Higham: Vet
Sustain Founder & Director**



“What a 5 years it's been! When we first started talking about establishing Vet Sustain in 2019, it was like lighting a touch-paper; our professions were ready and equipped to come together to help tackle the interlocking sustainability challenges we face. It's been amazing to see sustainability being integrated into our professional work, from individual action to organisational strategies. Thanks to our band of passionate volunteer directors, working group members and team, and all the individuals and organisations that have supported us, we're proud that Vet Sustain has contributed to the progress of our professions.”

Looking to the future

In approaching complex sustainability issues, our values guide our interactions and our decision-making. As we look towards the future our focus will be to deliver our mission and work towards sustaining Vet Sustain through reliable income from people and organisations who value what we do and see the impact of their support.

We are bold

We are not afraid to challenge norms and drive new solutions to pressing challenges

We are kind

We are respectful and open to new ideas in our interactions with each other and the wider community

We are positive

We are solutions-orientated and constructive in our dialogue

We are scientific

We refer to peer-reviewed and current science where it exists to progress our ideas

Get in Touch: There are many ways you can help us continue to make a difference in enabling and inspiring veterinary professionals in their sustainability journey. Do get in touch if you would like to find out more about how you can help further, we'd love to hear from you at www.vetsustain.org/contact-us

Donate
to support our work:

