

Where Do I Start?

Thank you for purchasing the Veterinary Carbon Calculator, brought to you by Vet Sustain in collaboration with Investors in the Environment. We are thrilled you have taken the first step towards understanding the operational carbon footprint of your veterinary business and putting positive measures in place to reduce your environmental impact!

This carbon calculator will enable you to convert your business resource use into carbon dioxide equivalent, breaking down your business impact into 5 key areas, energy, travel, waste, refrigerants and anaesthetic gases, allowing you to identify areas of high use. For each business, resource use may differ depending on the building and services you offer; within the calculator we capture your business type to allow for future comparison and benchmarking

The list below covers a wide range of inputs (resources) that the calculator can convert into carbon dioxide equivalents. Whilst this may look a little overwhelming, many may not be relevant for your organisation and for some, while you may consume or produce the resource, you may not have accurate or up to date measurements.

Start with the information you do have and use our [Data Collection Checklist](#) to identify the information you need to capture. Over time, your carbon footprint will change as you start to measure more resources and introduce improvements to your systems, equipment and processes.

The checklist below covers the inputs, along with suggestions on where this information is most easily sourced:

- Practice information including the number of full time equivalent employees – Payroll or HR department.
- Electricity/Water/Gas usage – Either meter readings or energy bills
- Burning oil (kerosene) or gas oil (red diesel) – Invoices showing litres purchased

- Fuels such as LPG tanks, for equipment (if applicable) - Invoices showing litres purchased or for LPG this may show kg weight
- Biofuels/biomass such as wood pellets, grass/straw etc - Invoices typically showing tonnes purchased
- Company owned vehicles and either the fuel purchased or miles travelled – Will depend on reporting system, fuel purchased is tracked via fuel cards or equivalent system or business expense claims showing miles travelled
- Staff owned vehicles – either mileage or expense claims made by staff, if only costs are available, divide the cost by the rate paid to work out miles travelled.
- Anaesthetics such as Isoflurane/Sevoflurane bottles or Nitrous Oxide canisters – Invoices showing quantity of bottles or canisters purchased.
- Refrigerants within air conditioning or refrigeration plant (if applicable) – Servicing records will show any refrigerant that has been added into the system (recharged).
 - Systems are not always recharged but speak with your servicing company for advice.
- Domestic Waste: – Weights are typically provided on invoices from waste companies (not always available).
 - General / Black bag waste
 - Recycling waste
 - Composting / Anaerobic Digestion (Food waste)
 - Veterinary Care Waste: – Typically weight provided by waste company, some may be provided in litres (for example Sharps) (but not always available)
 - Offensive waste
 - Clinical waste
 - Sharps
 - Cytotoxic waste
 - Anatomical
 - Pharmaceutical

Ready to get started? Then [login](#) to your calculator dashboard where you can access the calculator, along with other supporting resources.