

Environmental Policy March 2025

Beechwood Vets provides veterinary care to animals in Leeds and the surrounding area. Beechwood Vets is owned by VetPartners and comprises five branches.

At Beechwood Vets we take pride in offering a compassionate, dedicated and high-quality service to our clients. We acknowledge that our operations have an effect on the environment and have identified the key impacts that contribute to our environmental and carbon footprint:

- o Consumption of electricity, gas and water
- o Use of volatile halogenated anaesthetic gases
- o Waste production and disposal
- o Paper usage
- o Transport of personnel and animals
- o Medicines usage and disposal
- o Procurement of goods and services

Beechwood Vets is committed to reducing our environmental impact through a journey of continual improvement. Our environmental commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below:

- Compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and public/customer expectations
- To have a dedicated and active Green Group to empower members of the team to continuously drive change within the practice
- To monitor our key resource usage and implement conservation techniques to achieve our environmental targets
- To implement a waste/recycling policy to reduce our waste production
- To implement a sustainable procurement policy
- To publish an annual organisational sustainability report which can be accessed on our website
- To align ourselves with the wider VetPartners Sustainability Strategy
- To discuss our sustainability progress at Senior Management meetings

- To engage with staff and clients to encourage climate action and sustainable animal care
- To minimise our emissions due to fleet vehicles
- To practise responsible medicines usage and disposal
- To take part in One Health and CSR sustainability projects with our staff
- To work with suppliers to ensure they acknowledge and decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation
- To undertake independent annual audit (iiE)

We will continue to improve our environmental management system through annual reviews and updates, taking into account any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all our employees ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

We have an appointed Sustainability Champion and they have designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy.

Beechwood Vets will make this policy available when requested to interested parties and members of the public. A copy of our Environmental Policy can also be found on our website.

Waste Reduction Plan

We have looked at ways in which we can reduce the waste that we produce and have put additional measures in place

- We have undertaken new ways of recycling to include
 - Theatre Packaging
 - Gloves
 - Gowns
 - Drapes
 - Face Masks
 - Sterilisation pouches
 - Hair nets
 - Kennel liners
 - Shoe covers
 - Beard covers
 - These are now recycled through Terracycle

- We have introduced more efficient washing appliances to reduce washing times/water use and reduce the amounts of detergent we are using also. Thus reducing our energy use and better for water courses
- Recycling/packaging of incineration products by using BIO BINS instead of hard plastic single use DOOP bins
- We have introduced the recycling of blister packs from discarded medications through Terracycle and actively promote this to clients
 - Promoting the responsible disposal of medications benefits waterways, human health, antibiotic resistance and incineration emissions
- We now only stock recyclable bucket collars for cats, dogs and rabbits. These can be recycled in our recycling bin or clients recycling bin at home and we actively encourage this or for them to be re-used
 - This aids in the reduction of virgin plastics
- We recycle printer cartridges through Complete solutions
- We are actively reducing the amount of clinical waste bags used by auditing staff behaviour as to what materials are being placed in them and educating as to the waste journey that they entails
 - We encourage that smaller amounts of clinical waste are entered into 1 bag thus reducing the number being sent for incineration
- We are auditing all appliances throughout the Practice as to what can be 'turned off' or put in power saving modes to reduce energy use and carbon footprint where possible
 - This will be audited so as to be more measurable in the future
- All staff are reminded of our obligations to continual improvement of environmental issues and any new protocols as they arise and minimise waste streams where possible

Signed:



Kelly Mann RVN

Position: Practice Manager

Date: 3rd April 2025