

BSDHT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Dentistry as a profession should integrate sustainable development goals into daily practice and support a shift to a green economy in the pursuit of healthy lives and well-being for all through all stages of life.

Our organisation recognises the important of sustainable practices to protect the environment, support the local community and ensure long term success. Therefore, we are committed to implementing the following sustainability policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will minimise our environmental impact by:

- Conserving energy and water resources
- Reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling wherever possible
- Promoting sustainable transportation practices
- Supporting environmentally responsible suppliers and partners
- Continuously seeking ways to improve our environmental performance
- Supporting the sustainable goals of Bragborough Hall Business Centre

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will support the local community by:

- Creating job opportunities and fostering economic growth
- Promoting diversity and inclusion in our workforce
- Ensuring fair and ethical labour practices throughout our supply chain
- Respecting the human rights of all individuals and groups

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY

We will operate in a financially responsible manner by:

- Maintaining a profitable and sustainable business model
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in our financial reporting
- Investing in the long-term success of our organisation and stakeholders
- Encouraging innovation and continuous improvement in all aspects of our operations

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

- We will comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to sustainability and report on our progress towards achieving our sustainability goals and we will also encourage open communication and collaboration with our stakeholders.

Actions and aims to meet our sustainability responsibilities are detailed in this policy.

ACTIONS AND ITEMS TO CONSIDER

TRAVEL

A recent study commissioned by Public Health England measured the carbon emissions and calculated the carbon footprint of dental services. It found that unlike the NHS wider health service footprint (where the carbon emissions contribution of travel is smaller), the highest proportion of emissions in dentistry is from travel (64.5%)

To reduce the carbon footprint, we have looked at and surveyed travel patterns of our staff to find out how they currently travel and what could help them to incorporate more walking or cycling

- We have encouraged and promoted active travel and public transport options such as car sharing for OHC, meetings and events.
- We have provided showers, changing facilities, lockers, and secure cycle parking at the head office
- We have signed up to the Governments Cycle to Work Scheme
- We will investigate the transport of goods and consider if it can be made more sustainable
- Where possible we try to get Council members and Exec to attend meetings together and travelling together
- Used information technology (e.g., Zoom conference calls) to reduce staff travel

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Why is it important?

The manufacture and distribution of any object has an environmental impact, requiring input of raw materials and energy, often accompanied by release of pollutants to air, land and water as well as changes to land use and biodiversity.

These impacts are often not visible to us at the point of use, whether of paper, plastic packaging, instruments and oral hygiene products and materials. However, for the NHS in England, for example, supply chain emissions make up 57% of the total carbon footprint.

We can influence the environmental impact of our equipment and supplies by reviewing routine practices to ensure that items are only used when they are necessary, looking for environmentally friendly alternatives and by engaging with suppliers to develop more sustainable practices.

We need to consider

- Use of social media and online tools to communicate with our members
- Choose recyclable, reusable products especially in our stationery items and printing of our dental health magazines.
- Consider Fairtrade items for our grocery products
- Choose 2-3 of our most used products and get our supplier to complete a sustainability/ethical questionnaire
- Choose suppliers who use minimal/ environmentally friendly packaging
- Manage our stock to reduce purchasing products you don't need and may waste

MANAGING DENTAL HEALTH

Why?

- Paper and timber are sourced from trees. A tonne of paper requires 24 trees to be cut down, and more than 350 litres of water are needed for processing and transport to produce this paper.
- Engaging with suppliers and developing a questionnaire for assessing their sustainability practices when procuring paper and timber helps to ensure the products and their delivery are as sustainable as possible, as well as encouraging suppliers to develop more sustainable practices.
- Ensuring both the paper and timber we procure meets the Government Buying Standards (GBS) via their checklists can help to guarantee the sustainability and legality of the products you purchase, with specifications on the minimum recycled content of paper products and best practice being highlighted.
- Managing our plastic purchasing and waste
- Plastic is having an increasingly detrimental impact on the environment, biodiversity, and health. 79% of the plastic produced over the last 70 years has been thrown into landfill sites or into the environment, with only 9% of it being recycled and the rest incinerated. 8 million tonnes of plastic enters our oceans each year. Plastic does not naturally biodegrade but breaks down into smaller 'micro-plastics'. It can absorb other chemicals and can enter the food chain, poisoning wildlife, destroying ecosystems, and putting human health at risk.
- We work in a profession (dentistry) that produces a huge amount of waste plastic from plastic cups, disposable syringes, gloves, single use instruments, oral hygiene products, stationery and more.

We can consider

- Using glass/ceramic/steel cups, glasses, cutlery, and plates when having catered meetings and for staff to use. This should be followed through to OHC
- Liaise with dental product manufacturers about the sustainability and recycling potential of their products by asking them if they have signed up to the UK Plastics Pact.
- Requesting companies supply samples in paper or recycled bags

Action we have taken

Warners have made huge investments over the years continually upgrading their machinery to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste:

- Paper: they are an FSC® certified merchant.
The FSC® promotes responsible management of the world's forests and printed materials carrying the FSC® logo are guaranteed to have been printed on paper that originated from sustainably managed forests, recycled paper or a combination of both. Paper waste has been minimised by investment into efficient technologies such as closed loop colour, new machinery, staff training and years of experience within the industry.
- Printing plates: The second biggest raw material in the printing of magazines is the aluminium printing plates which are 100% recyclable after use.
- Energy: 100% of their (Warners) power is from renewable sources, with increasing use of their own solar panels.
- Warners have decreased their carbon foot print by over 50% since 2015

- ISO 14001 certified for environmental responsibility
- 99.6% of Warner's generated waste was sent for re-use, recycling or recovery.
- Warners have a continuous policy of replacing equipment even down to light bulbs with more energy efficient machinery and equipment
- Wherever possible paperwrap is used for the journal. Where we need to use polywrap, this can be recycled in the collecting points at supermarkets alongside plastic bags.

Reduce chemical waste

Why is it important?

- Chemicals used in cleaning can be hazardous to human health and to the environment. Research shows that household cleaners, paints and perfumes have become substantial sources of urban pollution.
- Finding ways to and use products with both safer and more sustainable chemicals will have environmental benefits and health benefits for staff.

We can:

- Use less toxic and more sustainable/eco- friendly cleaning products.
- Such as Method and bioD products.
- Possibly find a refill shop or station for cleaning products used in our office.

How to: Engage your suppliers to become more sustainable

Engaging with suppliers and developing a questionnaire for assessing their sustainability practices when procuring goods is a good way to establish whether the products and their delivery are as environmentally sustainable as they can be and can also encourage suppliers to develop more sustainable practices.

The questionnaire can cover areas such as food, supply chain, materials and chemicals, recycling and packaging, carbon emissions, energy use and travel.

Ask all suppliers if they have a sustainability statement and ask if you can be emailed a copy.

Suggested Questionnaire for manufacturers.

We take the sourcing of our products seriously. We try to ensure that we buy products from ethical sources and from a supplier that takes an active interest in minimising their impact on the environment.

We would like our members to be given this information, so they are able to see that we are committed in helping our future and our environment. With this in mind we are now starting to classify our products depending on some of the environmental issues involved.

GENERAL POLICY

Does the manufacturer and/or distributor have their own environmental policy and sustainability report?

Does the manufacturer and/or distributor have an environmental, quality management or health and safety management system in place (e.g., ISO14001, ISO9001, OHSAS18001) or any other environmental certifications?

Sustainable food?

- Does the manufacturer have a goal to increase employee access to local, sustainable food in cafeterias etc.?

Sustainable supply chain?

- Can the manufacturer trace the supply of the product back to the original manufacturer and if so, where was the item produced?
- Can the manufacturer trace the supply of materials back to the original raw materials?

Ethical supply chain

- In terms of labour used at the factory - can we be reassured that the standards within the manufacturing factory are humane and ethical?
- Does your company have an established environmentally and sustainable preferable purchasing and supply chain program? If so, please describe.
- Does the manufacturer and/or supplier employ children to work at any of its facilities?
- Is the workers freedom of movement unreasonably constrained by the manufacturer and/or supplier? Do employees receive a fair wage for their work (at or above national minimum wage)?
- What policies and/or management systems are in place to ensure worker health and safety, including reasonable hours worked?
- Does the manufacturer and/or supplier have any labour related certifications (e.g. fair trade, social accountability, unionized)?

Materials and Chemicals

- Does the company have a commitment to know all of the chemical and material ingredients of products sold by your company and its subsidiaries? If yes, is the list publicly available?
- Are any of the materials used in the manufacturer of the product considered to be harmful to the environment?
- Do the materials used to make the product come from a natural and sustainable source?
- What is the environmental impact of the material and process used to make the product? (Are toxins released into the environment during manufacture?)
- Does the product contain any plastic? And if so, is it pure or composite material?
- Is the plastic a petroleum based plastic or natural based acetate?
- Does the product contain metal alloys? In what concentrations?
- Does the product contain any dyes, paints or other additives? If so, is the chemical information available?

Packaging and recycling

- Does the manufacturer and or suppliers make any attempt to reduce the environmental impact of their packaging?
- Is the product of raw material of the product recyclable?
- Does the company offer any end-of-life product take-back programs, including electronics? If so, please list all items you take back for responsible recycling, donation, or reuse, and outline the process for participating in the program 28.

- What percent of total weight or volume of manufacturing input material is recycled material? (Use Global Reporting Initiative ((GRI)) estimation methods to obtain answer)
- What percent of total waste generated by your company and its subsidiaries was recycled or reused?

Carbon emissions

- Has the product had a carbon footprint undertaken?
- Has the company measured and taken steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)?

Energy use

- In the previous year what percent of energy in your company and its subsidiaries consumed was derived from eligible renewable sources?

Travel use

- Does your company have a sustainable travel plan?
- Follow Government Buying Standards (GBS) when purchasing goods - this will ensure procured goods meet legal and sustainable standards, and that paper has a high recycled content.

ENERGY

The buildings energy use makes up 15% of the carbon footprint of offices in healthcare. As well as contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, energy generation from fossil fuels is a significant source of air pollution, which in turn is responsible for 40,000 premature deaths each year in the UK.

Reducing energy consumption and investing in renewable electricity generation offer significant environmental, health and cost benefits for the association. Bragborough Hall prides itself on its sustainability principles and maintains strict controls around heating, light and waste.

Waste

Disposing of our waste and sending it to landfill or incineration has a major environmental impact through release of greenhouse gases and pollution of air, land and water.

However, more than 90% of the environmental impact of most products occurs in manufacture and distribution, i.e., before a packet is ever opened. So, where possible, we need to reduce the purchase and use of items in the first place to achieve the greatest environmental (and financial) savings.

A 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle' policy in the office will help to minimise waste and divert from landfill and incineration, saving money and reducing emissions.

Bragborough Hall maintains a strict recycling policy for all its and its clients waste materials, including paper, food, and general waste.

We can

- Purchase less
- Influence manufacturers to support reduce/ reuse/ recycle
- Reduce paper use

- Buy durable equipment
- Waste less water
- Re-use, up-cycle office equipment
- Categorise and segregate your waste
- Manage food waste
- Undertake a waste audit

Becoming a paper-free office or reducing your paper usage can have a positive impact on the environment. Paper has a surprisingly high carbon footprint owing to the carbon emissions produced from its production cycle, accounting for more than 7% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Scanning, telephone calls, email and text messaging can be used as alternative methods of communication. Moving to digital communication often has many other benefits: saving staff time, improving transfer of information between members and staff.

Where using paper is necessary, printing on both sides of each page, using recycled paper and recycling paper waste can all contribute towards reducing waste, as can regularly monitoring and auditing paper consumption.