

BVA environmental policy

Who we are

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 18,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We, therefore, take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters and the wellbeing of the profession.

Our commitment

At BVA, we are striving to reduce our impact on the environment and to demonstrate leadership within the veterinary profession and in representing the profession in wider society. We acknowledge that our operations have an effect on the environment in terms of the use of raw materials, emissions to air and water, and waste generation.

We recognise that the health of animals, humans and the environment are inextricably linked. Environmental degradation affects the health and wellbeing of our employees and members, animal health and welfare, and public health. Our work is therefore strengthened by protecting the safety, health and environment of our employees, our members, and the people and animals of the communities in which we and our members work.

Implementation

We are committed to working with our staff, members, suppliers, contractors, colleagues and neighbours to achieve the following objectives:

- Reducing our waste, and reusing and recycling materials when possible
- Implementing water and energy conservation techniques
- Producing a Travel Policy for BVA and reducing unsustainable transport use
- Working with suppliers to ensure they acknowledge and decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation
- Publishing and distributing an annual organisational sustainability report
- Calculating BVA's Carbon Footprint and identifying ways to reduce this
- Sourcing 100% renewable energy from our utilities suppliers in 2022
- Aiming to achieve Investors in the Environment silver accreditation by the end of 2021

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

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all employees, visitors and contractors to fully support this policy through active participation and cooperation. The facilities team have designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy. BVA will make this policy available on request to interested parties, including members of the public, and a copy will be available on BVA's website. Any questions or suggestions can be sent to greengroup@bva.co.uk

Signed:  Date: 9.9.21

BVA Chief Executive