

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 19,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the whole UK veterinary profession. We provide leadership on a wide range of issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues, 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:

- Reduce our waste, and reuse and recycle materials when possible
- Implement water and energy conservation techniques
- Update our Travel Policy for BVA and reduce unsustainable transport use
- Work with suppliers to ensure they acknowledge and decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation
- Publish and distribute an annual organisational sustainability report
- Calculate BVA's Carbon Footprint and identify ways to reduce this
- Continue to use 100% renewable energy from our utilities suppliers
- Comply with all applicable standards and legal requirements
- Maintain our Investors in the Environment Green accreditation in 2023

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: 15th September 2023

BVA Chief Executive