

Green Vets Environmental Sustainability Policy

Green Vets Services Limited June 2026

About us

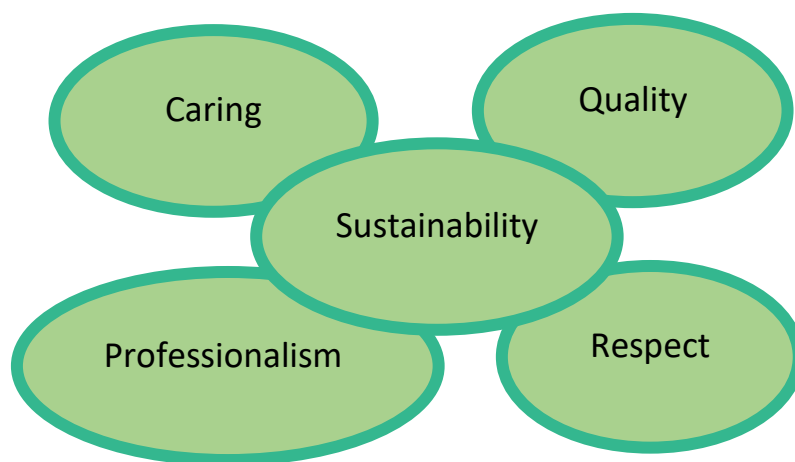
Green Vets is an independent, eco-conscious first opinion veterinary practice in Acomb, York, offering high-quality first opinion companion animal care with a focus on environmental and community responsibility. Staffed by a dedicated team, we emphasize building rapport with clients and providing detailed, empathetic, and transparently priced care.

Our vision is to deliver clinical excellence and genuine care for patients using environmentally and community sustainable principles.

Our mission is to continuously improve clinical standards whilst reducing our negative impact on the environment and make positive contributions to sustainability of the environment and our local community.

Our motto is "Healthy Pets, Happy People". It is our foundation. It is what our business is all about.

Our values follow from it, and they describe what drives us. Our core values are part of everything we do. Here they are marked in Green - of course.



Our environmental commitment

We support [Vet Sustain's veterinary sustainability goals](#). We acknowledge that our veterinary activities, services and operations have an impact on the environment and have identified key impacts related to our business that contribute to our environmental and carbon footprint. Through the implementation of this

sustainability policy we will encourage wide reaching participation, working to reduce these impacts, whilst upholding the highest standards of animal health, welfare and clinical care for our patients.

Key Impacts

Even though 'being Green' is a constant thread through our business, we too have an impact on the environment. If we want to deliver services to our patients and clients, we need to use electricity, gas and chemicals. Without that, we would simply not be able to look after the animals under our care.

Currently, only UK quoted companies and large business must disclose their annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and related information. There is no such requirement for small businesses. However, we have always recognised the need for early voluntary action, and through that inspire other businesses to do the same.

We have used [Vet Sustain](#) to calculate our practice carbon footprint, and we can report that our April 2025 – April 2026 emissions are 13.78 Tons CO2 equivalent. Click [here](#) to see the full report.

This covers our direct, or Scope 1 emissions such as:

- Natural gas for heating the building
- Fuel for staff vehicles during business use
- Inverter heat pump refrigerant loss during servicing
- Anaesthetic gas used during procedures

And our indirect, or Scope 2 emissions such as:

- Emissions created by the production of electricity the business uses.

And some indirect, Scope 3 emissions such as:

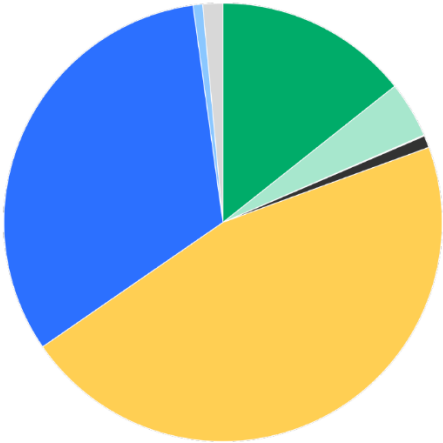
- Waste we generate.

Green Vets 2025

2025



Total: 13.78 Tonnes CO2e



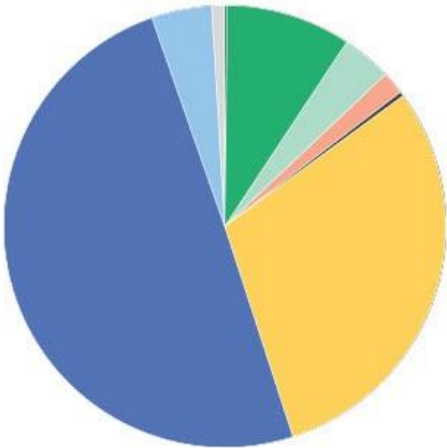
- Refrigerants
0.00 tonnes
- Anaesthetic Gases
1.98 tonnes
- Healthcare Waste
0.57 tonnes
- Domestic Waste
0.01 tonnes
- Grey Fleet Mileage
0.12 tonnes
- Electricity
6.33 tonnes
- Fossil Fuels
4.47 tonnes
- Water
0.10 tonnes
- Fleet Mileage
0.20 tonnes
- Biofuels
0.00 tonnes

Green Vets

2023



Total: 16.23 Tonnes CO2e



- Refrigerants
0.03 tonnes
- Anaesthetic Gases
1.48 tonnes
- Healthcare Waste
0.59 tonnes
- Domestic Waste
0.27 tonnes
- Grey Fleet Mileage
0.05 tonnes
- Electricity
4.88 tonnes
- Fossil Fuels
8.06 tonnes
- Water
0.72 tonnes
- Fleet Mileage
0.15 tonnes
- Biofuels
0.00 tonnes

Gathering data about emissions is not straightforward and some assumptions had to be made. Commercial waste are estimates based on an average weight per collection. We aim to gather more reliable data and improve the accuracy of future reports.

We have identified other key business activities that contribute to our overall environmental and carbon footprint that are not yet included in our published carbon footprint such as:

- Carbon emissions from staff & customer travel
- Consumption of raw materials (including prescribed drugs, medical plastics, needles)
- Use of parasiticides
- Use of antimicrobials
- Procurement of other goods & services

Actions

Having identified the key environmental impacts of our practice, we commit to reducing these through a journey of continual improvement. By utilising the following principles of the [Vet Sustain Greener Veterinary Practice Checklist](#), we pledge to contribute to a healthy environment for our employees and patients through the following actions:

1. Practice responsible resource use:

- a) Reduce fossil fuel use for energy and heating by remembering to turn appliances off and switching to renewable energy:

We have purchased a share in Derril Water Solar Park, the UK's largest community-owned solar farm, located near Pyworthy, Devon. This project will be generating 22,000 kWh per year for us, covering around 85% of our electricity needs. Derril Water Solar Park supports the national grid by feeding green power into the local network in the autumn of 2026.

- b) Make sustainable choices when purchasing equipment or consumables:

We have started using an in-house reverse osmosis (RO) machine that produces de-ionised water for our autoclaves and dental machine. Previously we bought distilled water which had to be transported to the practice on a regular basis. With our own RO device, we now have de-ionised water 'on-tap'.

- c) Put water-saving measures in place:

We reuse the water generated by our steam autoclaves to water our house and garden plants

2. Being sustainable in our operation:

- a) Reduce carbon emissions from conferencing, education and practice meetings:

We reduce carbon emissions from practice meetings/conference attendance by encouraging in-house and on-line CPD where possible. If external CPD locations cannot be avoided, we only fund travel by rail or shared car use. We do not fund CPD or travel that is associated with air travel.

- b) Create a travel-policy to reduce emissions from business travel, commuting and freight:

We are piloting a travel policy to reduce emissions associated with commuting and business travel. It supports greener transport to work through a EV salary sacrifice scheme.

- c) Minimise the greenhouse gas impacts of anaesthetic agents:

We already use low-flow sevoflurane anaesthesia and are exploring sevoflurane capture technology with the potential to reuse the anaesthetic gas.

- d) Enhance on-site green spaces and promote biodiversity in surroundings:

We have created on-site green spaces and promote biodiversity in our surroundings. We have joined forces with the [British Bee Veterinary Association](#), and are a Bee Friendly Practice. This is a national programme encouraging veterinary practices to plant flowering plants that will attract pollinating bees. We have already planted 80m² of borders in our practice car park and back garden with lots of bee friendly flowering plants, and are planning more.

3. Use medicines responsibly:

- a) Practise responsible antimicrobial stewardship (including antiparasitic) to mitigate resistance:

We have two antibiotic stewards in the practice, and have displayed the BVA antibiotic awareness poster. We review and audit antibiotic use and patient outcomes for specific procedures.

We do not have a blanket policy for antiparasitics and anthelmintics, but rather perform individual animal specific risk assessments, reducing the overall environmental burden of these chemicals.

- b) Dispose of drugs correctly (avoid ecotoxicity):

We have a strict standard operating procedures for drug disposal, which is communicated with our staff through traceable in-house learning systems. By being incinerated, remaining medicines will not contaminate water sources.

4. Empower the team:

- a) Support staff wellbeing and development, through sustainability education and projects.

Environmental sustainability policies are communicated to the team through traceable in-house learning systems and newsletters. We are prioritising staff team building meetings to focus around environmental and community sustainability projects.

- b) Recognise that good health and wellbeing supports all aspects of practice operations.

Our practice culture statement commits to an environment where:

- People feel they can be their selves at work, where they can be open and honest, where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities.
- Where people can grow in confidence, through rewarding experiences with both people and animals
- Where employees support each other both professionally and personally
- Where the employers are also caring, flexible, understanding and listen to the employees
- Where management is open to conversations, asked questions of and to gain reassurance when the staff require it. That can be trusted. That is honest, supportive and coaching
- Where success is measured through owner satisfaction and animal care overall. By being appreciative of good work
- Where employees feel diversity and inclusivity is a priority.
- A place where unhealthy competition is not promoted, and where employees feel they are treated fairly
- Where the work done impacts the environment positively
- Where people feel safe and do not have to worry about harassment
- Where there is a continuous learning environment, encouraging employees to be critical of their current skills and knowledge in order grow, acquire new skills, knowledge and innovation across the organization.

With regular one to ones and appraisals, we ensure employees are being heard and keep a positive focus on the future.

5. Create a green group:

Although environmental sustainability policies are communicated through the team through o traceable in-house learning systems, the sustainability drive has so far been the sole responsibility of senior management. We have created a Green Group, made up of two staff members alongside the senior management person.

Targets

We Green Vets pledge to:

- We have reduced our emissions by 15% CO2 equivalent for the period April 25 to April 26, compared to our 2023 data. This reduction was mainly achieved by progressively moving from natural gas fired central heating to energy-efficient Inverter Heat Pumps. We will continue to optimise the use of these Inverter Heat Pumps by automating heating and cooling schedules and educating staff on efficient ambient temperature settings. We have set ourselves the target of reducing our emissions by another 10% over the next two years.
- Achieve a Sustainability Award through our commitment to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Accreditation Scheme
- Reduce our waste output through our ongoing commitment to recycling:
 - re-cycle empty and unused toner cartridge
 - further our commitment to becoming paper-free practice
 - recycle and compost cardboard
- Reduce our waste output by
 - using reusable items over single use disposables
 - efficient stock control, reducing delivery frequencies.
- Reduce staff commuting related emissions through incentivising EV use through salary sacrifice schemes
- Become carbon neutral by offsetting our remaining emissions by the end of 2028.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Douwes', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rob Douwes GPCert(SAS) MRCVS

Director Green Vets Services Limited