Easy green wins — interactive panel case examples and discussion

**Ellie West, Clare Topping
and April Sotomayor**

Wondering where to start to improve your green credentials in a veterinary practice can be overwhelming. The scale of the environmental and social crisis means that there are many areas to address, and there is no perfect solution to many of the problems. Should you reduce your carbon footprint at the expense of increasing single-use plastic consumption? Will switching to reusable textiles cause more harm due to increased resource use from washing? Is a more environmentally friendly product acceptable if the ethical supply chain cannot be guaranteed? Are we 'green-washing' for our businesses, or implementing effective change? Understanding the

principles of sustainability (and considering all the potential impacts of our activities on 'people, planet and profit') can help us to navigate these murky waters towards clearer seas.

In this session, three people leading sustainable changes within their organizations will take you through examples based on their own experiences to suggest easy and impactful wins, and how to make them happen. Our sustainability managers range from the Sustainability Lead at a private referral veterinary hospital, to the Energy and Sustainability Manager of an NHS Trust, to the Business Support Officer of a national environmental accreditation scheme (Investors in the Environment).

We will be discussing some of the practical challenges in implementing change in a healthcare setting. Interaction and questions from the audience are welcome after each case example during this session, and together we will explore some of the controversies and how they have been approached in each organization. Hot topics on the agenda include why and how to carbon footprint, the significance of the greenhouse gas effects of volatile anaesthetic gases, and joining the circular economy and the spectre of single-use plastics. This session will build on the previous sessions on facilitating behaviour changes, and focus on the changes which will be needed in the future to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

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