

Environmental sustainability policy statement

We are committed to ensuring that we contribute to environmental sustainability through improved energy efficiency and minimising waste production.

This environmental sustainability policy applies to all of our work activities. Sarah Gatley is responsible for implementing the policy and all team members are required to comply with it.

- Energy efficiency will be achieved by reviewing how we heat and cool the practice, the equipment that we use (and how we use it) and lighting
- Water efficiency will be achieved by reducing general consumption and considerate selection of new equipment
- Waste reduction will be achieved by efficient segregation, reuse and recycling wherever possible and in line with current environmental legislation.

We will review this policy on an annual basis.

Signed
[Practice Owner]

Date

Review date:

Energy efficiency

Heating and cooling

- Thermostats are set between 16 and 19 degrees C
- Thermostats, timers and radiator valves are free from obstruction and accessible
- Outside normal working hours, heating is turned off. During normal working hours, the heat is reduced in areas that do not require heating (for example, the store room)
- When the heating is on, the windows and outside doors are kept closed. If the environment becomes too warm, the heating is turned down; we avoid opening windows when the heating is on.
- Cooling and heating systems are not operated at the same time; if it is too warm, the heating is turned down
- Use of air-conditioning is minimised; mechanical devices (for example, fans) and natural ventilation are preferred
- The temperature of hot water is
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We have reduced the temperature of stored water. [However, you must keep the temperature above 60C to prevent Legionnaire's disease.]

We regularly have the boiler serviced and the system is checked for any leaks.

We have draught-proofed/ insulated windows, doors, lofts, boilers and pipes.

Practice equipment

We switch equipment off when it is not in use.

We do not leave computers, lights, copiers, printers, vending machines or water coolers on overnight.

We share printers wherever possible. This prevents printers standing idle and also reduces maintenance costs.

We do not leave equipment on 'stand-by' mode.

We ensure all equipment with 'power-down' devices have them activated.

When buying equipment, we aim to consider the most energy efficient option. Energy consumption can vary greatly depending on equipment age, maintenance, model and manufacturer.

Lighting

We switch off lights when they are not needed.

We have labelled light switches to clearly identify the lights they control.

We clean light fittings regularly to increase the brightness of the lighting.

We maximise natural lighting by ensuring windows are clean and window ledges are not cluttered.

We have installed energy efficient lighting.

Water efficiency tips

Water efficiency – general

We regularly check the water meter as any sudden or unexplained increase in water use can indicate a leak.

We repair any dripping taps as soon as possible.

When purchasing new equipment, we aim to choose the most water-efficient option.

Reducing waste

Wherever possible we segregate any general municipal waste that can be recycled, eg paper / magazines / cardboard / cans / glass.

Other dental practice waste is segregated as appropriate and disposed of in line with current Environment Agency requirements.

Purchasing products

Wherever possible we will purchase and use environmentally responsible products for the practice based on criteria including low toxicity or environmental hazard, durability, use of recycled materials, reduced energy and/or water consumption, reduced packaging and ability to be recycled, refilled or refurbished at end of life.

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