



ASH TREE VETS

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Ash Tree Vets



WE'RE SHORTLISTED!
Best Carbon
Reduction



RUNNER UP
Best Social
Impact

2024-2025

Annual Sustainability Report

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Key Outcomes

we saved **1.19 tCO₂e** when compared against 2023's carbon footprint. That's the equivalent of the driving 5,639 miles in the average car!



We were awarded 'Runner up' for **Best Social Impact'** In the Investors in the Environment Awards for our work supporting green research with Project DRAPES.



We reduced our isoflurane gas purchasing by **23%** equating to a reduction of **3.6 tonnes of CO₂** from our carbon footprint

We organised some team wellbeing events in nature. We went to see nesting Ospreys in Rutland water and tried Paddleboarding down the river Nene.



Instead of Secret Santa this year the team supported 2 local charities:

We filled 20 tote bags of festive treats, everyday essentials and toiletries to be given to people in need through Leicester Cares 'bags of hope' campaign.

We donated 42 presents for young people and children that would be spending Christmas in hospital through Leicester Hospitals Charity.



Progress and Objectives

This year we have targeted progress in key areas: **Sustainable Resource Management, Waste, Waste management, Carbon footprint, and Community and Environment and Biodiversity projects.**

The notable developments achieved in **2024** within these areas, and the planned next steps to continue progress into **2025** are summarised below.

Sustainable Resource Management



Energy

Actions:

- We have LED lights in all practices
- Previously windows were upgraded at our Harborough branch to increase energy efficiency
- Staff are encouraged to switch all lighting and equipment off when not in use
- We aimed to reduce use by 2%

Progress:

- Electricity:
 - We have seen an **increase in total usage by 8%** compared to 2023.
- Gas:
 - We have seen an **increase in total usage by 15%** compared to 2023
- Increase in electricity use is largely due to the growth of our new Kibworth branch
- Electricity use at Market Harborough and Desborough branches remains ~11% below our 2019 values prior to our energy efficiency upgrades, highlighting the effect these have had.

Next Steps:

- Aim to reduce use by 2% in 2025
- We will investigate smart meter data to highlight periods of high use day to day
- Continue to encourage energy efficient behaviours with staff

Water



Actions:

- We have continued to use water efficient practices like hand sanitisers and alcohol-based scrub techniques and
- We have aimed to use washing facilities as efficiently as possible.
- We aimed to reduce by 2%

Progress

- Total usage of water has **reduced by 19%** since 2024

Next Steps:

- We aim to reduce by 2% in 2025 by continuing efficient use of facilities.

Progress and Objectives



Paper

Actions:

- Many of our process have been digitalised to reduce paper.
- We aim to print only when required and use double sided printing as standard to save paper.
- We aimed to decrease use by 2%.

Progress:

- Paper use **increased by 17%** in 2024 compared to 2023
- This may have been due to increased needs due to several projects and formal communications that have been required.

Next Steps:

- We aim to reduce by 2% in 2025
- We will review process and printer settings given the increased use in 2024



Anaesthetic Gases

Actions:

- We have continued to use isoflurane sparing anaesthetic techniques in our anaesthetic protocols.
- We continue to use additional pain relief such as local anaesthetics to reduce our anaesthetic gas needs.
- We aimed to reduce by 2%

Progress:

- Isoflurane purchasing has **decreased by 23%** in 2024 compared to 2023
- This equates to a reduction in carbon footprint of 3.6 Tonnes CO2 equivalent.

Next Steps:

- We will continue to optimise anaesthetic and pain relief protocols to aim for a further reduction of 2% in 2025.
- Staff will continue to be given training opportunities to achieve this



Waste and Sustainable Procurement

Actions:

- We have separate recycling, domestic and clinical waste in all areas
- We continue to compost waste on site
- We use teracycle bins to recycle flexible plastics associated with single use items e.g. syringes
- Reduce landfill waste by saving shaved pet hair to donate to make matting used in cleaning up oil spills to 'matter of trust'

Progress:

- Disposal of clinical waste **reduced by 1%**
- Disposal of pharmaceutical waste **reduced by 14%**

Next Steps:

- Continue to sort waste into most appropriate waste streams
- Explore more reusable alternatives for single use items

Progress and Objectives

Community and Social Projects



Antibiotic Stewardship:

Many of the team completed RCVS Knowledge training in antibiotic stewardship to support out prescribing protocols. We also underwent training in cytology to support of prescribing decision when treating ear disease.

Project DRAPES:

We recruited over 300 patients for a clinical trial looking at using reusable surgical textiles and reducing waste

Christmas charity:

We donated 20 bags of essentials and 42 toys to children spending Christmas in hospital

Environment and Biodiversity



Osprey bird watching:

A small group of us visited Rutland water to see the visiting Ospreys that come to breed.

Paddle boarding:

The team got outside and went for a paddleboard down the river Nene to enjoy some time in nature. We had a mixture of experienced paddlers and first timers and only 1 person fell in!

Biodiversity planting:

We have continued to maintained pollinator friendly plants in our carpark and planters to encourage bees and butterflies to visit!



PROJECT DRAPES



Carbon Management

To further assess impacts and the positive effects of our sustainability actions we have committed to calculating an annual carbon footprint, that accounts for all Scope 1 and 2, and some Scope 3, emissions.

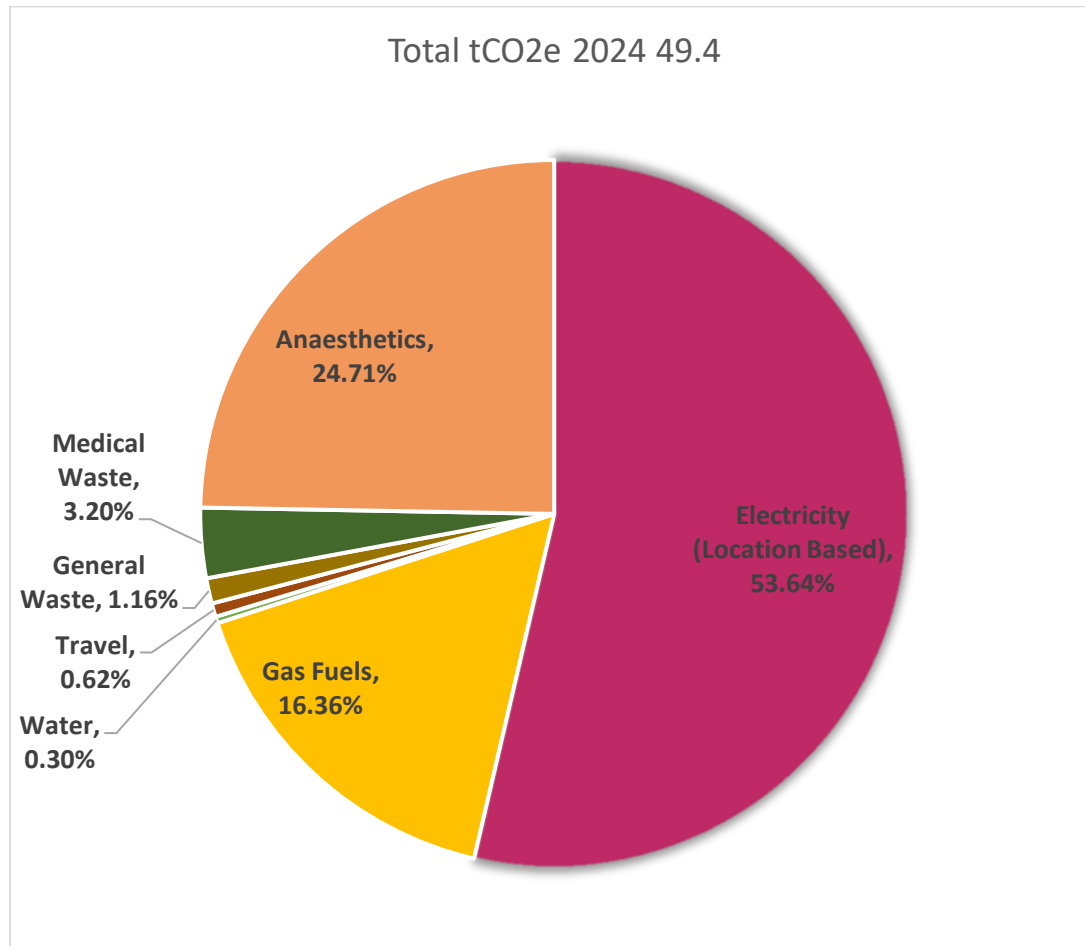
We have measured our carbon footprint from 12 months of the data we have available for energy use, staff travel, waste disposal and anaesthetic gas purchasing.

Our total carbon footprint in 2024 was 49.4 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent compared to 50.59 tonnes CO₂ equivalent in 2023. We have achieved a reduction of 2% (1.19 tonnes) CO₂ compared to 2023. Key actions that have allowed us to achieve this have been continuing to improve the efficiency of anaesthetic gases as these act as potent greenhouse gases

We aim to strive for continual decarbonisation and a further reduction of at least 2% in 2025.

2024 Carbon Footprint

Total tCO₂e 2023: 49.4



*Carbon footprint calculated using the iiE Carbon Calculator