

Sustainability at Ormonde Veterinary Hospital



We began our sustainability journey with EcoMerit in 2022, supported by XLVets and XLVets Skillnet. A comprehensive review of our environmental performance and practices was followed by the creation of our very first improvement plan.



Improvement Actions Identified	32	Improvement Actions In Progress	21	Improvement Actions Completed	6
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All figures verified by [EcoMerit](#).

Every year we review progress on our plan and set ourselves new improvement actions. Real, measurable environmental action has never been more important, and we are determined to play our part in full. The above figures show our progress at the most recent review with EcoMerit.

Notable Actions

Our initial review identified a wide range of improvement opportunities. We prioritised the ones we would implement first. These included setting up our Environmental Management System which allows us to monitor our performance and control our progress.

Our other early actions include:

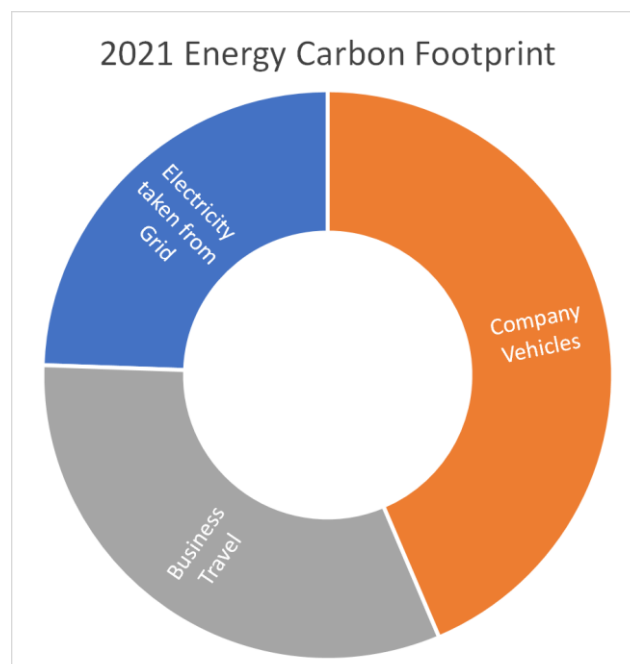
- We have installed a solar PV array on our roof to generate our own renewable electricity.
- We have minimised the use of our tumble drier in favour of air drying whenever possible.
- We have installed sensor controls for lighting in 'occasional use' areas.
- We have discontinued use of single-use plastic cups and bulk bottled water.



Our Carbon Footprint

One of our key performance measures is our carbon footprint. Our 2021 carbon footprint was calculated as 63.8 tonnes of CO_{2eq}. We use this as our baseline year against which we will measure our progress in future years.

The chart below shows the composition of our 2021 carbon footprint.



All figures verified by [EcoMerit](#).

EcoMerit members' carbon footprint must include Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as defined by the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#).

Our premises are all electric and they accounted for 15.6 tonnes of CO_{2eq}.

Our own diesel company vehicles accounted for 27.8 tonnes of CO_{2eq}.

Our staff, when using their own vehicles to visit clients' premises, accounted for a further 20.4 tonnes of CO_{2eq}.

Road fuel accounts for three-quarters of our total carbon footprint, and this points to where our greatest long-term improvement opportunities will lie.



Seeing our carbon footprint for the first time was completely illuminating for us. We had no idea just how much of our environmental impact was due to the diesel we were burning getting to our clients.

While we can, and should, improve in other areas, we now know our biggest challenge.

Aisling Raggett
Practice Manager

Other actions in progress are:

- We are improving our signage on waste bins to help increase our recycling performance.
- We are engaging with our suppliers with the aim of reducing packaging.
- We are investigating the insulation performance of our roof cladding to evaluate any scope for improvement.
- We are insulating the hot water pipes around our water tank to reduce heat loss.



The Journey Begins

We realise that environmental improvement is an ongoing journey rather than a quick fix. It is our responsibility to play our full part in averting the worst effects of the climate and bio-diversity crises.

So far, we have made a great start!

In the coming year we will:

- Monitor the fuel efficiency of each of our company vehicles.
- Introduce automatic temperature monitoring of our pharma fridges in order to avoid the risk of stock losses.
- Review our cleaning materials with a view to introducing eco-friendly alternatives where applicable.

Our longer-term ambitions include:

- Implementing driver training for fuel efficiency.
- Replacing our diesel company vehicles with electric alternatives.
- Setting carbon emission reduction targets and monitoring our progress against them.

We are proud to be a member of the [EcoMerit Community](#). Our partnership with [EcoMerit](#) helps guide us on our sustainability journey and gives us independent verification of our achievements to date.