

Blue Cross environmental commitment

2024



Our mission is to help pets and people thrive together. In working towards this, our organisation has an impact on the environment.

We are committed to:

- protecting the environment by minimising the impact of our activities
- complying with or exceeding all our applicable compliance obligations
- continually improving our environmental performance by developing new strategies



Board and management commitment

This commitment is endorsed by our Board of Trustees and Executive team. The Board and Senior Management team will both review our approach to sustainability and environmental impact. They'll also consider and develop opportunities for continual improvement, at least annually.

Environmental protection

We'll take measures to:

- comply with all relevant legislation, government policies and standards of good practice for environmental management, making sure we meet or exceed all legal requirements they outline

Reduce our emissions from energy consumption and business travel per full time equivalent (FTE) employee by at least 50% by 2030 (using our 2022 emissions as a baseline). This is consistent with the science-based target aligned to limited global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

- prevent or minimise pollution from our operations
- minimise our business travel per FTE. We'll design and implement a sustainable travel policy to ensure that when travel is necessary for organisational purposes we always use the most sustainable means.

- follow the waste hierarchy and minimise waste production. We'll reuse and recycle materials whenever possible, minimising the waste we send to incineration and landfill. We'll monitor and actively reduce our waste and remove avoidable single-use plastic from our operations, products and supply chain.

Our aim is an overall waste reduction of 30% per FTE by 2030 (benchmarked against our 2022 figures).

- minimise the adverse environmental impacts of new buildings, office refurbishments and landscape changes, with good specification and design and use of environmentally sustainable materials
- procure goods and services that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and positively influence our supply chain by developing and implementing our supplier code
- work with our employees and volunteers to ensure they're aware of any relevant policies and appropriately trained to play their part in minimising their own and the organisation's overall environmental impact
- develop biodiversity and land stewardship plans for all our owned sites, and work to increase opportunities for biodiversity on them
- minimise our antimicrobial, including antibacterials and parasiticides, and volatile anaesthetic gas use (both substances can have adverse environmental impacts)

Ensure our energy and water use is environmentally sustainable and increasingly from renewable sources. We aim for all our energy to be renewably sourced by 2030.

- minimise the environmental impact of events we run by considering the above commitments and by designing and following environmental events guidance

We will not invest in companies whose business operations significantly conflict with, or detract from, our organisational objectives, as stated in our Investment policy.

We will consider all the above commitments, and any other relevant sustainability factors, when developing and delivering our overall organisational strategy.

Managing and reporting our environmental impacts

We will monitor and manage the environmental impacts of our activities, including business travel, energy and water usage, waste and recycling. We'll regularly review our environmental performance targets and publish our performance each year as part of our annual report, which is available on our website.

Engagement

We will communicate this commitment, our environmental performance and other relevant environmental information to our people. We'll also consider employee and volunteer suggestions to improve environmental performance and implement these where practicable. And where relevant, we'll engage with partners – both within the charity sector and beyond it – to help us deliver on this commitment.

This environmental commitment is available on our website for any interested parties.

