

# Environmental Policy

At Honeycomb Dental Clinic we Care beyond your Smile...

We are constantly working in order to reduce the impact on the Environment and committed to reduce our Carbon Footprint.

The impact of high levels of carbon on the environment has been well documented. Healthcare services are responsible for a significant percentage of these emissions and need to review where services and activities can make reductions. Due to relatively large carbon dioxide emissions, the use of toxic materials and the production of vast amounts of waste, healthcare is compromising public health and damaging the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

*BDA Research Paper, What's in a bin: A case study of dental clinical waste composition and potential greenhouse gas emission savings.*

## Aim of Policy

We acknowledge that our activities may have a potential impact on the environment.

Honeycomb Dental Clinic is committed to promoting the conservation, sustainable management and improvement of the environment and to minimise the environmental impact of its activities.

Our clinic is aware of its social responsibility to operate in ethical and environmentally friendly ways. This policy sets out the guiding principles to be followed by management and the dental team to ensure that we operate an ethical business and green dentistry which promotes wellness and saves time, energy and money.

We try to offset our impact in the environment by being innovative and careful with all resources, whilst being compliant with decontamination and cross infection issues.

## Policy Background

Business ethics means 'taking the right course'. Acting ethically takes into account all the factors of doing business. These include production, business processes, and the practices behavior with its customers and the communities in which it operates.

Green dentistry is a high-tech approach in line with the HTM 07-01 that reduces the environmental impact of dental practices and encompasses a service model for dentistry that supports and maintains wellness. Green dentistry meets the needs of patients and helps dental professionals to protect planetary and community health, as well as the financial health of their practices.

Choosing green solutions for each of these waste sources significantly reduces the negative environmental impact of dentistry. We aim to reduce the amount of mercury used and how it is disposed. Making the decision to use biodegradable disinfectant products also ensures the waste produced from dentistry can either be recycled or completely broken down in a landfill.

## **Policy Management**

In line with health and safety legislation employed and self-employed are treated as employees for health and safety purposes. The Registered Provider has overall responsibility and the Registered Manager has day to day responsibility.

The Lead is responsible for ensuring the policy is available and communicated to the team and for controlling associated processes and procedures.

Accountable Person: Miguel Colaço  
Policy Manager: Tina Thompson  
Policy Lead: Tina Thompson

Date policy was first implemented: April 2015

Date of last review: September 2019

Policy Review Date: September 2020 or when circumstances indicate a change is needed or when legislation is introduced that necessitates change.

## **Education/Training**

Environmental issues, specific objectives and set targets are made known to all employees during meetings and/or training, who are encouraged to promote environmental awareness and strive for continual improvement.

All team members must know how to meet their responsibilities.

This policy will be included in the new staff induction program. All staff will take part in critical/significant event analysis as events occur.

We expect that all members working at the Clinic without exception understand the importance of this policy and comply with it. We expect them to understand that minimizing the impact of their work on the environment can be a pleasant goal to achieve as they are only contributing to a better Planet, to a better Home.

## **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the Clinic to co-operate with increased emphasis on activities with all regulatory authorities and bodies and to notify any breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

#### Honeycomb Dental Clinic Policy for Sustainable Development

- Credible
- Clear and well defined
- Well communicated
- Current- incorporating changes in the law or regulations
- Being implemented.

## Procedures

Honeycomb Dental Clinic has a statutory duty of care towards everyone in the waste management chain: from producer to disposer. To meet this responsibility the clinic shall follow procedures to prevent the escape of the waste and to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the waste is dealt with appropriately from the point of production to the point of final disposal.

The Clinic aims to achieve this by:

- Reducing its carbon footprint.
- Making sustainability a key matter of all new developments.
- Ensuring compliance with all environmental legislative responsibilities and assess the environmental effects of its activities.
- Encouraging its staff to work in an environmentally responsible manner and to play a full part in developing new ideas and initiatives.
- Encouraging its visitors and patients to take responsible action in terms of environmentally sustainable best practice (example: the use of Clinipad instead of paper).
- Minimising the consumption of natural resources and increase the use of recycled and recyclable materials: 'reduce, recycle, re-use'.
- Minimising waste by reducing and reusing non-clinical products where appropriate.
- Reducing where possible clinical waste.
- Managing the specific usage of Mercury: The practice will ensure that all water from dental equipment passes through an efficient mercury trap and disposed appropriately. There is a module on mercury management.
- Preventing the pollution of water, land or air.
- Using efficient and safe methods to dispose and recycle.
- Promoting and monitor the efficient use of Energy (electricity and gas) and Water resources.
- Minimising the risk of harm to patients, employees, service users, members of the public and the environment from processes and activities associated with the Clinic.
- Wherever possible, investing in energy saving strategies and schemes.
- Wherever possible, selecting suppliers and contractors who are committed to environment issues and use environmental systems.

- Wherever possible, using ethical and local suppliers and considering the Life Cycle impacts when purchasing equipment and resources.
- Raising awareness of sustainable development at the practice.

## Quality of Care Outcomes and Resources

Somerset Region Regulation.

Care Quality Commission.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities), Regulations 2014, Regulation 15 - Premises and Equipment.

HTM 07-01: Safe management of Healthcare Waste.

BDA Articles.

Other Dental related Articles.

## Audit

This policy will be audited 12 monthly to establish the reduction of the Clinic's carbon footprint.

Parameters to be audited:

- Electricity, Gas and Water consumption.
- Electricity Production.
- Usage of recycled paper.
- Usage of eco-friendly detergents.
- Lights and electrical appliances being switched off.
- Printing of double-sided and black & white documents.
- Usage of non-clinical Recycling bins by the Staff and its disposal.
- Compliance with Clinical waste disposal.
- Quantity of clinical waste produced.
- Purchase of furniture, decoration, electrical and other items.
- Environmental Policies for companies we work with.

Current Published: September 2019.

Next review date: December 2020