

WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Easy, medium and gold star options for common waste streams in veterinary practice

Paper & Cardboard

EASY:

- Set up paper and cardboard recycling bins next to every general waste bin to increase recycling. Make sure each bin has appropriate signage.

MEDIUM:

- Set printers to double-sided & reduce default margins to 1.9 cm.
- Purchase bulk 100% recycled FSC carbon-neutral certified paper.
- Reduce paper communication & advertising.

GOLD STAR:

- Go paperless with forms, hospital charts, anaesthetic monitoring, discharge instructions, information sheets etc.

Plastics

EASY:

- Start a soft plastics collection through Redcycle. Items that can go to Redcycle include kitchen products, bubble wrap and pet food bags. NB Check the REDcycle website to see which brands are accepted.

MEDIUM:

- Find a commercial waste contractor that takes soft plastics, potentially including instrument/syringe packaging.
- For polystyrene containers: recycle through Ecycle locations, return to suppliers or use compressed wool packaging.
- Use Terracycle for PPE items and blister packs.

GOLD STAR:

- Approach Suez about recycling syringes, needle caps and 10ml water syringes, depending on availability in your state.
- Reach out to other practices and/or wholesalers about creating a PVC recycling 'hub' - this may help to overcome problems with low volumes.

Organics

EASY:

- Replace plastic poo bags with home compostable bags

MEDIUM:

- investigate the availability of aquamation in your area, as an alternative to cremation

GOLD STAR:

- Start a kitchen composting system