

**INVESTORS  
IN THE  
ENVIRONMENT**



# **ACCREDITATION REPORT**

**BSAVA**

**September 2022**



## Executive Summary

The Investors in the Environment (iE) accreditation requires an organisation to provide evidence that it has met a range of pre-defined criteria, set targets to reduce its environmental impact and taken action to improve its performance whilst enhancing the community in which it operates. Evidence is presented at an annual audit and this report provides an evaluation of the organisation's performance as well as offering advice on next steps for continued improvement.

Investors in the Environment is pleased to confirm that, having recently completed that process, BSAVA has achieved the Bronze level accreditation with a score of 77%.



## Highlights

The team at BSAVA has established a good Environmental Management System and have made good progress on several sustainability initiatives involving their membership. Highlights include:

- Excellent consideration of the environmental impact of the printing of their publications and steps taken to print with sustainability in mind.
- Detailed documentation of how resources are used at head office and some progress made in resource use reduction.
- Good examples of efforts to reduce some of the environmental impacts of the annual Congress event.
- Contributing to the development of the VetSustain Carbon Calculator, running the Sustainability Working Group to encourage action and sharing sustainability learning amongst the wider membership.

### KEY RESULTS

#### Electricity Use



#### Gas Use



#### Water Use



#### Paper Use



## About the audit

The Investors in the Environment annual audit consists of an assessment of five key areas of an organisation's Environmental Management System (EMS). These areas include:

- Environmental Policy
- Resource management and monitoring
- Progress against targets
- Action Planning including social / environmental projects
- Communication

The purpose of the audit is to evaluate the organisation's EMS and make suggestions relating to its performance. Future opportunities and risks to the organisation's environmental practices may also be identified as a result.

The audit consisted of the examination of documentation evidence and an interview with key personnel on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with final evidence submitted the following day.

See Appendix A for detail on audit scoring criteria and scores.

Evidence submitted included:

- Audit Pack, which acts as the Environmental Management System manual
- Carbonfootprint.com Carbon Footprint calculation
- Copy of baseline data and targets
- Evidence of communication with staff/members
- Meeting minutes of Sustainability Working Group
- BSAVA annual report



## Suggested Steps for Improvement

### EMS



- The early days of BSAVA's iiE journey has been disrupted by staff changes and a global pandemic, but the final evidence submitted for audit was very good given all that has happened.
- Some tweaks to the EMS were discussed during the audit and have been noted in the latest version of the Audit Pack. When in place, the new Green Champion should have a discussion with BSAVA's iiE advisor to understand what some might mean.
- Refer to the Environmental Policy tab of the Audit Pack for advice about improvements which could be made to the policy. These include making it clear which objectives relate to the membership as a whole and which relate to head office only.
- Consider incorporating an introduction to what BSAVA is doing to reduce its environmental impact in staff inductions and/or include sustainability KPIs within the appraisal process to remind staff that sustainability is part of all roles and they should engage with the organisation's initiatives.
- Likewise, refer to the Action Plan tab of the Audit Sheet for advice about establishing an action plan which acts as a live document and a good record of what has been/is to be done.
- iiE's resource measurement sheet is a good tool for recording resource use data. It is downloadable from the website and should be used by whoever is going to take on the role of reading the office meters regularly.

### ENERGY



- Electricity use went up between 2019 and 2021, whilst gas use went down considerably. Working patterns have changed (with more hybrid working in 2021 compared with the baseline year of 2019) but the increase in electricity is surprising. It is worth investigating what is causing this – what has been installed in that time that might account for the difference?
- Develop a priority list of equipment/building areas that are the highest users of energy, particularly those that can be most effectively/cheaply upgraded/retrofitted. Add these to the action plan and engage an appropriate staff member to make progress in this area.

- Encouraging BSAVA members to install Smart Meters in their premises was discussed during the audit. [Ecotricity](#) is a partner of iiE and would be happy to discuss whether they could assist members. If an introduction would be helpful, please contact your iiE advisor for an introduction.

## WASTE



- It was reported in the audit that recycling is much greater than waste generation. Conduct a waste audit to find out what the main waste and recycling streams are and use findings to focus on how both streams could be reduced and/or avoided. Changing procurement patterns, behaviour patterns (e.g., refilling from a zero waste shop) and speaking to suppliers to avoid purchases with high waste potential may be required.

## WATER



- The data on water consumption may not be painting an accurate picture of BSAVA's use. Getting accurate data is notoriously difficult, but contacting your water company to find out the location of your meter is recommended, and then try to read it regularly. As staff return to the office, use may rise, so it is worth giving gentle reminders about saving water. Waterwise run an annual [Water Saving Week](#) which could help raise awareness.
- As the toilets don't have dual flush systems, consider installing something like a [Hippo the Water Saver](#) (or a plastic milk bottle filled with water will do as a displacement tool).
- If water efficiency equipment is installed, use signage to ensure staff know how to use it properly.
- Ensure staff know how to report leaks, drips, running cisterns etc which cause water waste. Signage may help to remind people, and to indicate when a fault has already been reported.



## TRANSPORT



- Start to include transport as a measured resource for your Silver level.
- Use the iiE Travel Plan template to develop a travel plan and create a stand-alone Travel Policy for staff which links to travel initiatives (e.g., Cycle to Work Scheme), sustainable transport information (e.g., local cycle routes, bus timetables), and further guidance to increase sustainable transport (e.g., eco-driving videos, and tips for maintaining cars/bikes).
- Adopt practices which support the avoidance of single occupancy car journeys – such as use of software/[expenses to encourage lift sharing](#), claiming [bike mileage for business trips](#), or rewards for use of train/bus/bike/on foot.
- When driving is unavoidable, encourage drivers to drive efficiently by adopting these practices suggested by [The AA](#).

## MATERIAL, PURCHASING AND INVESTMENTS



- Use the iiE template to develop a Green Procurement Policy, deliver training to staff about how it will affect procurement from now on, find ways to measure its impact and report progress back to staff.
- Evaluate the sustainability profile of the companies, accounts and funds with/in which the organisation's current accounts, investments and staff pensions are held. [Switchit.Green](#), [Bank.Green](#) and [Good Shopping Guide](#) can offer general advice on alternative funds.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROJECTS



- Undertake two new environmental or social projects in the coming year. Gain feedback from staff about what they have/would enjoy (ed). A day working on a conservation or social project can provide excellent team building opportunities whilst also doing something of benefit.



## COMMUNICATION AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT



- When the new website is launched, check the content of this page: [Our Sustainability \(bsava.com\)](#) makes sense (it currently carries some outdated content) and that it contains a link to BSAVA's most up to date policy.
- Use the iiE logo received with this report on your website and update the logo in your email signature. Consider creating a link from your website to your page on the [Green Directory on the iiE website](#).
- Make use of the iiE communication resources, including the social media graphics included with this report to communicate your iiE achievement.
- Encourage staff to calculate their own carbon footprint to raise awareness about what they can do at home. Try using a non-technical calculator such as [WWF's calculator](#) or [Giki Zero](#) and ask the team to share their results, ideas and (hopefully!) reductions. This could count as a staff wide project if a high take up rate is achieved.
- Circulate appropriate iiE resources to the wider team (and the Sustainability Working Group, if appropriate), including iiE webinars.
- Share the link to the iiE/Linnaeus webinar on the Sustainable Use of Anaesthesia which was led by Ellie West. The recording can be found [here](#).



## CARBON FOOTPRINT

Carbonfootprint.com calculated BSAVA's 2019 carbon footprint to be 260.07 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Only 30 tCO<sub>2</sub>e related to BSAVA's Scope 1 & 2 emissions, and a large part of the footprint related to international and domestic travel, which has since been much reduced.

- The Environmental Policy states that BSAVA is considering the possibility of becoming Carbon Neutral. If this is decided upon, meeting the requirements of the BSI's [PAS 2060](#) to validate performance is recommended.
- BSAVA has also become a signatory of Publishing Declares – and in doing so has pledged to: ***Join the global climate effort to limit warming to 1.5°C by setting ambitious, measurable targets across our own operations and extended supply chain to achieve net zero as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest.***
- BSAVA should commit to a net zero carbon target in its Environmental Policy to align its own policy with its Publishing Declares pledge.
- Consider using the iiE homeworking emissions calculation resources (in the members section of the website) to understand the emissions that have been shifted to homes and provide advice on home energy efficiency.
- Consider gathering data and calculating the carbon footprint of the annual congress event.

## Required next steps for Silver level

If not already in place, to reach the next iiE accreditation level, BSAVA must:

- Follow the advice given in this report and the accompanying audit sheet and make suggested adjustments.
- Monitor the use of at least 1 more resource, prioritised by spend and/or environmental impact (transport is suggested e.g. business or commuter mileage).
- Ensure that accurate data is collected (at least quarterly and ideally monthly) and monitored almost as regularly.
- Consider setting reduction targets over the required 2%.
- Adopt a travel plan.
- Undertake a further 2 impactful social or environmental projects.
- Continue to use BSAVA's influence in the veterinary sector to encourage good environmental practice across the membership.



# APPENDIX A

## AUDIT SCORING

The audit sheet includes detail on all areas with commentary on why they were scored as they were. Each section of the iiE Audit Sheet is scored as detailed below. The audit sheet contains full scoring information.

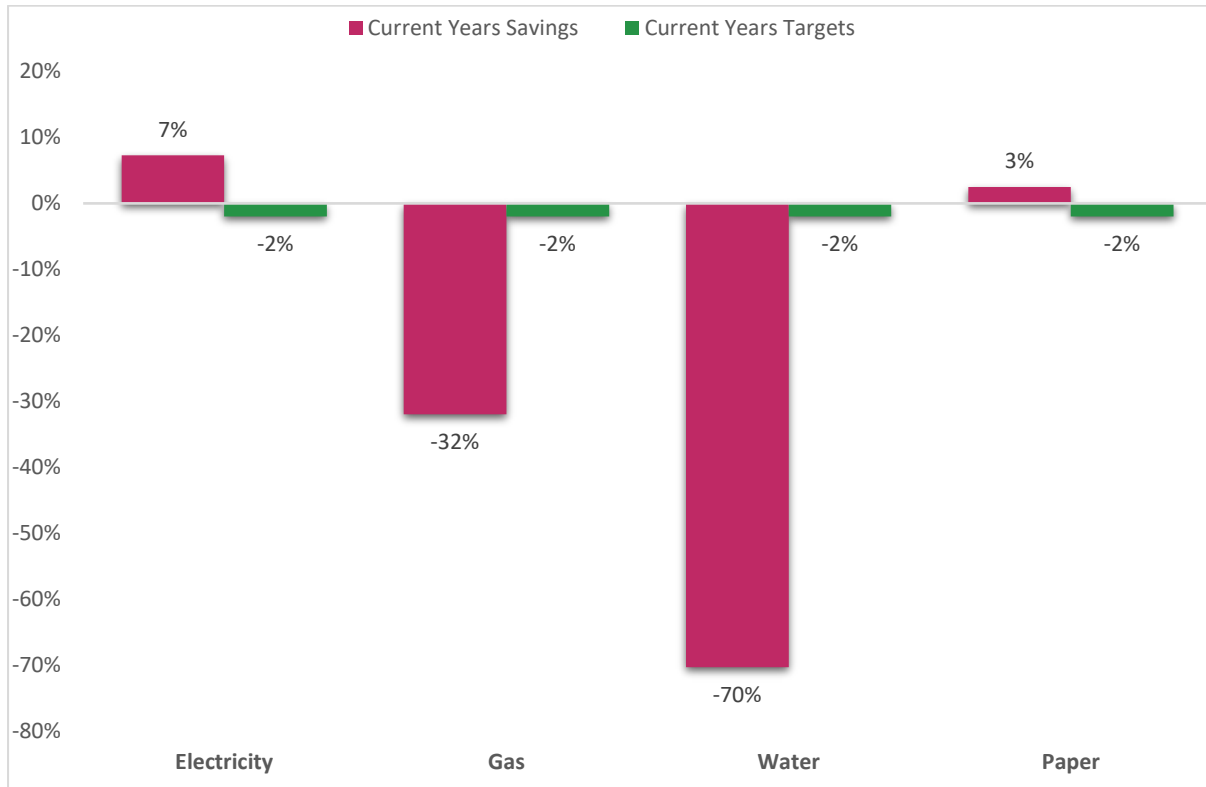
<b>Fail</b>	0 Points: A failing score means that this criterion has not been met nor is any progress demonstrated.
<b>Action Needed</b>	1 point: Action is needed to improve and should be considered in alignment with the auditor's comments and an appropriate timeline. These will be discussed during quarterly support calls to help improve.
<b>Pass / Compliant</b>	2 points: The criteria have been met, though there may also be suggestions to improve.
<b>Outstanding</b>	3 points: This criterion has been exceeded as measured against the basic iiE criteria and may demonstrate a significant improvement since the previous year or may highlight best practice.

An organisation must gain a score of at least 60%, with marks achieving the core criteria that distinguish the different Award levels.

## Results

Summary Results			
Section	Score	Available Score	Percentage
Section 1 - Environmental Policy	17	21	<b>81%</b>
Section 2a - Measuring Resource Use	10	14	<b>71%</b>
Section 3 - Targets	16	24	<b>67%</b>
Section 4a - Action Plan	26	32	<b>81%</b>
Section 5 - Communication	6	6	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>77%</b>

## 2021 performance against 2019 baseline and against annual reduction targets



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