

**INVESTORS
IN THE
ENVIRONMENT**



ACCREDITATION REPORT

BSAVA

October 2023



Executive Summary

BSAVA continues to play an important role in promoting sustainability veterinary practice to its members, as well as walking the walk itself. With no 'official' Green Champion in place, the 'stand-in' has managed to keep the green plates spinning during his presidential year – something which demonstrates his dedication to the cause.

Whilst some of the head office usage measurements went up in 2022, this is to be expected as working practices emerged from the restrictions of Covid. The overall trajectory since the baseline is one of impact and carbon emission reduction and the challenge now will be to keep an eye on consumption patterns in the effort to continue on that path.

Getting wider staff engagement could be something to focus on next year. Reducing BSAVA's impact must be seen as a team effort – it is everyone's job. iiE can assist on a short 'Lunch and Learn' with the staff if it would help.

BSAVA's annual congress is an important annual event. The carbon footprint of this event held over several days is much higher than the annual footprint of the head office and continuing ways to reduce the impact of it must be sought, with a particular focus on transport emission reduction.

Highlights

- A good EMS has been maintained and the BSAVA's environmental impact has significantly reduced between 2019
- The carbon footprint of the annual congress was calculated. Congress participants and wider stakeholders can be engaged in trying to reduce emissions in subsequent years.

Score

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



BSAVA has achieved Silver Level certification for having continued to build on the good foundations established during its first year of participation in the iiE programme, for having extended its resource measurement to include business mileage and made changes to its travel policy which has resulted in a significant reduction in transport related emissions in 2022 when compared to its 2019 baseline. BSAVA has also continued to participate in projects and initiatives which aim to reduce the environmental impact of the veterinary sector as a whole.

KEY RESULTS*

Carbon Footprint (v 2019)



79%

Electricity Use



1%

Gas Use



10%

Water Use



10%

Print paper



89%

Grey fleet mileage (v 2019)



66%

* Figures compare 2021 and 2022 usage, except for the mileage and carbon footprint which compares 2019 with 2022 figure.

About the audit

The Investors in the Environment (iiE) 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 offers advice on the next steps for continued improvement.

The Investors in the Environment annual audit assesses 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 regular update meetings throughout the year, an examination of documentation evidence and an interview with key personnel on **3rd October 2023** with final evidence submitted on **20th October 2023**

Evidence submitted included:

- Utility measurement and expenses claim sheet
- Carbon Footprint calculation of BSAVA's Head Office
- iiE Audit Pack (2022)
- Environmental policy
- Excerpt from the travel policy.

Summary Results Table

Audit category	Percentage
Section 1 - Leadership and Governance (Policy)	81%
Section 2 - Resource Use, Data, & Monitoring	86%
Section 3 - Performance, Action, & Targets	71%
Section 4 - Carbon Management	86%
Section 5 - Waste Management & Materials	75%
Section 6 – Transport & Travel Planning	67%
Section 7 - Environmental & Social Projects	100%
Section 8 – Communication & Engagement	67%
Overall Score	77%

Audit Scoring

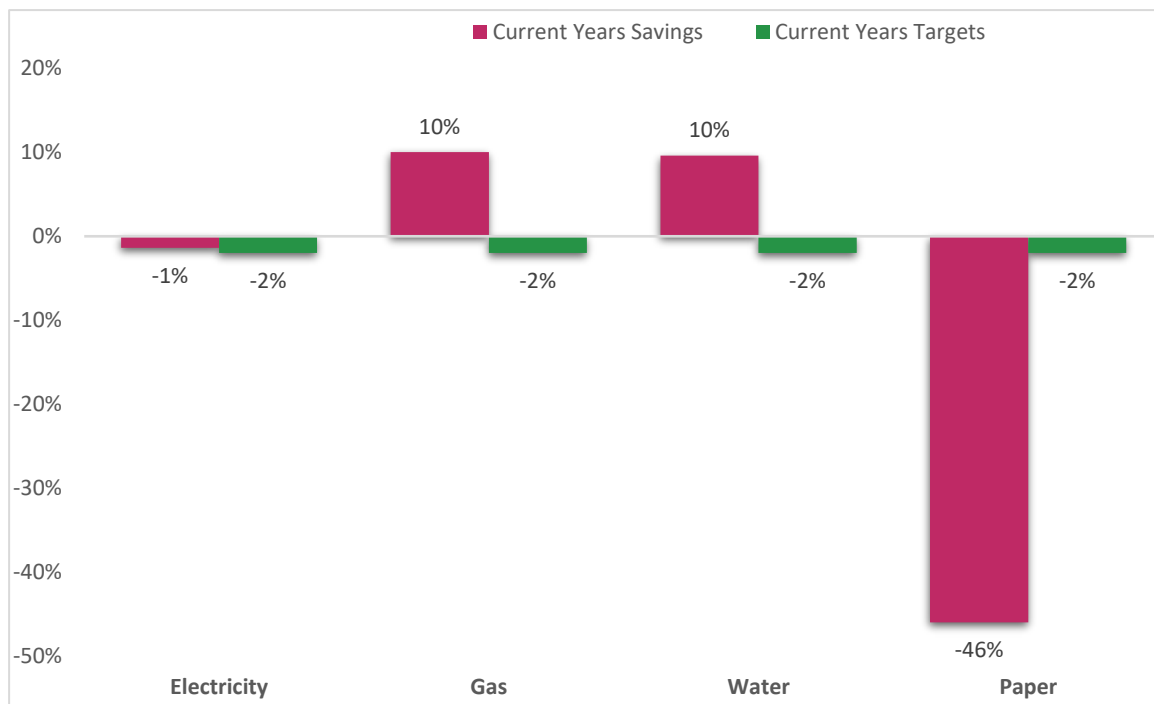
Each section of the organisation's Environmental Management System (EMS) is scored as detailed below. Full reference to scoring can be found separately in the organisation's audit sheet upon request, including auditor comments against specific criteria.

Fail	<p>0 Points: A failing score means that this criterion has not been met nor is any progress demonstrated.</p> <p><i>No progress or commitment has been made in this area.</i></p>
Action Needed	<p>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.</p> <p><i>The organisation is considering developing this area, but no formal process has been established or meaningful progress has not been made.</i></p>
Pass / Compliant	<p>2 points: The criteria have been met, though there may also be suggestions to improve.</p> <p><i>The organisation is beginning or improving this area, is broadly compliant with the iiE criteria, and may be showing processes that support improvements.</i></p>
Outstanding	<p>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.</p> <p><i>The organisation is succeeding with supportive target achievement and may be leading or supporting others in their sector or influence to achieve improvements.</i></p>

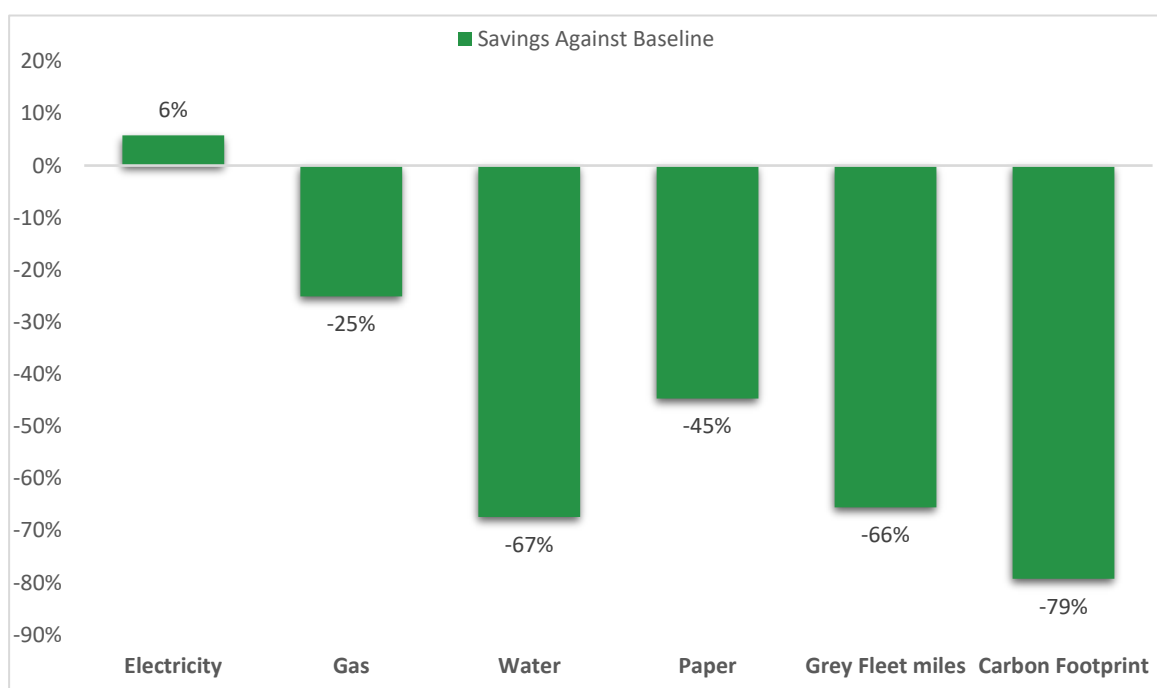
Performance graphs

Year on year performance

The graph below shows the percentage change in resource measurement between 2021 and 2022 set against the 2% reduction target.



The graph below shows the percentage change in resource measurement between the baseline year (2019) and 2022.



Carbon footprint

The carbon footprint calculation of BSAVA's head office and of the annual conference were undertaken by www.carbonfootprint.com. The head office reported a reduction in emissions from 260.07 tCO₂e in 2019 to 53.92 tCO₂e – primarily down to a reduction in the use of flights and grey fleet mileage. Further emission reductions will be harder to achieve, but will still be possible. Currently, energy use in the office makes up the largest proportion of BSAVA's footprint and it is hoped that savings will be achieved through the closing of the office one day per week and, as long as staff are aware of efforts to reduce energy use, further reductions should be made. Solar panels are also being investigated.

The carbon footprint report contained good advice about how to fine tune data collection and steps to take to reduce impact and so will not be repeated here.

Suggested next steps

To continue to develop sustainability within the organisation and work towards the next level, the business should consider the following next steps below.

Actions for review

- The Environmental Policy on the website is due for a review (was due to be reviewed in August 2023). When it is reviewed, information about the annual conference and steps being taken to reduce its impact should be added.
- Additionally, consider including in the Environmental Policy a statement about what BSAVA is doing to ensure it is banking and investing funds and pensions responsibly. Check the ratings of current providers through sites such as [Make My Money Matter](#) or [MotherTree](#) and lobby them to change or switch to more responsible providers.
- The Audit Pack compiled for the first iiE audit contains many suggestions for improvements – please review it and the 2022 Audit Report when a new Green Champion is appointed. It includes suggestions such as including an introduction to BSAVA's environmental focus in staff inductions and including sustainability related KPIs into the appraisal process to ensure that it is part of everyone's role.
- Consider providing further sustainability training to key staff members. iiE deliver several IEMA accredited courses that are targeted at helping organisations upskill or reskill their staff with essential sustainability qualifications. Alternatively, iiE's Green Champion course, recently developed to support organisations develop their environmental management, or our Carbon Literacy training might be of interest. More information on these can be found under the [training](#) section of the iiE website or by speaking to your advisor.

- Ensure resource consumption is reviewed at least quarterly (or better monthly, so that any unusual patterns can be remedied quickly) and establish ways to report progress to staff and committee members (with some thinking around what will be done if BSAVA is not on target to achieve targets).
- Whilst water use has a low carbon impact, it is an increasingly scarce and undervalued (in terms of bills) resource and should remain an area of focus. Remind staff how to use equipment efficiently, that good systems are in place for reporting leaks and that inefficient taps, toilets etc continue to be upgraded.
- For more precise carbon footprint measurement, record the mileage of flights and train journeys and the size and fuel types of cars used by those making expense claims.
- Continue to focus on reducing the impact of the annual conference, as, whilst it is a Scope 3 emission, the footprint of it dwarfs that of the head office.
- Ensure that sustainability is very much 'on the agenda' at the annual conference. From the programme content to communications with participants, from expectations of suppliers and exhibitors to how the attendees are provided for – there are many opportunities to signal the greener way of doing things.
- Additionally, whilst it is a Scope 3 emissions, an estimate of home working emissions could be included in next year's footprint calculation. At its simplest, this involves a calculation about how many hours were worked from home in the year and is multiplied by an average figure. This can be refined to be more specific as time goes on.
- The travel policy is due to be reviewed. iiE has some good examples of how other members are trying to reduce single occupancy car use for business trips and commutes. Speak to your iiE advisor if you'd like some suggestions.
- If staff are 'under engaged' in BSAVA's sustainability work, try stimulating interest by gathering suggestions from colleagues about what could be done in the office, consider how 'nature' could be encouraged in the space outside the office or a promote a campaign such as Water Saving Week or Zero Waste Week – whilst these initiatives might not help on the quest to reduce carbon, they are a good point of entry to get people more interested in environmental issues. It is also good to maintain the broader environmental focus to some extent. Biodiversity and finite resource protection must not be lost in the clamour to reduce carbon.
- Offsetting the impact of the annual congress through a British project is proving problematic. Other solutions have been discussed, but another one could be supporting a conservation charity – such as [Wildlife Vets International - Vets Saving Endangered Animals in the Wild](#).
- The webpage on what BSAVA is doing to reduce its own impact and promote sustainability in the sector is excellent, but there could be greater emphasis on what members can do to 'green' their practice on the website which is accessible by all, similar to what BEVA have done here: [Sustainability \(beva.org.uk\)](#)

- Establish a Green Procurement Policy (a template for which is on the iiE website), review current office purchasing patterns and substitute some products for more environmentally sound alternatives.
- BSAVA should consider signing up to the [Race to Zero](#). It can do this through the [SME Climate Hub](#).

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