Steps to Going Green
How to Operate a green facility

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Why?

• Self serving - personal value
• Social and environmental stewardship
• Marketing/public relations: local news, newspaper, magazines, national press as well.
  – Clients come to you over competition?
Change Business Culture

Ground Up leadership style

FIRST THING:

Establish a ‘green’ committee. This is a core group of people who can oversee incentives are supported, discussed and completed.

Create a strong green business philosophy and make sure visible for staff and clients. Marketing benefits

Solicit staff input and ownership, including training and education for new hires.
Operating a green facility can be a challenge, but doable and rewarding... To begin, just **P•A•W** right through it!

P • Products & Purchase

A • Administration

W • Waste
Products & Purchases

- Factors to environmental footprint
  - Water used to produce
  - Chemicals used to produce
  - Carbon footprint of raw materials, manuf., end product, shipping [Oil]
  - Efficient use of packaging, ‘green packaging’ etc
  - Cradle to grave conscious

- Ideal
  - Locally made
  - Minimal water, chemical, carbon
  - No packaging
  - Reusable, then Recyclable, then compostable

- Greenwashed products- Quizno’s paper...
Products & Purchases

- Switch to recycled, re-purposed or compostable alternatives when possible.
  - Office (pens, paper, printers & inks)
  - Janitorial (mopheads, cleaning products, waste-related products)
  - Building (carpet, cabinetry, furniture, paint)

- Purchase high-efficiency appliances
  - Everything should be Energy Star Rated.
    - E-star may not be very efficient.

- Upgrade with water conserving fixtures
  - Faucets, toilets, dishwashers, W/D, showerheads

- Partner with other eco-minded businesses and organizations who can support and aid.
Products & Purchases

Switch to recycled, re-purposed or compostable alternatives when possible.

Office Supplies—Paper, Pens, paper plates/cups

Paper Products:
- 100% post-consumer recycled - 2x cost of standard paper. Paper dander.
- 30% post-consumer recycled - 1.5x cost of standard paper
- Print double sided or 2 pages per side
- Save misprinted paper: print memo’s and other in-house items on the back; cut into ¼ and staple together for scrap
- Educate staff about printing mindfully not wastefully
  - More computers = more paper wasted. Paperless records—better?
Products & Purchases

Switch to recycled, re-purposed or compostable alternatives when possible.

**Office Supplies- pens, plates/cups, utensils**

**Other items:** Pens: Pilot & Papermate have some biodegradable options which are comparable.

Corn based or recycled paper cups, plates, utensils: In lobby for clients. 1.3x more in cost. Env footprint questioned.

**Staff + client kitchen supplies:** Buy plates/cups/utensils at flea market and have high efficiency dishwasher.
Products & Purchases

Insist on green shipping & packaging options from all distributors.

- Insist on 100% post consumer recycled cardboard + no syrofoam or other packaging materials
- Some will both deliver and recycle with no added cost.
- Insist on reusable bins: MWI
- Purina is working on changing packaging b/c of our insistence
Products & Purchases

Search for eco-minded companies/suppliers that can aid you in your efforts.

Janitorial Supplies

- Microfiber mop heads use less water & chemicals and are function friendly.
- Use biodegradable all-purpose cleaner for the non-clinical areas of your practice.
- No eco-friendly hosp grade cleaner exists.
- Staff break room, kitchen, reception desk. All else needs hosp cleaning.
- Biodegradable liquid laundry detergents

ecoproducts.com
pedrosplanet.com
Products & Purchases

I want to be audited!

Most utilities do energy audits for minimal/no costs (ex: Xcel=$200)

The audits potentially pay for themselves in recommended improvements
Exchange light switches to motion sensors or timers in clinic offices, exam rooms, break rooms, storage areas and low use rooms.

Switch an incandescent or fluorescent EXIT sign to LED. The payback from the change may occur <1 year and bulb replacement may never be needed again.

Replace conventional incandescent lights with compact fluorescent.

LED lighting is coming... less electricity, less cost to manufacture and easier to dispose.

Lighting has been one of the quickest financial recoveries for AMVS.
Replace traditional fluorescent tubes with newer, more efficient versions. **40% savings on elec bill**

- AMVS made a switch from T12 to high performance T8 CFLs.
  - T8s have 3-4x the life of the T12.
  - T12s are also generally 4 bulbs per panel, whereas T8s only 2.
  - Greater T8 bulb cost makes the switch seem costly, but the above factors recover the cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulb</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>#/Panel</th>
<th>Bulb</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>#/Panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T12</td>
<td>$1.12</td>
<td>x4=$4.48</td>
<td>T8</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
<td>x2=$4.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Always look for rebates, incentives and grants: Local, State, Federal.
Low flow & motion sensor water fixtures are available. Dual flush, low flow toilets use 60% less water.

Change to high-efficiency appliances; especially washers and dryers with EnergyStar rating.

Fleece beds in runs/cages.

Grey Water systems. Collect/store greywater and use for kennels/runs/landscaping.

Install drip systems for landscaping.

Fake grass for outdoor playyards: Many synthetic grass manuf.

- No lawn watering or fertilizers
- Easy to spray down and clean [disinfection possible?]
Products & Purchases

Laundry: Purchase high efficiency, EnergyStar rated
- Front load washers: efficient and use less water + detergents
  - Spin cycles 1200rpm+ = laundry almost dry
  - Pack in “35 towels”
- Use fleece bedding for patients - come out of wash literally almost dry [load them together]
- New Dryers on the market can sense when your load is dry and save significant energy.
- Buy 3yr commercial service contract and replace them afterwards. [Best Buy]
Community Energy is called progress.

**Building Components - Utilities**

- **Wind and Solar Power:** Massive growth industries.
  - Lease programs vs buy
  - Local windmill on-site are debated efficacy
  - Also can purchase windpower form local utility company or buy credits

**Xcel Wind Energy Program**

1.6 cents more per kWh consumed. A rate-lock benefit offsets the additional 1.6 cents per kWh cost. *Our cost is $1600 per yr more, decreasing per yr.*
Products & Purchases

Check the structural staples.

**Building Components-Utilities**
- Regularly replace furnace filters (monthly); cost effective way to improve efficiency by 10%. Hair clogs them.
- Install programmable thermostats with setbacks when areas are unoccupied.

**Building Components-Radiology**
- Alter your x-ray processor to collect all waste chemicals and recycle it with your chemical provider. If they do not recycle, attempt finding another provider.
- **Digital Radiology:** Prices coming down and save staff time, repair costs, chemical costs, and space.
Administration & Use

I thought computers were reducing paper waste?

Administrative Options

Incorporate paperless or ‘paperlite’ record systems. Digital records are easier to keep and transfer, while saving space and simplifying searches.

Use the web and email whenever possible with staff memo’s, suppliers and clients. Provide e-newsletters in lieu of mailings.

Turn off/unplug unused electronics: Medical equipment often has battery chargers and need to be plugged in whenever not in use.
Administration & Use

Take a look at staff’s access to work.

Administration - Transportation

Car Pooling is a cheaper option for staffing and promotes team culture.

Bike Racks are located immediately outside AMVS to support those staff members that live locally.

Bus Route Find nearest bus route for staff.
Administration & Use

Administration-Client(s)

Display your green-ness in the lobby-
Ask clients for their ideas on waste reduction. Then listen to them!
AMVS has parking specifically designated for high-efficiency, low-emitting vehicles. This is active support of the green business philosophy.
Staff education and access to resources will help the culture of the clinic spawn. Newsletter or email announcements about green living, free recycling, food consumption, etc. moves discussion of lifestyle choices.
Building Fact Sheet

Administration & Use
Waste

Waste-Composting & Recycling

Waste Stations:
- large recycle Bin
- medium compost
- smallest is trash.

With this simple change, we saved 70% landfill volume overnight.

Continue to Pursue Zero-waste
Waste

We’re always wasting more than we should.

Waste-Composting & Recycling

Recycling: hard to recycle items like Styrofoam, electronics and appliances and plastic syringe cases.

Provide a safe system for clients to drop off old medications. Many local pharmacies can assist you in disposing of them in an environmentally friendly manner.
Donate

- Provides exposure to env. conscious clients.
- Donate to local green organizations
- Join 1% for the Planet
Resources

- Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists
  aspenmeadowvet.com/resources.html
- Leadership in Environmental & Energy Design (LEED)
  usgbc.org
- Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)
  bouldercolorado.gov/www/pace/index.html
- 1% for the Planet
  onepercentfortheplanet.org
- Community Energy
  communityenergyinc.com
- Ecocycle  EcoProducts  Pedro’s Planet
  ecocycle.org  ecoproducts.com  pedrosplanet.com
Questions?

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