



4d. How to: Repair and reuse durable goods

Why is it important?

Regular service and repair as needed of machinery and durable goods is a great way to reduce our expenditure, as well as landfill waste, and the associated environmental consequences. Durable goods include furniture, IT, building materials, walking aids and reusable medical devices.

What does sustainable practice look like?

Modelled example

Samit is a principal dentist of a mixed NHS/dental practice, which recently decided to reduce landfill waste as much as possible as part of their 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' policy.

As part of this policy, an evaluation was made of all durable goods in the practice, which included dental equipment, computers and printers. The evaluation included when the item was purchased, its policy for best maintenance and a list of repair staff contact details for each item.

All staff were advised of the maintenance policy for items, and advised to report any breakages or concerns about equipment immediately so that early repair could be undertaken.

Since introducing the policy the practice has saved money, by paying less for waste disposal of items and reducing the need to buy more goods.

Actions

KEY:

Implementation: Easy = 😊😊😊 Less Easy = 😊

Investment Cost: Low = £ High = £££

Financial return on Investment (ROI): Low = 🐷 High = 🐷🐷🐷

Environmental benefit: Small = 🌍 Large = 🌍🌍🌍





Actions *continued*

- Create a Reduce-Reuse-Recycle policy including guidance for maintaining equipment
- Buy durable equipment with a long warranty
- Inspect equipment regularly and organise repairs as needed



You can calculate both the money saved and carbon saved

•**Money saved:** compare costs of waste collection fees and purchasing of goods costs each month before and after implementation

•**Carbon saved:** Carbon calculator
<http://c.environmentalpaper.org/home>



Resources

Reduce Reuse Recycle guidelines:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics>

Duane B, Ramasubbu D., Harford S, Steinbach I, Swan J, Croasdale K, Stancliffe R. (in press). Environmental sustainability and waste within the dental practice. *British Dental Journal*.

Dental Susnet, online network for improving the sustainability of dental services:

<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/dental-susnet>