

BSTP Sustainability

The BSTP is actively engaging with the issue of Climate change and sustainability of our ecosystem.



<http://www.bstp.org.uk/sustainability-of-the-environment/>

We have partnered with the British Society of Veterinary Pathology (BSVP) - <https://www.bsvp.org/introduction/>

As a part of a BSVP initiative we have contributed to a recent Royal College of Pathologists publication on sustainability, in the Bulletin (April 2022 issue).

With the BSVP we have pooled information regarding the specifics of pathology. To this end the following links/references are of interest:

Formalin neutralisation tablets

<https://www.pioneerresearch.co.uk/spill-kits/formalize-sachet-to-neutralize-5-litres-of-4-formaldehyde.html>

<https://www.pioneerresearch.co.uk/spill-kits/>

Methods for replacing formamide in FISH

References:

1. [Sinigaglia C. et al.](#) *A safer, urea-based in situ hybridization method improves detection of gene expression in diverse animal species (2017) Developmental Biology.*
2. [Golczyk H.](#) *A simple non-toxic ethylene carbonate fluorescence in situ hybridization (EC-FISH) for simultaneous detection of repetitive DNA sequences and fluorescent bands in plants.(2019) Protoplasma.*
3. [Kalinka A.et al.](#) *Comparison of ethylene carbonate and formamide as components of the hybridization mixture in FISH (2021) Genetics and Plant Breeding*

We have also explored the wider veterinary community – <https://vetsustain.org/work>

The UK average carbon footprint is quoted between 10 tonnes per person per year (<https://carbonindependent.org/>) and 13.4 tonnes (teigne energy). It is said that it has fallen since 1990

The BSTP intend to calculate our footprint for the BSTP Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place in November 2022 and have asked delegates and speakers to inform us of their method of transport and miles travelled. There are many tools available. We have opted for the teigne energy communities tool, which appears to be relatively easy to use.

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, at the meeting in November we will be using cardboard badges and there will be no plastic crockery or utensils. . All name badge holders will be collected and where possible recycled after meeting for future use.

Carbon offsetting can be used as a method for offsetting carbon output and can include many aspects (<https://www.zerosmart.co.uk/>) including tree planting, hydro power, alternatives to landfill and so on.

Some (e.g. <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/>) view carbon offsetting as a way to present a “green image” – indeed it is true, that in planting trees, they do take some time to grow, before becoming effective as Carbon sinks.

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/the-biggest-problem-with-carbon-offsetting-is-that-it-doesnt-really-work/>

Hence the range of projects supported by ZeroSmart.

Ultimately the optimal way to reduce carbon emissions, is not to create them in the first place!

Given that we are where we are, the BSTP will endeavour to reduce our emissions/footprint where possible, and also try and offset some of our ASM carbon footprint.

Using the teigne tool, and a “straw man” for the 2019 ASM, it seems our footprint was around 0.6 tonnes.

Evidently planting 4 trees/month will ultimately offset 10 tonnes/year (£6/month). As an organisation we have decided to start in a small way and contribute 10 tonnes of offset/year (ZeroSmart).

After the 2022 ASM we will let you know our calculated footprint (teigne tool).

Please feel free, as individuals, to make a similar contribution.