

BSTP Sustainability

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



As a society our carbon emissions generated are negligible. The BSTP has one annual face to face scientific meeting (ASM) incurring travel by delegates, the other continuing education meetings are virtual, and the society is not generating carbon emissions from other sources. Therefore, offsetting carbon emissions has focused on carbon generated from travel to the annual ASM.

As part of the registration process for the ASM delegates are asked about their travel arrangements and carbon footprint for travel. This was calculated for the ASM in 2022 and 2023, with amounts of approximately 16 and 22 tonnes respectively.

To offset this carbon, the society has invested in four specific projects with the company Carbon Neutral Britain. 100 tonnes was offset in a one-off payment (£775 plus 20% VAT = £930), to cover the carbon emissions from travel to the society meeting for at least 5 years. The four specific projects supported are the Salkhit wind farm in Mongolia, Wind power in Karnataka India, Elazig solar farm in Turkey and household solar lighting in Zambia. All projects are audited and approved via the United Nations CER, Verra or Gold Standard mechanisms to ensure the tonnes of offset CO₂e are accurate and verified by these third parties. They also provide secondary benefits including education, employment, clean water and a positive impact on local wildlife and ecology.

More information regarding the BSTP and sustainability can be found on the BSTP website: <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/>

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. [*Sinigaaglia 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.

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. There’s no guarantee a tree planted today will be alive in 25 years time.

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

Although tree planting is not usually used for carbon offsetting, as it takes many years for trees to grow and capture the amount of carbon required, it’s still very important to maintain biodiverse and resilient ecosystems.

Advice on planting trees can be found at the Woodland Trust website:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/>

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