

The **Australian Dental Foundation Sustainability Charter** is a framework designed to actively foster social responsibility and environmental stewardship across the business, major stakeholders, suppliers, and wider profession. The Charter sets out the key sustainability principles and commitments and where possible aligns with Sustainable Development Goals.

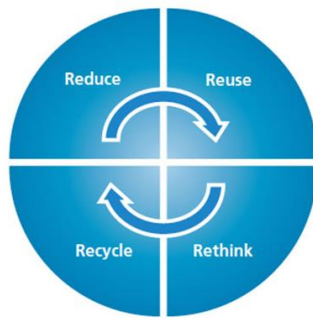


FIGURE 1. The Four R model.<sup>8</sup> Adapted from: Rastogi V, Sharma R, Yadav L, Satpute P, Sharma V. Green dentistry, a metamorphosis towards an eco-friendly dentistry: A short communication. J Clin Diagn Res. 2014;8:ZM01-ZM02.

### Key Principals.

- **Social responsibility:** Promote the health and wellbeing of customers and communities abide by internationally recognised standards of labour health and safety engage in proactive ethical sourcing and responsible business practices drive positive community interactions and communicate with transparency.
- **Environmental stewardship:** Protect the natural environment and optimise resource efficiency throughout the product lifecycle and to play an active role in helping solve industry related environmental issues.

### Commitments

- Sustainability measures must not adversely affect the safety and quality of dental treatment.
- Sustainability principals are integrated in decision making and management of the organisation.
- Staff, Volunteers and Affiliates are educated, empowered, and actively engaged in sustainability initiatives.
- Sustainability is embedded in process improvement strategies across the organization.

Actions are proposed for 2024/25:

#### 1. Reducing waste:

- Review and minimise the use of single use products where reusable products are available.
- Consumable's products and better stock control to reduce wastage.
- Better stock ordering practices and stock rotation.
- Implementing audit and stock control tools.
- Reduction in paper waste.
- Reuse items when appropriate.

#### 2. Promoting recycling:

- Introduce recycling and general bins across all locations.
- Investigate waste management initiatives such as the Terra Cycle Program.
- Investigate use of recycled items such as toilet paper supply for staff and patients.

#### 3. Energy

- Develop systems to ensure that energy is used only when rooms/surgeries are in operation.
- Reduce energy consumption by ensuring that all equipment/lights/air conditioners are turned off at the end of each day.
- Undertake an energy/green audit and seek to reduce our organizational carbon footprint.

#### 4. Sustainable procurement

- prioritise whole of lifecycle costs and impacts to inform procurement decisions
- prioritise purchasing environmentally sustainable products in line with industry regulations