



Recycling & Waste Reduction Plan

Goals

- Reduce overall waste by 10% within 12 months.
- Divert 20% of clinic waste from landfill to recycling or compost.
- Improve staff awareness and compliance with waste protocols.

1. Waste Audit

Conduct an initial waste audit to assess:

- Types of waste (e.g., plastics, paper, food, sharps, pharmaceuticals).
- Volume and sources of waste (exam rooms, surgery, front desk, kennels).
- Current disposal practices.

Action:

- Categorize waste: *General, Recyclable, Biohazardous, Sharps, Pharmaceutical, Compostable*.
- Set baseline data for monitoring improvement.

2. Waste Segregation & Disposal

Recyclables

- **Paper/Cardboard:** Boxes, brochures, office paper.
- **Plastics:** #1 & #2 containers (consult local recycling rules).
- **Metals:** Clean aluminum or steel (e.g., food tins).
- **E-waste:** Used batteries, outdated electronics.

Bins Needed:

- Clearly labeled recycling bins in all admin and staff areas.

Biohazardous Waste

- Includes: Animal tissues, blood-soaked materials, surgical waste.
- **Use certified biohazard containers** and a licensed disposal company.

Sharps

- Needles, syringes, scalpel blades.
- Use approved **puncture-proof sharps containers**.

Pharmaceutical Waste

- Expired or unused drugs.
- **Segregate hazardous pharmaceuticals** (e.g., chemotherapy drugs).
- Return unused drugs through **take-back programs** or authorized disposal services.

Compostable (Optional)

- Pet fur, coffee grounds, staff lunch waste.
- Consider **partnering with a local composting service**.

3. Reduce & Reuse Strategies

Supplies

- Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste.
- Choose **recyclable or compostable packaging** when possible.
- Replace single-use plastic items with reusable alternatives (e.g., washable gowns, cloth towels).

Office/Admin

- Shift to **paperless records and billing**.
- Use **double-sided printing** if printing is necessary.

Clinic Workflow

- **Reusable instrument wraps** instead of disposable ones.
- Avoid over-ordering medications or materials.

4. Staff Training & Engagement

- Conduct annual **waste management training**.
- Create a “**Green Team**” or assign a sustainability lead.

5. Client Education

- Offer **digital brochures** on how pet owners can reduce waste.
- Display posters about the clinic’s environmental efforts.

6. Partnerships & Vendors

- Work with vendors who offer **recyclable packaging** or take-back programs.
- Partner with local recycling firms and compost collectors.

7. Monitoring & Reporting

- Track waste disposal volume.
- Use KPIs such as:
 - % of waste diverted from landfill.
 - Monthly cost savings from reduced disposal fees.
- Share progress with staff at meetings or newsletters.

8. Emergency Compliance

Ensure all practices follow:

- Local public health regulations.
- OSHA guidelines.
- EPA rules (especially for pharmaceutical and hazardous waste).