BASCD policy on sustainability

Introduction and aim

In recognition of the increasing concerns of both members and the general public about climate change, environmental damage, and their adverse effects on health and species diversity, BASCD will nurture and promote a working culture of regard to sustainability, introducing practices across all areas of its business to make them more sustainable.

BASCD supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)[1] and recognises many themes common to the values of our members and the principles of the study of community dentistry.

Scope

This policy, set out below, relates particularly to SDG 13, Climate Action, but is not restricted to it.

All BASCD's activities should be conducted, mindful of evidence on what works or is regarded as current best practice to minimise adverse environmental impact and promote and improve health, without compromising the organisation's purpose.

The BASCD constitution [2015] sets out the objectives of BASCD in the following way:

> BASCD is an alliance of individuals with an interest in population oral health, working together to
> 1. Provide a set of principles for the improvement of oral health and the development of oral health care and promote their dissemination
> 2. Influence policy at international, national, regional and local level.
> 3. Support members widely with training, development, partnership working, networking and advocacy.
> 4. Hold, develop and communicate a sound body of knowledge and evidence to facilitate their work.

Action

BASCD will support green travel and active travel for its members who travel for planning or participation in the Society's work or activities, reducing carbon emissions and improving potential for positive health and wellbeing for members.

BASCD will continue to work with its members to enhance the role of its website and online communication, increasing connectivity and responsiveness while decreasing administrative time, printing and postage costs and materials.

BASCD will work with its third-party providers to promote environmentally sustainable practice, and when renewing contracts, review credentials for sustainable practice.

BASCD will promote its commitment to sustainable development through its activities and on its website and will develop a system to monitor and audit progress.

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[1] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ accessed 22/01/2019

Appendix 1: Example checklist/recommendations for planning conferences and meetings:

1. Conference/event planning meetings: use online communication and teleconferencing where possible, to reduce travel-related carbon expenditure.
2. The venue; when choosing, consider
    a. A central location near public transport/easily accessible.
    - A venue that utilizes renewable energy, has a sustainability policy in place, availability of cycle racks and changing facilities.
    - Whether the venue has recycling policy and that recycling facilities are easily accessible to all attendees.
    - Whether the venue or outside caterer offers reusable plates, cups and cutlery.
    - Availability of screens that display programme throughout venue.
    - Willingness of suppliers to limit packaging, provide jugs of tap water instead of bottled water and to inform attendees about sustainable food options-label all dishes served.
    - Whether venue or outside caterer has commitment to sustainability-use local, seasonal and vegetarian food where possible.
3. Event administration:
    - Include information on location, supplying attendees with detailed information about public transport links.
    - Establish a paper-free registration process for future BASCD events that is entirely online
    - Offer an online conference rate for online attendance of streamed lectures
    - All conference resources including programme, abstract brochure and paper booklets presented as an online pack, emailed to attendees before the conference.
    - Feedback forms on conference and speakers to be emailed online via Survey Monkey.
    - Use paper free sign-in for all events, using IPADs or laptops.
    - Use biodegradable stickers in place of name badges, or members bring their own.
    - Certificates of attendance to be emailed to attendees in PDF form after conference.
    - If using any paper, during planning or an event, ensure it is recycled and use double-sided printing where possible, and/or used for shared viewing
4. Consider the introduction of Green Award Rosette Scheme for most sustainable poster projects displayed.

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