



## CLIENT CASE STUDY: Paragon Veterinary Practice

*Reducing their carbon footprint through renewable energy, waste management and vehicle tracking*

Paragon Veterinary Practice has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint and environmental impact, with support from the Westmorland & Furness Green Enterprise Hub. The practice's commitment to sustainability began in 2020 with the initiation of its Sustainability Plan, led by Laura Binnie, one of the dedicated small animal vets. Since then, Paragon has significantly reduced its carbon footprint and continues to seek out positive changes to address the challenges of sustainability in the veterinary industry.

Paragon focuses on reducing energy emissions by improving efficiency and minimizing resource waste. To achieve this, the practice has:

- Installed solar panels and a wood chip boiler to lessen dependence on grid electricity and gas for heating.
- Switched to a renewable energy tariff to ensure the electricity consumed from the grid is as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Implemented strict waste management protocols, regularly conducting waste audits to ensure proper disposal and minimize waste-related impact.
- Installed vehicle trackers to optimize the routes and fuel efficiency of ambulatory vets, reducing overall mileage.

Inspired by Helen Gould from Old Hall Veterinary Practice, who shared the benefits of Humphrey ADE anaesthetic circuits, Paragon aimed to further reduce its anaesthetic emissions. Although the practice had already achieved a 34% reduction, it sought to cut emissions even more. By securing a grant from the W&F Green Enterprise Hub, Paragon purchased this more efficient circuit for its Newbiggin surgery.

Paragon is also committed to biodiversity conservation in its local area. The onsite gardens, created by the staff for staff use, feature plants grown from seeds or split from larger plants, adhering to a pollinator-friendly policy without using fertilizers or pesticides. The practice makes its own compost from fruit peels and tea bags collected in the lunchroom and distributes clean (no parasiticide) clipped pet fur in the gardens for birds to use in their nests. Paragon has also planted 3,365 native broadleaf trees at its Newbiggin site to provide a wildlife habitat and to improve local biodiversity, soil and water quality, and carbon sequestration. Permissive access has been granted so locals can enjoy the circular walk around the woodland.

### SERVICES ACCESSED:

- Email and telephone advice from Paul Maddison, Chamber of Commerce Growth Hub Facilitator.
- Grant application support from Molly Hogg (CAfS) and Lesley Robinson, Chamber of Commerce Head of Business Support.

*"Paul Maddison and Lesley Robinson from the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce [who administer the W&F Green Enterprise Hub grants] have been instrumental in assisting us with our grant application ... Their excellent service made the daunting experience manageable and successful."*

**Laura Binnie,  
Paragon Veterinary Practice**

**If you're looking for advice and support to save money, connect with your audience and make the world a better place for us all, book a helpdesk call through the W&F Green Enterprise Hub today.**