



THE ABRS+ GUIDE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR EQUESTRIAN ESTABLISHMENTS



THE INFORMATION BELOW IS A GUIDE FOR THE OWNERS OF EQUESTRIAN ESTABLISHMENTS AS TO STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE WASTE, ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND HELP DO YOUR BIT TOWARDS MAKING THE WORLD A GREENER PLACE

Why Do We Need Change?

Climate change has been a topic covered from many angles in recent years, with scientific studies showing that human activity had a great effect on the planet in many ways. Both humans and nature are suffering consequences because of climate change. Climate change refers to the change in the environmental conditions of the earth. These climatic changes are having various impacts on the ecosystem and ecology. Hotter temperatures, more frequent storms, irregular weather patterns, rising sea levels, and warming oceans can directly harm animals, destroy the places they live, and wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and communities. Scientists have confirmed that the current level of action is simply not enough and that we should all be doing more to protect the planet for generations to come.

WE DON'T NEED TO ASK WHETHER CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING – OR WHETHER HUMANS ARE CAUSING IT. INSTEAD, WE NEED TO ASK:

*“what can
we do?”*



The number one goal in tackling climate change is limiting the use of fossil fuels such as oil, carbon and natural gas and replacing them with renewable and cleaner sources of energy, all while increasing energy efficiency. Many of the everyday products we use at home and at work include fossil fuels in their production and by taking steps to reduce consumption of products, and also reducing the waste we produce, everyone can have a hand in trying to reverse these changes.

In this short guide, we're giving you some inspiration as to the ways you can help tackle climate change by making small changes to your everyday habits in the course of running your equestrian premises.

These steps not only help the environment but more often than not help you cut costs as well!

Cutting your energy consumption and reducing waste can not only save energy on the whole, but can help reduce your bills too. We all know how simple it is to remember to recycle, reduce waste and turn lights off or unplug equipment to save electricity in our own home, but it can be a different matter when you need to manage an entire business premises, and manage staff, clients and visitors to encourage good habits for all on-site.

Some of the tips below are things you can do yourself to cut down, whilst others are new business practices you can introduce in full or in part to help your clients and those on your premises to do their part too.

Cutting Energy Use

Considering the use of electricity at your premises can be a great way to save energy, as well as battling rising energy costs. Here are a few tips for you to consider:

- Replace all bulbs with LED energy-saving bulbs and consider changing or reducing lighting fixtures
- Encourage yard visits and attendance to horses during daylight hours reducing the need for use of lights after dark during the winter months
- Install solar lighting for external and suitable internal areas, and for low level electric fencing
- Installing switch-off timers or motion-activated light sensors to reduce the time lights are left on
- Install a coin-operated meter for facilities such as solariums, floodlit outdoor and indoor arenas. Encouraging clients to take responsibility for the cost of their own electricity consumption.
- Use signage to encourage reduced energy (ie "PLEASE TURN THE LIGHTS OFF") or introduce rules such as the last on the yard of an evening turns the light off.



- Consider the use of clients and visitors using your supply for charging ie cordless clippers, mobile phones or other equipment- consider solar chargers where possible
- Consider alternatives to costly electric radiators for heating tack rooms and communal tea rooms such as long term solutions of preventing drafts, better insulation or alternative, lower energy heating methods
- Review the efficiency and use of electrical items such as fridges, boilers, heaters and kettles.
- Switch off items like computers and screens when not in use, and unplug devices once charged.
- Turn your water heater down to suit the use (ie just suitably warm for hand washing or bathing) and reduces water use too

Reducing Waste

Waste can be problematic for business owners, with many occasions of additional waste brought on to the site by clients in various guises. Here are a few tips for you to consider:

- Purchase bedding and feeds in compostable or recyclable packaging
- Avoid products with unnecessary plastic packaging and buy loose where possible, such as bulk feed for large capacity loose storage containers
- Manage as best as possible reduction of the daily muck heap waste created from mucking out
- Reducing unnecessary bedding and forage consumption can also reduce the waste created from packaging
- Put a fair usage limit on 'ad-lib' bedding and forage to reduce waste of products and waste removal costs
- Consider the use of large bale nets, and small holed hay nets or hay bars to reduce waste
- Go paperless where possible for administrative tasks
 - consider using apps or digital versions instead of paper copies
 - Send invoices or documentation by email
 - Set up paperless accounts with your suppliers
- Find out recycling or reuse options for your common waste from haylage wraps to baler twine or supplement pots and scoops
- Ask clients and visitors to the yard to remove their own rubbish such as packaging, coffee cups to recycle in their own household waste
- Encourage recycling by having dedicated recycling boxes on the yard if clients and visitors do not take away their own rubbish
- Consider tack swaps, borrowing, hiring or purchasing second-hand items such as tack, rugs and equipment rather than buying new
- Consider if any waste items such as equipment, workwear, tack, materials or tools can be repurposed or repaired rather than be thrown away. What may be waste to you may be treasure to someone else!
- Discourage the use of single-use items such as plastic bottles and coffee cups.
- Look to purchase recycled, organic, or sustainably made items.
- Avoid purchasing fleece products such as workwear, and horse rugs as these reduce microplastics each time they are washed.
- Compost your muck heap and organic waste. This can help reduce landfill methane emissions and is a free and sustainable way to create compost that you can use or donate



Reducing Water Use

Water wastage can be a huge problem for many yard owners. Here are a few ideas to help you reduce your water use:

- Understanding your water consumption on a daily basis will make you more aware of the water you use
- Educate and involve staff on implementing water-efficiency measures.
- Place time limits on activities such as hosing down muddy legs or bathing
- Consider alternatives to soaking hay, such as steaming, or ensure the water is reused
- Consider automatic waterers in the fields and stables to only provide fresh water as needed
- If it remains clean, only top up water buckets rather than completely emptying and refilling
- Install rain capture devices or a system for reusing 'dirty' water and reuse the water for washing buckets, soaking hay or other cleaning tasks on the yard
- Fix drips and leaks as quickly as possible. Protect against cold weather-related leaks by insulating pipes and checking them regularly.
- If manually filling buckets or troughs, ensure a rule is in place that these are supervised or checked regularly to avoid overspill.
- Use signage to encourage reduced energy (ie "PLEASE ENSURE THE TAPS ARE TURNED OFF") or introduce rules such as the last on the yard of an evening checks all taps are turned off.
- Place water-reducing blocks into toilet cisterns and troughs
- Purchase water-efficient hoses, taps etc such as those that reduce the flow
- Reduce the cycle length you may use to wash work equipment or horse equipment such as boots, bandages and rugs. Modern detergents are designed to work just as effectively on shorter, colder cycles and turning down the temperature can help save electricity too!
- If you have plants on your yard that need watering, such as planters or hanging baskets, consider a drip irrigation system or watering with recycled waste water.
- Rotational grazing and good grazing management can increase a fields water absorption and decreases run off making fields more drought resistant. This can provide better summer grazing too!
- Using organic pesticides and fertilisers can reduce pollution of water run off, and encourage better moisture retention, in the soil again helping with better summer grazing and can help recharge ground water supplies.
- Installing and using a borehole can reduce water use costs, but the initial costs of installation can be high



Reducing Emissions

Reducing carbon emissions is a huge aspect of working towards climate change. Here are a few ideas to help you reduce your emissions and those of clients and visitors on your premises:

- Encourage clients to turn off their vehicles when waiting in the car park, loading horses and suchlike
- Ensure vehicles whether cars, horseboxes or yard vehicles are regularly serviced to ensure efficiency, and check the tyre pressures to avoid excess fuel use
- Organise single visits for vets, farriers and other external services where possible to reduce trips to the yard
- Encourage clients to share lifts or create a buddy system to reduce trips to the yard or when transporting equines to events
- Encourage the use of assisted services or serviced livery packages for your clients to reduce yard trips- saving time, fuel and emissions
- Consider installing an EV (electric vehicle) charger at your premises
- Bulk order items such as feed, bedding and forage to reduce deliveries
- Remove excess weight from horseboxes, cars and yard vehicles to reduce fuel consumption
- Source locally produced forage, bedding and feeds where possible to reduce the product carbon footprint and transportation
- Planting trees is one of the most inexpensive and natural ways to combat emissions to absorb CO2 out of the atmosphere. If you have an area that trees can be planted, this can help counteract your carbon output.

More inspiration...

Find more information and ideas on climate change and how you can help...

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/challenges/climate-change/>



Any more ideas?

The ABRS+ is an association dedicated solely to the representation, support and promotion of professional establishments. In the context of climate change actions and good business practices, we encourage our member establishments to consider their consumption and wastage and would love to hear any other ideas...

You can find your local Certified or Approved Livery Yard, further information in support for our members, or send us your ideas to help the climate on the ABRS+ on our website: www.abrs-info.org