



Climate Care
Program

An opportunity for practicing veterinary teams to develop a culture of sustainability within their team and help reduce the impact of climate change

What are the opportunities for a graduate vet?

1. Communicating the science to the community
2. Advocating for better animal health
3. Encouraging management in your chosen workplace to be more sustainable

What can we
do to deal
with climate
change?

1. Mitigation

Move towards carbon neutral ASAP

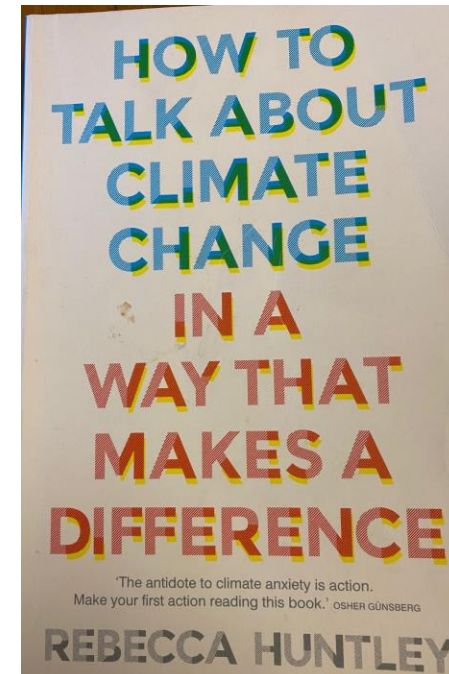
2. Adaptation

Plan to deal with the expected
impacts of climate change

Learning to communicate

Normalising a
discussion about
climate change
and animal
health

- Why is a discussion about climate sometimes awkward?



Developing a
culture of
sustainability
within your
vet team

What do we mean by sustainability?

*“Meeting the needs of the present without
compromising the ability of future generations
to meet their own needs”*

United nations definition of sustainability



Climate Care
Program

VfCA Climate care program - Sustainability in action

- Why do the program?
 - Team building
 - Improve profitability
 - Improve client loyalty
 - Attract the best team members
 - Make a real impact on reducing climate change

As a graduate
vet how can I
get involved?

Vets for
Climate
Action  | Climate Care
Program

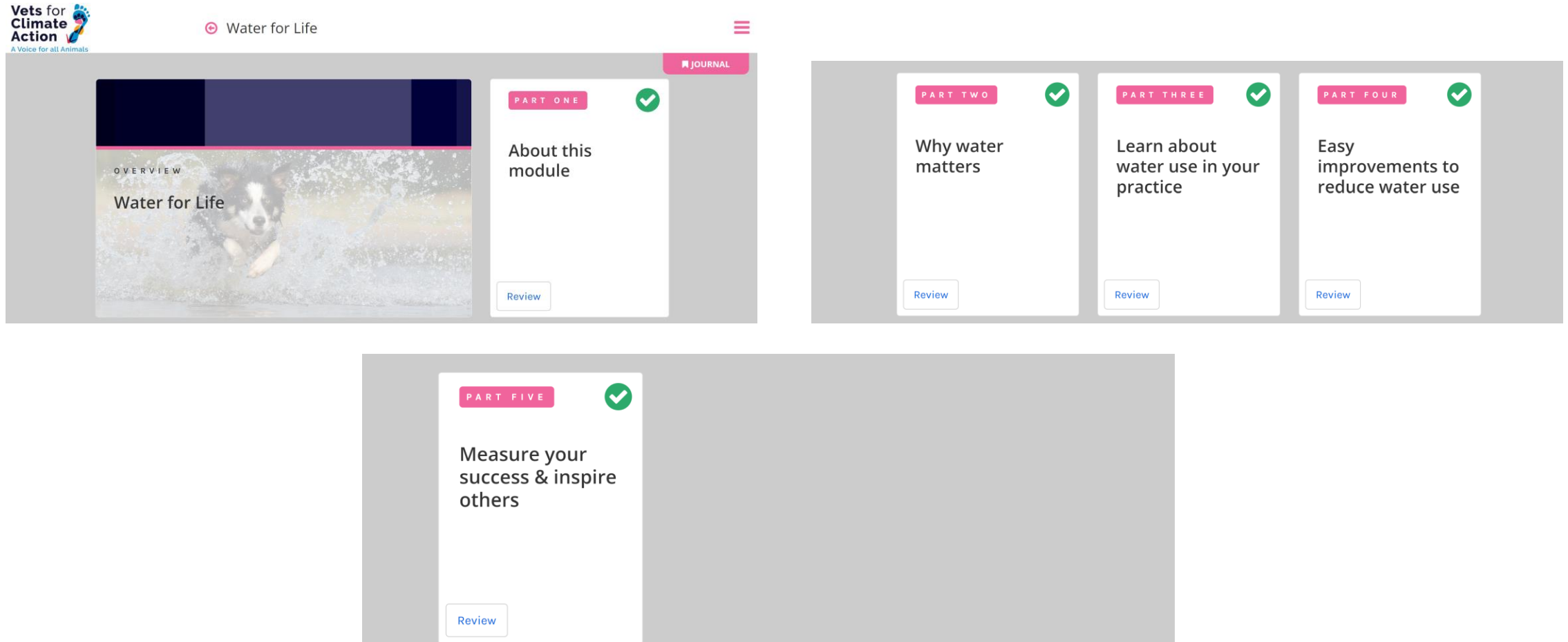




6 modules in the program:

1. Water for life
2. No time to waste
3. Energy efficiency
4. The power of renewables
5. Buying for a better future
6. Chemicals, toxins and pharmaceuticals.

Delivery of the program is via an online learning management system





Module 1 - Water

Each module contains some easy wins

Sometimes its changing habits at the scrub sink – does the tap need to be running all the time?

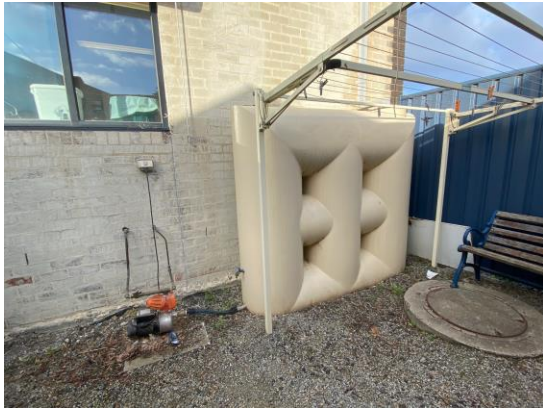


Or changing tap aerators to immediately reduce water waste by 60%



Opportunities for the more advanced

Diverting rainwater to toilets



Review your practice bedding to use recycled natural fibres (towels and wool blankets) and eliminate microplastics



77kg synthetics to recycling



Module 2 – No
time to waste

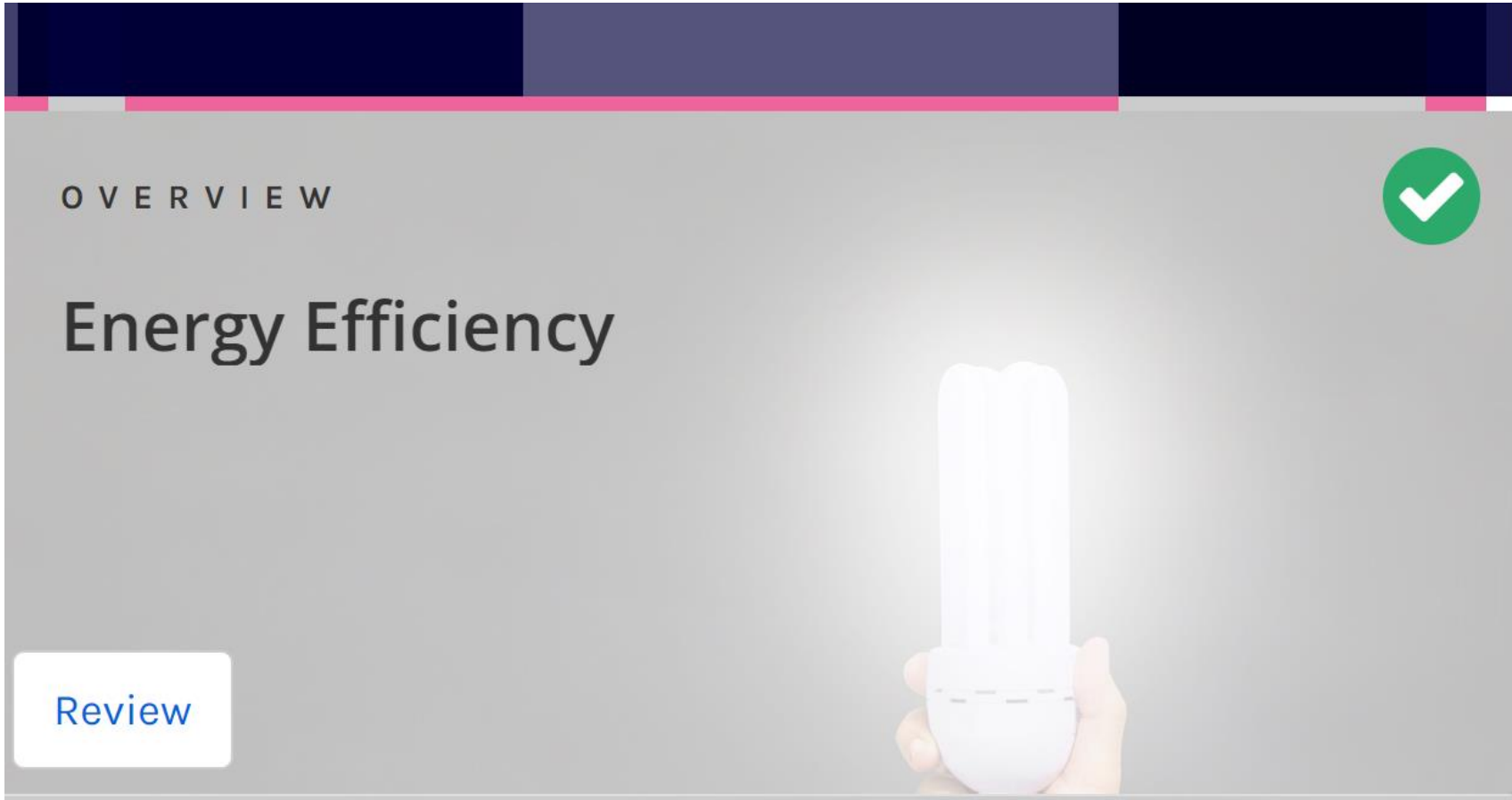
Some easy wins

A team rubbish audit allows the whole team to understand what is in the bin



Set up colour coded recycling bins





Module 3 –
energy
efficiency

Easy wins

A simple smart plug can turn off equipment over night



Setting your thermostats to appropriate temperature for winter and summer.



For the more ambitious

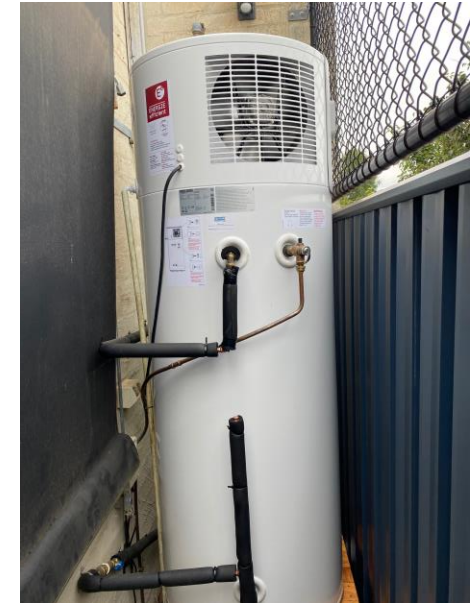
Upgrade to LED lighting for FREE



Upgrade to energy efficient appliances



Old gas hot water



New heat pump electric



Module 4

The power of renewables

Easy wins

Change to 100% green power provider



Use reverse cycle AC to heat as well as cool



More advanced

Get an EV = a mobile battery



Go fully carbon neutral



The pathway to net zero emissions

- First the vet practice must decide to reduce emissions
- Set the team culture, strategy and purpose
- Measure the carbon footprint
- Reporting
- Set targets for 2030 and 2050
- Implement a reduction program
- Collaborate with stakeholders to solve difficult emissions
- Celebrate success and amplify to the community

REVIEW

Buying for a Better Future

3 minutes



Explore

Module 5

Buying for a
better future

Easy wins

Purchasing recycled carbon neutral paper



Move towards totally paperless systems such as electronic bookkeeping software



More advanced changes

**Totally compostable coffee waste =
really good coffee!**



**Change to re-useable instrument
boxes**



VIEW

Chemicals, Toxins & Pharmaceuticals

3 minutes



Explore

Module 6

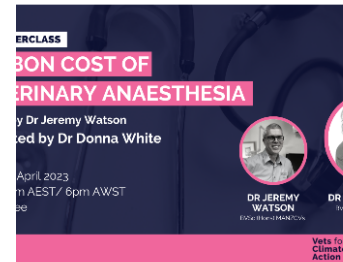
Chemical toxins
and
pharmaceuticals.

Some easy wins

Turn down excessive isofluorane flow rates (isofluorane is a very potent greenhouse gas)



VfCA webinar resources



Carbon Cost of Veterinary Anaesthesia

April 18, 2023

Watch here The carbon cost of anaesthesia is an increasingly recognised contribution to global warming. Of the commonly available inhalational anaesthetic agents Isoflurane is currently the most widely used in veterinary practice, being well..

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**Vets for
Climate
Action**



**Climate Care
Program**

The climate care program is an exciting initiative for the Vet Profession and a significant practical step in our journey to a zero carbon world.

It enables you to take practical action AND provide leadership to the wider animal owning community on how to deal with climate change.