

truly sustainable, seeing people not only as consumers but as active participants within the process. As my colleague Ben Hinder (@ben_hinder) suggests to me, often the problem is not simply in reducing consumption but in changing the socio-political drivers which lead to ever-increasing demands for resources in the first place. A lot of progress is happening in sustainable healthcare, and England is definitely leading the way, but the question remains if this is enough to represent a significant shift towards sustainable practice

And also no. This sounds pessimistic, but we don't want or have the luxury of 'next year', or when we have sorted out the latest national contract negotiations. Don't get me wrong, the NHS England

contract needs sorting, but I just can't seem to imagine it will be top priority when the sea levels start to rise, or when food supplies start to decrease rapidly etc, etc. So a lot of me feels it's all a little 'Nero fiddles while Rome burns'. We need a team of people employed nationally to support dentistry to become more sustainable. We need an appropriate contract with sustainability embedded in every aspect. Ambitious I know, but without a multifaceted approach it's not going to happen.

What are your other interests?

I love cycling, and I also love flying. I know. I'm a bad person. But I also love travelling by train, so there is some hope. I would also love to re-wild a piece of land – I love the work that @RewildingB are doing!

Can you recommend any other books for those interested in exploring this subject further?

To be honest I wouldn't recommend books yet. It all depends on your field of interest. Educationalists I would supplement my reading with the papers @jamesdentalinstafeed (Instagram) and I wrote in this area, or general sustainability in education papers. For others I've tried to include everything I know with respect to papers etc on the website www.sustainablegreendentistry.com and then there's the work FDI is doing: <https://www.fdiworlddental.org/sustainability-dentistry>.

Follow me on Twitter @brettduane2 or Instagram @sustainabledent for more of these insights, and some videos that I'll be doing to accompany the book.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Dental sustainability showcase at The Royal London Dental Hospital

By Joelle Booth, Bethany Revert, Himani Chhabra, Haleema Rabeea and Zahra Shehabi, The Royal London Dental Hospital and Queen Mary University London

On Wednesday 8 June, a committee of volunteers at The Royal London Dental Hospital hosted a dental sustainability event supported by Green at Barts Health (a group of motivated individuals who care about moving towards a net-zero NHS) and the 'Green Mary' Sustainability Fund from Queen Mary University of London. The showcase was the first of its kind at The Royal London and aimed to raise awareness of the environmental impact of dental care. Over 150 people from various departments attended over a lunchtime period. Staff groups included dentists, dental care

professionals, medical staff, domestic staff and dental students.

The event hosted a number of exhibitors from a range of companies including Dentaaid, Waken and TePe. All stands at the event displayed different elements of sustainable dental practice from reducing treatment needs through to low carbon footprint oral hygiene products. Both clinical and lifestyle practices were targeted and the event included opportunities to sample sustainable products and a plant-based menu. Undergraduate dental student volunteers from the student-led group Barts Community Smiles hosted four educational stands covering topics such as waste management, travel, reducing treatment needs through preventative practices and procurement. During the event, attendees were invited to make a personal pledge to reduce their environmental impact. Staff members were also encouraged to think about quality improvement changes that could be made in their department to improve sustainability.



Electronic feedback from the event showed that 99% of attendees would like to see more events promoting sustainability and 97% felt they had learnt something new regarding their impact on climate change. Ninety-seven percent reported that having attended the event they would consider changing their current habits or practices to become more sustainable.

Recent global events have highlighted the impact of the climate emergency on human health. It is paramount that as a profession we act now and take drastic footsteps in implementing the use of sustainable and reusable products. Increasing awareness within staff and student groups is crucial in initiating a system-wide push towards a more sustainable dental profession. ■

