

Specsavers Opticians, Monmouth

WHAT WE DID

As a member of the Specsavers Sustainability User Group I'm always looking for new ideas and am eager to try anything that will benefit the environment. As soon as I saw an email about Greener Primary Care Wales I signed up our practice of 16 staff quickly and easily.

We completed 27 wide ranging actions including recycling of everyday items, offering reglazing of lenses and reuse of patients' own glasses cases, encouraging positive changes in staff behaviours to bringing in their own packed lunches and car sharing to work. Some were easier to do than others, but we chose a range to get everyone involved and challenge ourselves.

One of the bigger sustainability roles our store has played a part in is being one of the trial stores for smart meters before it was rolled out to the larger estate. As a team we really enjoy being at the forefront of innovative practice.

The best thing for us about the Scheme was the fresh perspective and inspiration it provided across a range of aspects in the business.

We've implemented so many of the actions it's almost easy to forget what has already been done in the practice that benefits patients, staff and the environment. It's become the norm and our culture as a store now.

WHAT ARE WE MOST PROUD OF

One initiative we are very proud of is our **uniform swap shop** which was one of the simplest things to implement but has been one of the most successful.

It involves staff returning uniform that they no longer need, or which no longer fits, the uniform being cleaned and vetted (and where needed mended) and then it is hung on a rail in the staff room. All new members of staff have a set of new uniform, but anyone can access the uniform swap shop for replacements when they need it. We only buy a new replacement if there is nothing in the swap shop.



**SPECSAVERS MONMOUTH
RECEIVED A
GREENER PRIMARY CARE WALES
GOLD AWARD IN 2024**



TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT:

<https://www.specsavers.co.uk/stores/monmouth>

<https://www.specsavers.co.uk/glasses/recycling>

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WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE

Environmental

We recycle and reuse a multitude of everyday items including pens, batteries, elastic bands and envelopes; if it can be recycled then we have a bin for it! Specsavers is also partnered with [MYgroup](#), a recycling and waste disposal company which turns old glasses into things like furniture.

Financial

Our uniform swap shop has undoubtedly saved us money as the cost to buy new can be £200+ per member of staff. Limiting our waste by keeping a close eye on stock rotation has also helped the business financially.

Clinical

The team was really impressed when a young child who wore daily lenses asked to be refitted with monthly lenses so that it would reduce the waste they were creating.

Social

We've noticed a big change in culture amongst our staff, The team are really happy which makes for a great place to work! Some colleagues were more on board than others at the start but once some start changing their behaviour the majority come on board.

We've also noticed a similar change in mindset amongst our patients whereby they are actively seeking out frame recycling services from us now.

WHAT NEXT

Our future plans involve piloting a "Wise Watts" project along with four other Specsavers stores.

By monitoring our energy use, this will allow us to calculate the items in the practice that use the most wattage so that we can turn them off individually and save energy.



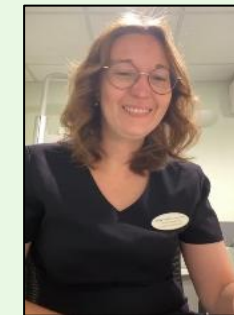
"I wanted the inspiration from it [the Scheme] more than anything because I could see the fact that it was going over every sector in our business."

TOP TIPS

- The smallest thing can make the biggest difference; when it comes to sustainability nothing is insignificant.
- Everything has the potential for a secondary life, nothing is one-use.
- Keep talking about it – speak to your younger patients and get them engaged with recycling old spectacles.

CONTACT

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