

2018-2021

# Sustainability Strategic Framework



# INTRODUCTION

Aluro has desire to strengthen our efforts towards sustainability, becoming genuinely world class in how we respond as a supplier to NZ dental professionals. While sustainability has come a long way in the health industry in recent years, we recognise the need to coordinate and scale up our efforts. Although we have started the process we will be integrating sustainability principles and practices throughout our activities, from administration, operations, management, sourcing new products.

This Sustainability Strategic Framework clarifies our commitment to enable a consistent, productive focus on sustainability, and better communicate our efforts within the organisation and our partners.

The framework articulates our strategies and a wide range of activities so Aluro can be at the forefront on this initiative. It reflects our commitment to see sustainability embedded as part of the core values and builds on groundwork and activities underway across the organisation.

## Our Purpose

Crusading for happy healthy kiwi mouths

# Internal Initiatives

A big project involves overseeing a lot of moving parts, often times from different people. To have a successful rollout, project managers rely on a well-crafted project plan to ensure objectives are met on time and on budget. A project plan is a formal approved document which is used to define project goals, outline the project scope, monitor deliverables, and mitigate risks.

It must answer basic questions like what is the purpose of the project, what activities are involved, who will be responsible for what, and when is it expected to be completed? It is not to be confused with the Gantt chart, which shows project deliverables against the timeline. The said chart is only one part of the project plan.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink

Aluro has the ability to make a positive impact that can significantly improve dental practices, and the quality of life for the communities they serve. That is why we aim to educate and motivate our customers on changes they can make to Reduce/ Reuse/ Recycle/ Rethink. This includes creating discounts for buying NZ Dental products – a basics range we have purchased in bulk and repackaged for the customer. Discouraging smaller orders by charging freight to encourage customers to bulk buy and to discourage multiple orders going out. When we introduce a new product, we look at how we can leave a limited impact on the environment by purchasing in bulk and where possible freighting by sea. We are also conscious of how to recycle or dispose our products to evaluate the impact from the cradle to grave.

# Plastics and Single Use

## *As a supplier to the dental industry in New Zealand...*

we have been looking at how we can reduce our environmental impact by supplying 'better choices' to dentists on things with a disposable 'one-use' purpose. To date we have replaced our single use plastic barrier products with oxo-biodegradable option. These have an additive added to the plastic in the manufacturing process allowing them to bio-degrade within 24-36 months instead of decades.

### **Sustainable products we have bought to market include:**

We have sourced a sustainable paper version of the popular hard plastic single use suction tip which is used for every patient. We have also sourced 100% bamboo wipes to replace micro-fibre cloths for cleaning and surface disinfectant wiping and/or patient bibs.

### ***Eco Cloths & Bio Bamboo Soft Cloth***

**Wipes:** We have developed a 100% biodegradable hard surface disinfectant wipe Ecocloth® which is used in the clinical setting. This unique product is effective against up to 99.99% of microorganisms and we now supply, a 100% Bamboo Dry Wipe to be used in association with surface disinfectant solutions. The bamboo is grown sustainably in China and grows from roots to maturity in 3 – 5 years. It requires no irrigation, it produces up to 35% more oxygen than an equivalent stand of trees, it is carbon neutral, it is an excellent soil erosion inhibitor and is 100% Biodegradable. We then package this in renewable re-cycled cardboard inner boxes. We continue to explore more sustainable options for our products, both with re-useable and biodegradable options.





### ***Oxo-Biodegradable Barrier Products***

Our Oxo-biodegradable barrier sleeves and envelopes are made from polyethylene(PE), a plastic with a bio-based raw material (corn starch, food grade). This bio-based raw material helps the plastic film break down into small particles when exposed to sunlight, heat and oxygen.

### ***Eco Smart Eco Cups & Vegware Cups***

Our Eco-Smart® additive allows plastic to biodegrade\* through a series of chemical and biological processes, when introduced to a microbe-rich environment such as a biologically active modern landfill. EcoSmart® accelerates the biodegradation of treated plastics by attracting microbes – microscopic organisms vital to the earth's ecosystem.

### ***Face Masks by Ecobee Beesure***

The Ecobee, range attempts to preserve the environment by minimizing impact. Through innovation in manufacturing, all of their products are more environmentally friendly. They use 30 to 50% recycled plastic in our products

## ***"We are committed to sourcing 'green dentistry' products to give our customers better choices for the environment"***

as well as 80 to 100 post consumer fiber packaging. The compact packaging helps reduce material waste, storage space, and shipping costs. Most of the products are also chlorine-free manufactured to reduce the amount of toxic waste produced.

Read more here >>

<https://www.ecobeeworld.com/>

### ***Earthcare Tissues, Towels and Toilet Paper***

As makers of this natural product, Earthcare are very aware of the wider environmental issues that face the planet today. That is why they go beyond asking the world to recycle and to buy recycled products. They believe in a world where everyone tries to conserve resources, use less energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

### ***ECOTips Saliva Tips***

Made from renewable sustainable paper earth friendly replacement for plastic version.

### ***Sterilisation Pouches - (Coming soon)***

A 3"x 8" EnviroPouch® pouch takes up only 3.5 cubic inches of valuable landfill space. An equivalent box of 200 disposable plastic or paper pouches takes up a minimum of 121 cubic inches. Our reusable steam sterilization pouches are the superior product and infection control solution to disposable autoclave tubing and bags for the cost-conscious, environmentally friendly user. Reduce waste and costs. Improve the environmental impact by over 200X valuable time, space and money.

### ***Woobamboo Bamboo Toothbrushes***

### ***Bamboo Interdental Piksters - Erskine***

### ***Mun Global (Gloves)***

Mun believe that the business depends on the environment and they have the power to decide how their business affects they environment. At MUN they pledge to abide by all environmental laws and regulations in Australia and New

Zealand, as well as the requirements outlined in the ISO 14001 environmental management system to create a sustainable environment. Their group of companies has a long history of supplying environmentally friendly products all around the world. Read more here >>

<https://munglobal.com.au/about-us/social-responsibility/environment/>

### ***Dr Hishams Natural Oral Care System***

Everything you need to restore balance for healthy teeth and gums already exists in nature. Dr Hisham's formulas harness the healing properties of New Zealand, Australian and European plant sourced ingredients, Organic oils & Vital Bio-minerals that are completely natural in effect, while eliminating all unnecessary harmful toxins.



### ***NZ Dental Range***

Aluro Healthcare NZ is unique within New Zealand dental market as we have designed a range of products locally manufactured specifically for this market. By manufacturing locally this negates the international transportation impact on the environment and builds the local economic environment. This range includes etch gel, prophy paste, hard surface disinfectant, liquid soap and ultrasonic solution.

***"Our company is abreast of current trends in 'Going Green' and products that reduce our overall environmental footprint"***



# The Triple Bottom Line + Green Dentistry

*The Triple Bottom Line is one of the main systems being used by businesses to assess the profits they are making through their corporate sustainability.*



The Triple Bottom Line method moves beyond the traditional bottom line of business to the impact that our business makes socially, environmentally, and economically. Aluro has merged this concept with Green Dentistry to reduce the environmental impact of dental practices and encompasses a service model for dentistry that supports and maintains wellness using a high-tech approach.

Aluro has been a member of Eco-dentistry.org for the past 6 years in looking at ways to help our clients introduce some small steps along the Green dentistry continuum. We have been active in the promotion and advertising of ways that dental offices can make a difference to their sustainability efforts. This is in procedures as well as products. The concept of green dentistry involves reduction in waste, saving water and energy, be high tech and supports a wellness lifestyle.

***"We have been active in the promotion of ways that dental offices can make a difference"***

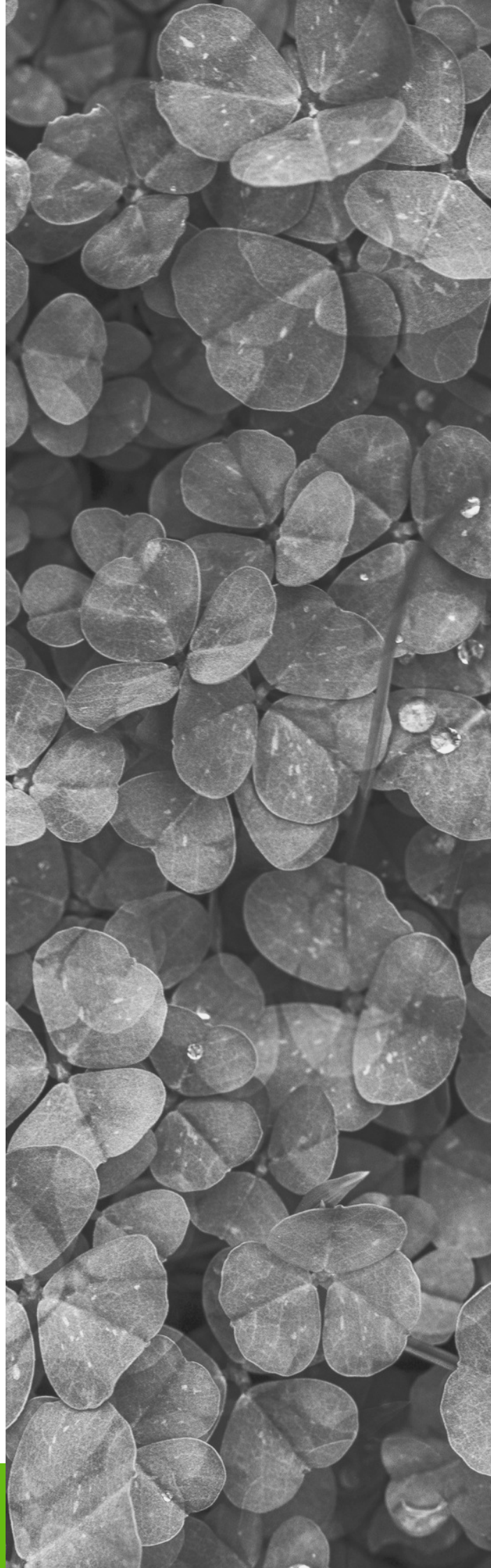


# Environmental Sustainability in Green Dentistry

*The environmental pillar is a progressive fit for the Dental Industry as currently many activities are not aligned in terms of single use and subsequent disposal.*

Moving products and procedures to high tech can improve environmental impact. One activity of moving traditional to high tech products is changing from liquid film and developer to digital x-rays. This is a major step in the right direction to eliminate the estimated disposal of 28 million litres of fixer every year. (US Data) Incorporation of laser technology, chairside milling, digital scanning, 3D printing are other significant developments within green dentistry and this high tech movement.

Manufacturers of dental products continue to drive innovation in design.



# Economic Sustainability in Green Dentistry

Aluro wants to strengthen the NZ economy as much as possible so we can continue to succeed in the future. Of course, our business needs to be aware of its traditional profits as well, and the Triple Bottom Line accounts for this. We want to contribute to a locally economy model with our 100% NZ products, around 25 lines are locally manufactured specifically for the dental market. By encouraging waste reduction Aluro wants to decrease the amount of resources consumed by the company and therefore deliver an economic return.

Improvements in energy efficiency reduces costs by requiring less energy to accomplish the same business value that is why we buy in bulk to decrease air miles and sea freight if possible, to decrease carbon foot print caused by transporting by air. It has been estimated in one study that the bottom line of dental offices can be improved up to US\$50k per year by going green (Ecodentistry.org)





# Social Sustainability in Green Dentistry

The final pillar, equality, addresses human capital and ensuring fair and equitable access to all, while improving the overall quality of life for our staff our clients and the communities served. Aluro and business partners also focus on workplace social initiatives that ensure the health and safety of workers by creating workspaces that provide a healthier work experience as well as programs that enhance skill sets and foster stable livelihoods. Some of our initiatives are:

## Building Internal Community

***Threads® Culture*** – Aluro’s personnel development system

Threads® software reviews employee performance based on how each member of the team contributes to the culture of our organization. We believe the organisation that builds the best culture will be the one that wins over the long-term. By focusing on culture, we will create the greatest amount of opportunity, growth and rewards for every person on our team. Threads® helps us build our best culture by uniting everyone behind our core values and clearly defining the Results/Performance Expectations needed from each position on our team. Doing both things well is what builds culture and makes a person highly rated inside of Threads and inside our organisation.

## ***Health & Safety***

Aluro has partnered with a Health and Safety company to ensure we have a robust Health and Safety systems in place. We are determined to ensure we provide a safe workplace environment.

### ***Employee Assistance Programme***

We have partnered the Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP). Aluro staff, partners and immediate family all have access to this resource. EAP Services is New Zealand's leading employee assistance programme provider, their service is completely confidential, and they are committed to supporting organisations to enhance the wellbeing and performance of our staff.

### ***Staff Welfare***

Staff wellbeing and fitness is important to us. We offer all staff financial contribution towards their gym memberships or organised fitness activity. We also support our staff to take care of their oral health and support this by providing Dental Care reimbursements towards a bi-annual mouth fitness assessment. Staff are also offered free annual flu vaccines.

## **Building External Community**

*In our desire to build our community we are involved in the support of the follow projects:*

### **Foster Hope NZ**

is a charity that supports children taken into foster care. Through each sale of our 360PRO Sonic Toothbrush and Water flossers we donate 2 toothbrushes to be included in the backpacks for foster children displaced by circumstances. Our staff have had a Christmas collection drive for gifts for children cared for by this organisation.

### **Wish for a Smile**

The Wish for A Smile Trust is a public health initiative of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists (NZAO).

The Trust aims to make specialist orthodontic treatment available to young New Zealanders who would otherwise be unable to access orthodontic care. Aluro in support of these young Kiwis provide an oral care pack for every child accepted into the program to assist in maintaining good oral care during their treatment.

### **Smiles for the Pacific (SFTP)**

SFTP was formed in late 2012 with the aim of training, upskilling and mentoring Fijian health professionals to meet complex dental needs in underserviced northwest region of Fiji. Aluro has provided a wide range of consumable products each year for the visit by the clinicians from NZ.

### **Marine Reach MR**

MR exists to ease suffering and provide hope for those affected by poverty, disease or injustice through ministries in Vanuatu and their medical ship M/V Pacific Hope which provides free medical, dental, and optical care. Aluro has provided specific dental items for their missions to Vanuatu.

**Foster Hope**  
bringing hope to those in care



# Lead by Example through our Operations

*We are working to reorient all operational activities carried out by or on behalf of Aluro to maximise our contribution to a more sustainable approach.*

This is a responsibility shared across all members of the company, and we will work together as community to continually improve our sustainability performance.

With a focus on achieving best practice through our operational activities, wherever possible we will strive to lead the way.

We aim to take incremental steps on our continuous path to sustainability, some of the strategies that we want to include to achieve our objectives:

***1. Activate and support change towards sustainability***

***2. Embed sustainability into Aluro's core values***

***3. Build credibility through transparency and accountability***

***4. Encourage sustainability in the procurement of products, services and the supply chain***

# Activities

## ***Looking into Aluros' activities to create a better environment for Green Dentistry in New Zealand***

- Establish clear objectives to drive continual improvement in the company's sustainability performance
- Embed sustainability within Aluro's policies, strategies, procedures and practices as they come up for review.
- Incorporate sustainability into our buying cycle
- Report regularly to staff, admin and clients about Aluro's sustainability performance.
- Embed the principles of sustainability within procurement activities to ensure the selection of products and services that provide value for money on a whole life cycle basis and achieve wider economic, social and environmental benefits
- Promote and encourage sustainable forms of packing and shipping by staff and all the company areas.
- Encourage a reduction in the number of packages and try as more as we can to increase selling volume.
- Develop and actively maintain partnerships with clients to create awareness and decrease Non-GREEN products.
- Demonstrate linkages between GREEN products and sustainability, via cost effective comparisons along with the introduction of new products.

