At Besse Medical, we support physician practices in their environmental decisions. And we practice what we preach. Here are some of the actions we are taking to reduce waste and increase efficiency.

Minimizing Paper Use

Increasing digitization holds out the hope of reducing the amount of paper used in the workplace, but sometimes the promise of a ‘paperless office’ seems as far away as ever!

Our associates have long reduced their paper use in favor of digital documents on screen. We have invested in twin screens for everyone, so they can easily refer to documentation on one screen to better help the customer on the other. And our distribution center stores over 50 percent of its documents electronically, reducing the need for paper and document destruction.

We’ve also taken steps over the years to reduce the amount of material we print to send to customers, preferring instead to use digital resources such as email and besse.com.

Since launching besse.com, our online supply management center, we’ve seen a huge decrease in the number of faxes we receive. In fact we estimate that we’ve seen a decrease of 70 percent in paper waste overall – both for sender and receiver. Remember, besse.com offers online and mobile order management that expedites the order-placing and tracking processes, online bill pay, multiple-location ordering and invoicing. Faster ordering, less paper, less fuss.

So if you’re not already using besse.com to its full extent, why not take another look at what it can do?

Recycling and Repurposing

Our distribution center recycles more than 80 tons of corrugation per year, and uses bubble wrap and styrofoam partially made from recycled materials. But recycling does not begin and end at the recycling bin. Purchasing new products with recycled content is a critical step businesses can take to stimulate markets for the recyclable materials collected.

At Besse Medical we print with soy inks on paper from well-managed commercial forests.

In our office every associate has a reusable coffee mug and water bottle to reduce the use of disposable cups and bottles (and to reduce spillages!)

In common with our sister companies across AmerisourceBergen, we dispose of our obsolete electrical equipment through a third party company which processes it in a responsible way. They look to minimize landfill refuse by refurbishing, remarketing and recycling equipment.

See our Green Practice Tips on besse.com. It includes ways that practices across the country are recycling and repurposing. And it’s not just paper – remember that the cooler packaging from Besse Medical can be recycled or reused in a number of ways.
Reducing Energy and Water Use

As we face higher energy prices, power- and water-saving techniques can save money and keep the environment healthy. Practice managers are finding that using energy-efficient office products and water efficiency programs are a smart way to reduce operating costs.

Our distribution center in Brooks, Kentucky has installed a new electric transformer which has made the facility 10 percent more energy efficient. By also investing in a temperature-controlled environment it not only protects our product, it keeps the heating and cooling units from being overworked during weather fluctuations, resulting in 6 percent saving in energy bills.

That’s not all. The distribution center reduced its vehicle fleet by 50 percent, taking its fuel consumption down from an average of 240 hours a day to 120 hours.

Besse Medical doesn’t send its market specialists all over the country; not only do we find it more efficient and a superior service to deal with your orders and queries by phone and online, we also reduce our carbon footprint by taking far fewer flights and car journeys. We also target our associates’ presence at trade shows for best effect: to only attend the shows where we can meet the most of our customers from all over the country.

Managing Medical Waste

Besse Medical helps practices dispose of biohazard materials and pharmaceutical waste by offering the Sharps Disposal by Mail System, the first complete disposal system for simplified management of used needles, syringes and other small-quantity medical waste.

We encourage practices to keep up on recent regulatory change, to make sure you are in compliance with the governing agencies in your state.

State Medical Waste Programs and Regulations
www3.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/medical/programs.htm

EPA Medical Waste Publications
www3.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/medical/publications.htm

OSHA Standards for Medical Offices
www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3187/OSHA3187.html

FDA Regulations on Medical Devices
www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/overview/default.htm

Besse Medical, an AmerisourceBergen company, is a pharmaceutical supplier and solutions partner to physician practices that accelerates access to the general and specialty products, technology solutions, market intelligence and financial and reimbursement insights practices need. As one of the nation’s largest and most trusted distributors of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, biologicals and basic ancillary supplies to community physicians, we understand the vital nature of care, so we deliver with the empathy, immediacy and ingenuity needed to maximize practice effectiveness and efficiency and ultimately help healthcare providers elevate the patient experience. Learn more at www.besse.com.