

**(NEWS FROM ASTM INTERNATIONAL, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Published 11/12)**

### **ASTM International to Develop Standards for Sustainable Dentistry**

**W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa.**,—Sustainability now plays an important role in many professional fields and dentistry is no exception. To recognize and encourage sustainable dental practices, ASTM Subcommittee E60.80 on General Sustainability Standards has begun to develop a proposed new standard, WK34710, Practice for Sustainable Dentistry. E60.80 is under the jurisdiction of ASTM International Committee E60 on Sustainability.

According to Beverly Oviedo, an E60 member and a sustainability educator and consultant with over 25 years of dental management experience, the purpose of ASTM WK34710 will be to assist dental practices in becoming more sustainable environmentally, economically and socially. The proposed new standard will identify key issues related to sustainability in the manufacture and use of dental products to assist the dental profession in promoting and applying sustainable practices in oral health care.

“We are closely investigating the dental organization as a means to integrate the value of sustainability,” says Oviedo. “Sustainable development best practices take into consideration decision-making related to three main pillars: people, planet and profit.”

WK34710 will define a dental management system model to illustrate how to embed the value of corporate social responsibility into the practice of dentistry, as well as to create and promote recommended sustainable best practices. Dental professionals will be able to use WK34710 to identify sustainable methods for selecting materials and products; determining appropriate disposal of products; building or remodeling dental offices; and discharging materials into the waste stream.

Oviedo believes that once it is approved the standard will be used by a wide variety of entities connected to dentistry:

- Manufacturers will have the impetus to reduce packaging, with more consideration being given to combining shipments, rather than using single item packaging. The proposed standard could also create more interest in the development of sustainable dental products.
- Regulators may eventually use WK34710 to reward dental practices that demonstrate leadership roles in sustainable development.
- Consumers will be informed of the benefits to them of sustainable dental practices and products.
- Laboratories will be able to reduce their impact on the environment by incorporating sustainable waste management practices.

Oviedo notes that the journey to sustainability is an ongoing process.

“Each dental organization, once it has embedded the value of sustainability, will determine independently how to align this value with their business,” says Oviedo. “One organization may want to use recycled paper only to start out. Another organization might want to adopt all new practices, such as new employee recruitment based on sustainable values, human resources sustainability training, and all new materials for construction and products made from renewable resources.”

Oviedo invites all interested parties, including “dental professionals with a passion for the well-being of the planet, their organization and people” to become involved in the standard development process for ASTM WK34710.

ASTM International welcomes participation in the development of its standards. For more information on becoming an ASTM member, visit [www.astm.org/JOIN](http://www.astm.org/JOIN).

**Task Group E60.80.07 Technical Contact:** For more information related to the development of the standard, please contact: Beverly A. Oviedo, Sustainable Solutions by Design, [boviedo@ssbydesign.com](mailto:boviedo@ssbydesign.com)

**ASTM Staff Contact:** Stephen Mawn, Phone: 610-832-9726; [smawn@astm.org](mailto:smawn@astm.org)

**Resources:**

**E60 Committee Video:** Committee for Sustainability was formed on October 10, 2008. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNMxvVlysiY>

**Work Item 34710:**

<http://www.astm.org/WorkItems/WK34710.htm>