

5 Minute Flashcards

Card 11: Sustainability in Theatres

1. What does sustainability in healthcare actually mean?

2. No one cares about environmental sustainability in healthcare though right?

3. Have a guess at the amount of carbon dioxide the NHS is responsible for each year (our carbon footprint). Go on.

6. Want to do get involved or got a good idea about sustainability? Join the Theatre Sustainability Group!

5. In what bin should the following be disposed in?

- a) A used paper towel
- b) Packaging from a sterile item
- c) An empty saline plastic vial
- d) An empty paracetamol plastic bottle
- e) A guidewire used for endoscopy
- f) A 50ml propofol bottle
- g) A crisp packet

4. There's loads we can do to reduce our environmental impact in theatre. Name at least 4 things.

Written by Dr Jim Self

Card 11: Sustainability

1. Providing high standard of care while minimising the future impact of our work financially (not bankrupting the NHS), environmentally (not killing the planet), and socially (being nice basically)



2. Yes they do! The NHS is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2040. The trust declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set up a Green Council to implement environmental changes AND we have our own Theatre Sustainability Group!



3. About 25 MILLION tonnes! That's the same as produced by Sri Lanka.



4.

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!
- Reduce: Do you need to use it? Do you need that extra plastic bag? Do you need to open that extra bit of kit?
- Reuse: Does it have to be single use?
- Recycle! Please make sure everything that can be recycled is! Look at the posters in every theatre for details.
- Minimise power usage! Turn things off when you don't need them. Turn everything off at the end of the day.
- Minimise use of environmentally damaging anaesthetic gases.
- Wear flares, flipflops and grow your hair (evidence for this is limited).



5.

- a) In the general waste (black bag)
- b) In the standard recycling BUT please separate into the paper part and the plastic part.
- c) In standard recycling if all liquid emptied into sink
- d) Sharps. All drugs MUST go in the sharps. All of them. Note, water and saline are not drugs.
- e) In Gloucester these go in the METAL recycling bins (bright green things found in sluice areas). Hopefully coming to Cheltenham soon(ish).
- f) In the sharps! No drug vials can be recycled but the metal top CAN go in the metal recycling!!
- g) Cannot be recycled by hospital recycling but place in special supermarket recycling in coffee rooms which get taken for recycling by our awesome staff!!