NHS
Salisbury
NHS Foundation Trust

Heathcare Improvement Project on Sustainability within Operating Theatres (data: 2024)

25th June 2026

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Project

Project status: **Closed (Date closed 17/06/2025)**

Project Tracker Status: **No status (tracking turned off)**

Project Category: **Local Audit**

Project Priority: **1**

Project Code: **Theatres/QI/2024-25/01**

CQC Domains: **Responsive**

Reported Group: **Clinical Governance Half Day Core Session, Clinical Management Board, Departmental / Specialty Meeting**

Is your project related to particular sites? **Yes**
Salisbury District Hospital

Is your project related to particular wards/areas? **No**

Project Team

Lead Participant: **Charlotte Nicholls**

Participant(s): **George Keal, Shreya Gupta, Avni Kant, Yan Chung, Sam Millar, William Ward, Benjamin Scrivens, Bryony Bowman**

Mentor: **Max Johnston**

Rationale

Within our Healthcare Improvement Project (HIMP) we are hoping to try implement further recycling within theatres. This will hopefully save the trust money due to less waste needing to be incinerated as well as reduce carbon within the trust. Case studies from Oxford University Trust showed a cost saving of £1319.38 per year, and a saving of 8,886 kg CO2e per year by implementing recycling within their theatres. As such we would like to take a snapshot audit of waste management within CEPOD theatre in 24 hours. From this, we would like to update the waste management posters (as seen below) as they were last updated in June 2022.

Objective

- Observational study looking at how much recyclable materials are put into non-recycling bins within theatres

- Tally the different recyclable materials into paper, plastics, metals
- Snapshot of waste within a 24 hour period
- Calculate how much CO2 we would reduce and how much money could be saved

Methodology & Data Collection

Methodology and source of data: **Observational study**
- Spreadsheet to be filled in by the observer for 24 hours noting into 3 categories what is put into the bins that would be recyclable in categories: Paper, plastic and metal
- From this spreadsheet we will then use this to estimate how much waste would be generated in a 24 hour period and how much money the trust can save

Type of patients:

Data sample time frame from: **29/04/2024** to: **31/07/2024**

Data collection period from: **29/04/2024** to: **31/07/2024**

Retrospective/prospective: **Prospective**

Has the data already been collected?: **No**

Will you be collecting sensitive patient data for this project?: **No**

Guidance

No guidance has been related to this audit.

Results

Estimated total recyclable waste in 1 theatre in 1 day = 2kg

Estimated total recyclable waste in 1 theatre in 1 year = 713kg

Estimated total recyclable waste in all theatres (17) in 1 year = 12,123.7kg

CO2 emissions saved if total recyclable waste is recycled in all theatres in 1 year = 25,475.3kg CO2e

CO2 emissions saved if cardboard and paper recycled in all theatres in 1 year 2,508.65kg CO2e

Criteria

No data has been recorded yet.

Conclusions

There is scope for improvement!

- Save cost
- Reduce carbon footprint

Surgical theatres are an appropriate site for primary intervention

- Operating theatres account for over 50% of **ALL** hospital waste generated

Education and active efforts are needed amongst staff to encourage recycling within these areas

A tangible way to achieve SDH's Green Plan Priorities:

- Increase resource productivity - extend the life of items purchased (repair), increase the volume of recycled waste and repurpose items (e.g. furniture)
- Reduce the volumes of residual waste through supplier engagement (avoidance), reuse and recycling

Assurance & Risk

Assurance level: **Full**
The project has fully achieved the standards or criteria being audited against

Risk level: **None**
Standards met and findings demonstrate no risk to patient safety

Key Successes

Description
We were able to demonstrate there is a need for recycling bins within theatres and what this could provide for the trust in terms of meeting their green policy outcomes but also in reducing CO2 emissions and costs

Key Concerns

Description
Whilst we were able to identify the need for recycling bins, implementing them and encouraging their use has been difficult to organise. This is because there is an initial cost for the bins, staff and collection. There is also an infection control risk in recycling within theatres. There is also a logistics discussion about where the bins could go etc.

Action Plan

Recommendations

	Recommendation	Added	By
1	Education on recycling	18/06/2024	C A
2	Appropriate recycling bins needed for Theatres	12/02/2025	C A

Actions

	Recommendation(s)	Action	Responsible	Date raised	Due date	Action RAG	Progress
1	Education on recycling	Create an infographic to demonstrate the importance of recycling.	Dr Charlotte Nicholls	12/02/2025	30/06/2024		Fully complete

	Recommendation(s)	Action	Responsible	Date raised	Due date	Action RAG	Progress
2	Appropriate recycling bins needed for Theatres	Order appropriate recycling bins for Theatres.	Dr Charlotte Nicholls	12/02/2025	30/06/2025		Fully complete

Action plan finalisation

Action plan approved by **Carly Ackland** on **11/06/2025**

Detail	By	When	Notes	Senior approver
Approved	C A	11th June 2025 10:42:12		
Pending approval	C A	11th June 2025 10:41:59		

Post Project Impact

We have been trying for the past few months to secure a recycling bin for theatre. To help with this we carried out a trial run in ENT day elective theatre 20/11 where in one case we managed to fill a dry mixed recycling bag with plastic, paper, cardboard and fabric of non-contaminated waste to be evaluated by BIFFA (the hospitals waste contractor). This was evaluated and deemed appropriate so bins have been ordered but we are still waiting on delivery. Our hope is once we have the bins in place, we can run further sessions with theatre staff on what can and can't be recycled as per BIFFA instructions. We can then reaudit and hopefully encourage further recycling within the hospital with the results

List of Uploaded Files

Name	File Type	Usage	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
20250212091452_himpsustainabilityinfographic.pdf	PDF	Audit evidence	C A	12/02/2025
20250211165054_scrubsortsavefeedback.pdf	PDF	Audit post project impact	Charlotte Nicholls	11/02/2025
20250211165044_himprecyclingintheatres.pdf	PDF	Audit post project impact	Charlotte Nicholls	11/02/2025
20250211163808_scrubsortsave.pdf	PDF	Audit presentations	Charlotte Nicholls	11/02/2025

Name	File Type	Usage	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
20250211163753_healthcareimprovmentauditpresentation.pdf	PDF	Audit presentations	Charlotte Nicholls	11/02/2025