PRACTICE
Greenhealth™

Greening the Operating Room™ Checklist

Hospitals rank among the largest users of energy, highest producers of waste and are a major consumer of chemicals, paper, water and other resources, resulting in an industry with a huge environmental footprint. In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment, healthcare organizations are asking for information on best practices, guidance in establishing green practices and methods to measure success. They are also asking for guidance on where to focus their efforts. As a primary source of hospital revenue, one of the largest users of supplies and generators of hospital waste, the operating room (OR) is a strategic priority for any hospital hoping to reduce its impact on the environment. This tool is designed to assist health care providers in assessing the status of environmental best practices in the OR.

For organizations just beginning to identify sustainability programs in the operating room, this tool will illustrate where opportunities exist. For those further along, it can highlight products, processes and elements that may have been overlooked. Whether your organization is just beginning its sustainability journey or is looking for ways to assess and measure progress, this tool was designed for you.

GREENING THE OR™

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Facility Name

_____

Contact Name   Title

_____

Phone   Email   Date

Instructions: Place an uppercase 'X' in the appropriate box next to each activity. Please only use one 'X' per line.

Greening the OR™ Checklist	Fully Established (>1 Year)	Implementation In Progress	Not Implemented	Unaware of the Program/ Process	Not applicable (N/A)	Additional Notes
Organizational Development						
Endorse and participate in Practice Greenhealth's Greening the OR™ Initiative	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Build a Green Team specific to Surgical Services/OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Educate OR staff on benefits of greening and opportunities for cost and waste reduction and safety benefits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

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Waste Reduction and Prevention in the OR

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Conduct a waste audit in Surgical Services/OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Implement a process to divert pre-incision, non-pharmaceutical waste from regulated medical waste stream into a clear bag for non-infectious waste disposal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Implement a process to segregate non-infectious solid waste from the regulated medical waste stream during and after the procedure.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Recycle medical plastics from the OR, including:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Clean, rigid plastics of any shape (e.g., trays, containers and packaging)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Clean, empty bottles (e.g., saline and alcohol)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Clean blue wrap (polypropylene sterile wrap)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Clean, soft plastics (e.g., overwraps)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Clean Tyvek	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
• Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize a fluid management system for capturing liquid waste from surgery in reusable containers that empty liquid directly to sanitary sewer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Recycle batteries generated in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize a reusable sharps container system	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Collect FDA-approved medical devices for reprocessing with an FDA-approved third party reprocessor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Segregate pharmaceutical waste into specially labeled containers for appropriate disposal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in the OR

	Fully Established	Implementation In Progress	Not Implemented	Unaware of the Program/ Process	Not applicable (N/A)	Additional Notes
Reformulate OR kits to reduce excess supplies and overage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase reprocessed medical devices from an FDA-approved third party reprocessor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Replace disposable items with reusable items in OR kits where demonstrated safe and economically viable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize reusable hard cases for surgical instrumentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

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Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in the OR (continued)						
Use PVC and DEHP-free IV bags and tubing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase PVC-free (non-vinyl) surgical gloves	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase reusable gowns for surgical staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase reusable covers for mayo stands	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase reusable covers for back table	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase reusable surgical (huck) towels	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase energy-efficient or EnergyStar-rated monitors for equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase EPEAT-registered* computers and monitors for use in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize mercury-free blood pressure devices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Use reusable pulse oximeter sensors/probes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Purchase other reusable devices or products, please describe:						
Utilize reusable grounding pads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize rubber corners for surgical trays wrapped in blue wrap to prevent breakage requiring resterilization	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize environmentally preferable cleaners or disinfectants for hard surfaces in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize reusable totes for delivering surgical supplies to the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Built Environment						
Utilize occupancy sensors for lighting to reduce energy use in unoccupied ORs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Program HVAC system to reduce air changes when ORs are unoccupied in order to reduce energy use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize LED surgical lighting to reduce energy use and increase thermal comfort	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Use an anesthetic gas capture system to capture waste anesthetic gases (WAGs) and prevent venting to outside air	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

* EPEAT is an environmental certification system for electronics. Learn more at www.epeat.net

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Built Environment (continued)						
Install a power boom with a laser smoke capture system	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize modular casework that does not contain urea formaldehyde	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize PVC-free edge details in casework						
Utilize durable countertops such as solid surfacing in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize PVC-free wall and door protection	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize PVC-free flooring (such as rubber flooring) in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Utilize epoxy-free and bisphenol A (BPA)-free coatings for walls	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Implement ASHRAE 170 guidance for air changes as a mechanism to reduce energy use in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Implement ASHRAE 170 guidance for humidity control as a mechanism to reduce energy use in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Follow ASHRAE 170 guidance for air distribution as a means to reduce energy use, enhance infection prevention and reduce air changes in the OR	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Use paperless documentation systems to prevent errors, speed information exchange, conserve resources and reduce space.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	