

Greening The OR[®] Initiative



Accelerating Sustainability in ORs Nationwide

Practice Greenhealth is the leading nonprofit membership and networking organization for sustainable health care. The Greening the OR[®] Initiative is one of our cutting-edge programs designed to drive sustainable, environmentally-friendly practices across the health care sector while increasing operational efficiencies and improving patient safety. We are working collaboratively with our partners and endorsing hospitals to reduce energy, minimize waste, and improve staff and patient safety in operating rooms (ORs) across the country.

Focusing Our Efforts to Make the Biggest Impact

U.S. hospitals use more than eight percent of our nation's energy and produce an astonishing 11.7 thousand tons of waste each day. As the health care sector explores ways to become more sustainable, we are focusing on those departments with the highest costs, greatest inefficiencies and/or largest volumes of waste.

ORs are a driving force behind rising costs associated with equipment, supplies and personnel and generate between 20 and 30 percent of a hospital's total waste volume. By helping hospitals lessen the footprint of its ORs, the Greening the OR Initiative is addressing one of health care's biggest opportunities to improve efficiency in health care and increase environmental stewardship.

Creating a Path to Success

More than 452 hospitals and 13 businesses have joined the Greening the OR Initiative. Together, we are creating a path to success: by defining what the green operating room of the future looks like and the kinds of products, programs, and best management practices hospitals can focus on as a means of getting there.

As part of our work, Practice Greenhealth brings together supportive businesses, large and small, to help drive change across the health care supply chain. We facilitate the relationships between businesses and hospitals to focus and drive change in the OR. By working with these stakeholders, we've been able to develop an even greater number of green products and services in the market.



[GreeningTheOR.org](https://www.GreeningTheOR.org)

The Financial Benefits of Greening the OR

Since we launched the Greening the OR Initiative in 2010, more hospitals are embracing sustainability in the OR. We've helped hundreds of hospitals meet their goals. In turn, many have realized that greening the OR is not only good for the environment and good for patients and staff—it's also good for the bottom line.

Running a more efficient and less wasteful OR can lead to big savings. For example, hospitals pay much higher disposal fees—between 10 and 15 times more—due to the higher cost of disposing regulated medical waste compared to solid waste or recycling. In addition, most OR supplies are thrown out after just one use—and unused, unopened, supplies that are part of those kits are tossed as well—even though reprocessing and reusing these items may be an option.



Leveraging Powerful Tools to Drive Change

Practice Greenhealth provides hospitals with the data, tools, resources and knowledge necessary to substantiate best practices in the OR as a critical step to widespread adoption across the sector.

IMPLEMENTATION MODULES

Guidance documents that set out a data-driven strategy and step-by-step process for successfully greening surgical departments. They provide a thorough overview of initial interventions that provide the greatest benefit and have the best return on investment.

CASE STUDIES

An in-depth look at successful sustainability initiatives from a number of facilities across the country. Case studies are available at www.greeningtheor.org.

WEBINARS

Focus on a different best practice and share real-time case studies from participating hospitals, documenting various Greening the OR initiatives and interventions. Includes relevant research and data along with case studies of individual facilities.

