



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.



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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Build a Green Team specific to Surgical Services/OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Educate OR staff on benefits of greening and opportunities for cost and waste reduction and safety benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Waste Reduction and Prevention in the OR					
Conduct a waste audit in Surgical Services/OR	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Implement a process to divert pre-incision, non-pharmaceutical waste from regulated medical waste stream into a clear bag for non-infectious waste disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Implement a process to segregate non-infectious solid waste from the regulated medical waste stream during and after the procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Recycle medical plastics from the OR, including:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Clean, rigid plastics of any shape (e.g., trays, containers and packaging)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Clean, empty bottles (e.g., saline and alcohol)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Clean blue wrap (polypropylene sterile wrap)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Clean, soft plastics (e.g., overwraps)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Clean Tyvek	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Utilize a fluid management system for capturing liquid waste from surgery in reusable containers that empty liquid directly to sanitary sewer	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Recycle batteries generated in the OR	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Utilize a reusable sharps container system	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Collect FDA-approved medical devices for reprocessing with an FDA-approved third party reprocessor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Segregate pharmaceutical waste into specially labeled containers for appropriate disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in the OR					
Reformulate OR kits to reduce excess supplies and overage	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Purchase reprocessed medical devices from an FDA-approved third party reprocessor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Replace disposable items with reusable items in OR kits where demonstrated safe and economically viable	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Utilize reusable hard cases for surgical instrumentation	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in the OR (continued)

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

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

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



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