

Why Green the OR?

Sue Pepin, OR Service Supervisor, Regions Hospital

November 9, 2023



Regions by the numbers

- **167,145** patient stays
- **12,176** OR procedures
- **23** operating rooms
- **534** staffed beds



Our Sustainability Commitment Statement

HealthPartners is committed to improving the health and well-being of our patients, members and our community by sustaining and protecting our environment.

We will:

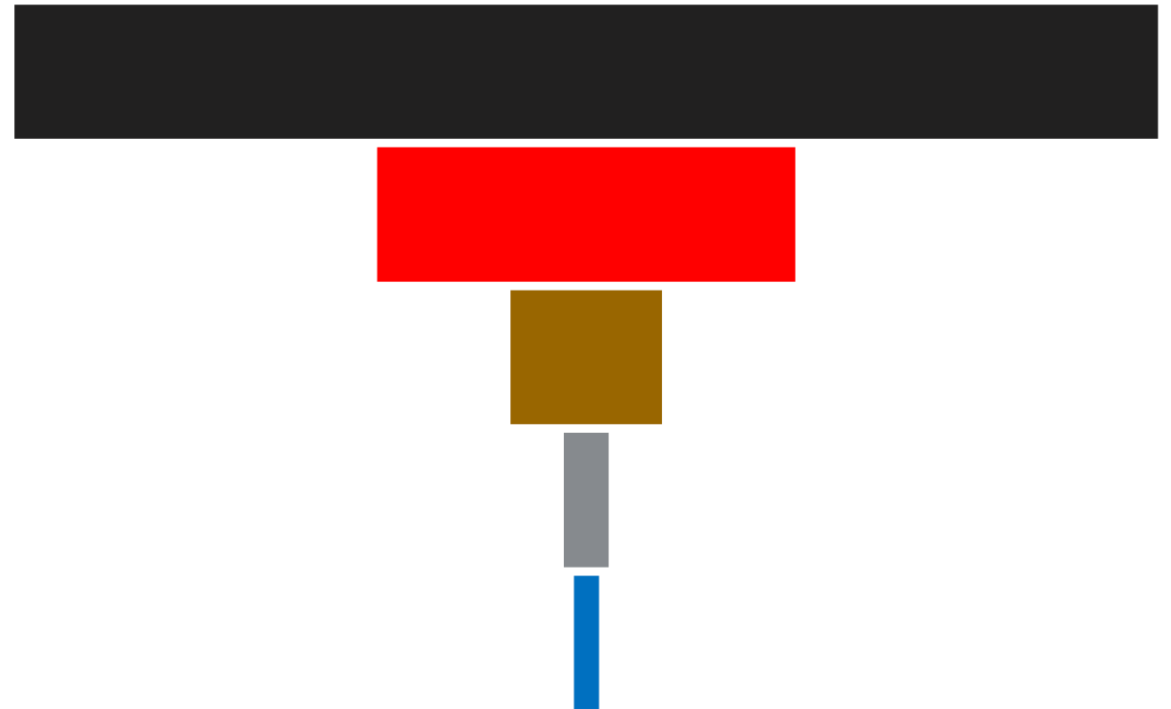
- 1** Expand the use of innovative practices that conserve natural and financial resources and reduce our carbon footprint
- 2** Encourage employees to participate in, champion or support sustainability practices, both at work and at home
- 3** Measure and monitor our progress toward our sustainability goals
- 4** Lead, advocate or implement initiatives that improve the environment and advance health equity beyond our facilities.

Greening the OR: opportunities abound

- According to [Practice Greenhealth](#), operating rooms on average:
 - Drive up to 60% revenue for entire hospital – high profile
 - Are responsible for 40 to 60% of the organization's total supply costs
 - Produce more than 30% of a facility's waste and two-thirds of its regulated medical waste
 - Can consume three to six times more energy per square foot than anywhere else in the facility – BIG carbon footprint!

Waste segregation in the OR

- **Hazardous waste:**
\$5,781 / ton
- **Regulated medical waste:** \$2,116 / ton
- **Universal waste:** \$768 / ton
- **Regular trash:** \$230 / ton
- **Mixed recycling:** \$130 / ton



Reprocessed medical devices

- 5.4 tons of single-use devices reprocessed
- \$445,700 in savings
 - \$443,400 in purchasing savings
 - \$2,300 in avoided waste disposal costs



Fluid waste management systems

- **49 tons of waste avoided**
 - 40 tons liquid waste avoided
 - 9 tons canister waste avoided
- **\$105,500 in savings**
 - \$85,200 in purchasing savings
 - \$20,300 in avoided waste disposal costs



Reusable OR sterilization containers

- **53 tons of waste avoided**
- **\$310,200 in savings**
 - \$298,100 in purchasing savings
 - \$12,100 in avoided waste disposal costs



Reusable sharps containers

- 50 tons of waste avoided
- \$21,000 in avoided waste disposal costs



Medical plastics recycling

- 7 tons of blue wrap recycled and 1 ton of shrink wrap recycled in partnership with Merrick, Inc.
- Single-stream, comingled recycling program:
 - #1 PETE
 - #2 HDPE
 - #5 PP



Merrick, Inc.

- Collects shrink and blue wrap from locations
- Baled the materials separately
- Shrink wrapped sold to Trex for composite decking
- Blue wrap sold to Poly Wrap Recycling, LLC or a vendor that makes plastic shelving
- All materials stay in USA



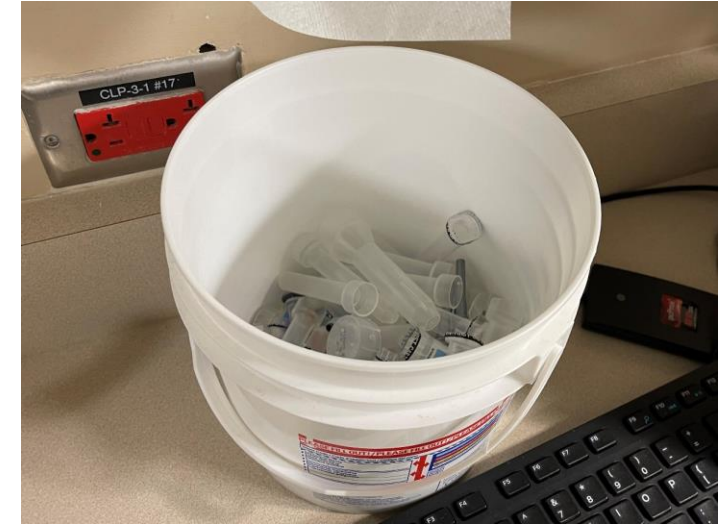
Merrick, Inc. employees



Blue wrap and Shrink wrap bales

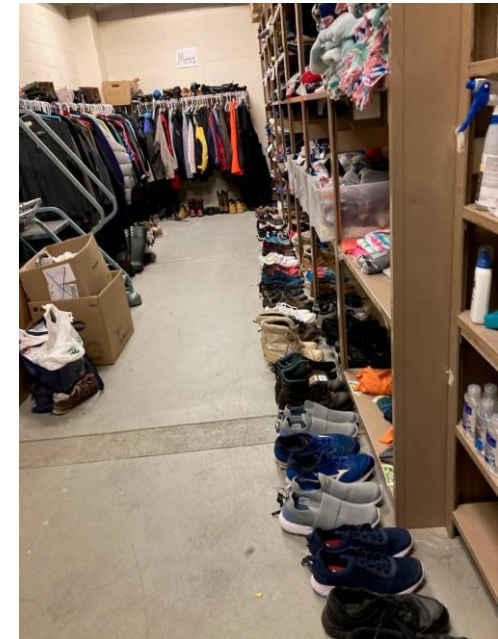
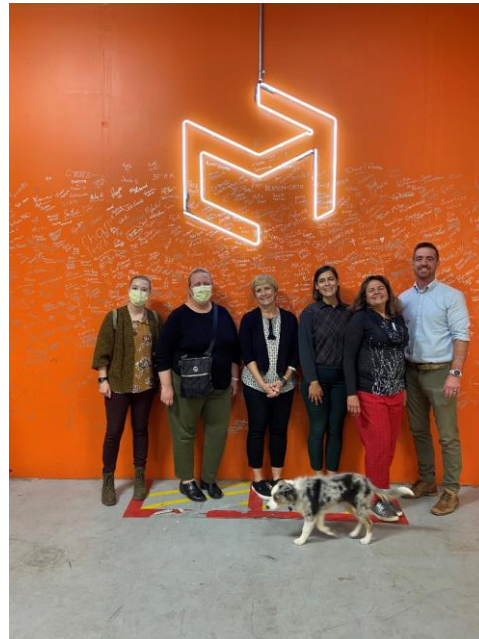
Challenges to recycling plastics

- Uncertain commodity markets
- Outlet for materials
- Local ordinances
- Items with two or more types of materials
- Smaller plastic items
- Black plastics
- Removing plastic bags from recycling



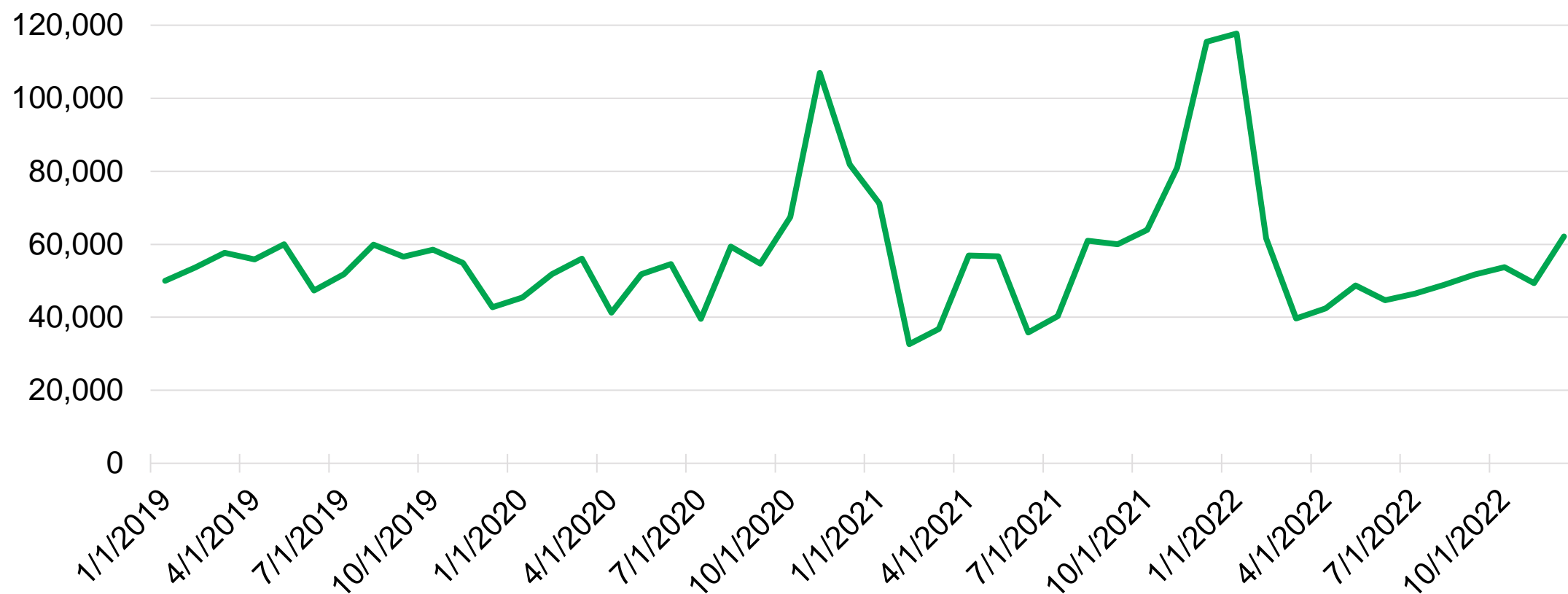
Donations

- 11 tons of medical equipment, supplies, and other items donated to local mission groups
- Resource Room supports our patients in need



Reusable gowns

- 667,266 reusable precaution gowns used at Regions in 2022



Energy management in the OR

- **21 of 23 ORs have HVAC setback**
 - 25 ACH when occupied, 20 ACH when unoccupied
 - 2 ORs available 24/7 for emergencies
 - \$6,640 in savings per year
- **All 23 ORs have LED surgical lighting**



In total ...

- **\$889,000** in Greening the OR savings
- **>152** tons of waste avoided; **24** tons of waste recycled/reused

Awards!

- 7 time **Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award** from Practice Greenhealth
- 5 time **Top 10 Circle of Excellence Award** for Greening the OR from Practice Greenhealth



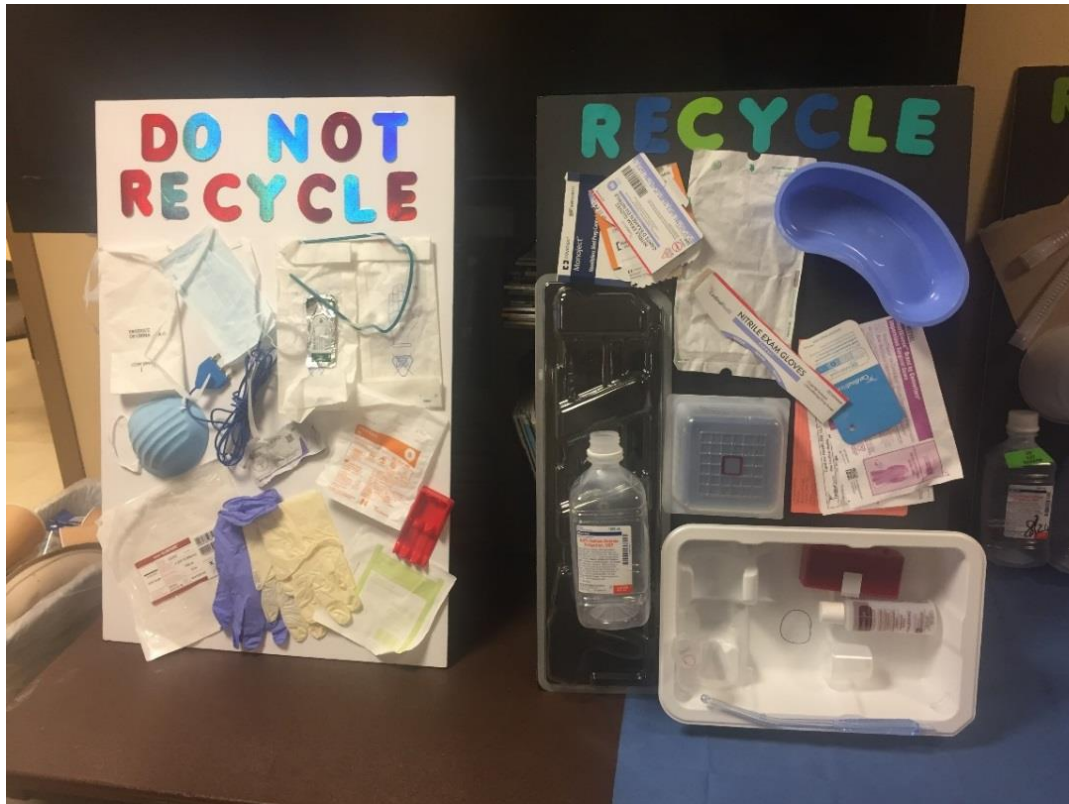
Keys to success

- Champion(s)



Keys to success

- Staff engagement



Keys to success

- A network of peers
 - Practice Greenhealth
 - AORN
 - HEARRT



PRACTICE
Greenhealth™



HEARRT
Midwest

Challenges

- What purchasing is able to buy (price/contracts vs. sustainability)
- Plastics recycling (discussed earlier)
- Staff engagement

Thank you!

