

SUSTAINABILITY AT ST. JOE'S

Welcome to St. Joe's. We trust your experience with us will be everything you hope it to be. As you integrate into our team, we ask that you get familiar with some of the routines that we use to minimize our waste and carbon footprint. As championed by the Health Centre's Chief of Sustainability, Anesthetist Dr. Ali Abbass, in our OR you will find the following industry-leading initiatives:


- The implementation of North America's first OR PVC recycling program
 - <https://www.vinylinstituteofcanada.com/medical-pvc-recycling-pilot-program-pvc-123/>
- The implementation of Stryker Sustainability's single use medical device reprocessing
 - <https://sustainability.stryker.com/>
- The cessation of the use of desflurane and minimal to no use of nitrous oxide (potent greenhouse gases)

We provide to you here a brief overview of some of our sustainability practices. We hope that you incorporate them into your practice and that you'll help the Dept. of Anesthesia be leaders in sustainability at St. Joe's.

BE LEAN AND GREEN IN YOUR PRACTICE

- Segregate all your waste and sharps appropriately
 - **Incineration of sharps is very expensive!** Only sharp things go in the sharps container (e.g. needles, cracked ampules)
 - **Syringes go in the garbage. Glass bottles, too, if metal lip not removed (see below).**
- Avoid opening an excess of equipment and drugs
 - E.g. Double-lumen endotracheal tubes cost ~\$100!
- Avoid halogenated gas use where possible
 - Can the case be done under local or regional anesthesia?
 - Nitrous oxide is very bad for the environment and persists in the atmosphere for 114 years!

BLUE BIN RECYCLING – Found throughout the OR including one attached to the anesthesia drug cart in each OR.

- Do recycle
 - Tearable paper - E.g. Separate from soft plastic of syringe wrappers
 - Hard plastics – E.g. Epidural/spinal kit trays
 - **Glass bottles (with metal lip removed)** → 
- Don't recycle
 - Soft plastics

PVC RECYCLING – You'll find green recycling containers in the hallways of the operating room area.

- Do recycle
 - IV bags (Please remove patient identifiers and labels)
 - Disposable green face masks, nasal cannulas and oxygen tubing
 - Disposable anesthesia circuit face masks
- Don't recycle
 - Blood-stained or soiled materials
 - Equipment from patients under Infection Control precautions



AT THE END OF YOUR WORKDAY

- “End case” on the Aisys gas machine, turn off machines and monitors
- Shut off auxiliary gas flow
- Turn off the computer or log out and turn off the monitor. This saves unnecessary energy usage.
- Tidy up your workstation

YOUR ACTIONS NOW WILL AFFECT GENERATIONS TO COME. HAVE QUESTIONS?? ASK!!