

# Greater environmental impact by extending the life of single-use devices with reprocessing



The healthcare industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change. From sourcing patient floor devices to figuring out how to dispose of them, hospitals have opportunities to make choices that improve the environment around them.

One way healthcare facilities can reduce their carbon footprint is through sustainable procurement practices. Simply put, sustainable procurement means finding ways to identify and reduce environmental harm in the supply chain. A hospital can do this by reclaiming, recycling or responsibly disposing of patient care floor devices — and through purchasing reprocessed supplies.

## The problem: Healthcare's environmental impact

Hospitals emit about **8.5%** of all greenhouse gases in the United States, and the healthcare industry is responsible for about **4.6%** of emissions globally.<sup>1</sup> This leads to harm in human health. Researchers have found that emissions from hospitals have reduced U.S. life expectancy by **388,000** disability-adjusted years.<sup>2</sup>

Plus, poorer communities globally tend to feel the most effects from climate change.<sup>3</sup>

The supply chain is a big factor encompassing **82%** of healthcare emissions, making it one of our best opportunities to tackle.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, single-use medical devices contribute to **90%** of medical waste.<sup>5</sup> Sustainable procurement and disposal practices support a hospital's mission of improving health. With the right partner, it can be a smooth process.

## The solution: An environmentally friendlier procurement process

Throughout the supply chain, hospitals have opportunities to reduce their environmental impact. Two possibilities to do so are purchasing reprocessed devices and ensuring safe waste disposal.

For example, a study found that opting for reprocessed devices can reduce ozone depletion by almost **90%**.<sup>6</sup> Reprocessed SUDs can reduce CO2 emissions by at least **40%**.<sup>4</sup> Products can only be reprocessed so many times before they need to be recycled. Finding ways to recycle, compost or responsibly dispose of medical waste further supports a hospital's sustainability goals.

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of emissions globally.<sup>1</sup>

## A closer look:

Safely collecting and reprocessing single-use medical devices is a big opportunity for hospitals to reduce waste.<sup>6</sup> Sustainable Technologies, a Cardinal Health business, is a reprocessing company that collaborates with healthcare facilities. Let's take a closer look at how the process works.

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Sustainable Technologies works with the hospital to understand the needs of each facility and tailor the model to match their sustainability and cost-saving goals.



Sustainable Technologies dedicated team places bins around the hospital for easy collection of medical devices, such as pneumatic tourniquet cuffs, lateral air transfer mats, compression sleeves, disposable cable and lead wires and pulse oximetry sensors.



Sustainable Technologies collects items, inspects, sorts and cleans them at the reprocessing plant. Then it tests, inspects, disinfects and sterilizes according to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines. Finally, it makes reprocessed product available for sale and distribution to hospitals.



When products can't be reprocessed any longer or is considered medical waste, Sustainable Technologies will reclaim or recycle all other non-hazardous materials using a waste to energy process at a waste energy facility. This diverts **99%** of waste from landfills.

Through this model, Sustainable Technologies collected **23.5 million** single-use devices and diverted more than **5.6 million** pounds of waste from landfills in 2025.<sup>7</sup>

Sustainable procurement helps hospitals achieve their mission of improving health in and out of the hospital. Working with a company like Sustainable Technologies can help lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduces waste, saves money and improves supply chain resilience. We provide validated safe reprocessed devices to promote a cleaner/greener hospital setting, and deliver quality service to ensure a seamless process at each step of the journey.



For more information call 844.268.2583, email [gogreen@cardinalhealth.com](mailto:gogreen@cardinalhealth.com) or visit [sustainabletechnologies.com](http://sustainabletechnologies.com)

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