



Earth Day Focus:

Sustainability in the Operating Theatre

28th April (7pm – 8pm):

[Sustainability in Surgery – disposable vs. reusable](#)

(click to register for FREE)

This webinar will look at **the use of disposable vs. reusable materials within surgery** and provide information on how to make important future changes in clinical practice. Hosted by RCS Council member and Vice-chair of the **RCS sustainability in surgery committee**, Ms Victoria Pegna, RCS Council member and Consultant neurosurgeon at Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Richard Kerr, ENT Research Fellow, Miss Chantelle Rizan and Consultant in ENT Surgery, Professor Mahmood Bhutta.

29th April:

[Waste and Sustainability Virtual Conference 2021](#)

4th – 8th May:

[ASGBI 'Future Surgery' Virtual Conference 2021](#)

7th May, 10am – 4pm:

[SHARE Sustainable Webinar \(CSH & Brighton\)](#)

(click [here](#) to register for FREE)



Consider the options

When **using Resposable™** devices (in place of fully disposables):

For **1** laparoscopic cholecystectomy -

Carbon footprint ↓ **76%**

Saving **5.4 kg*** CO₂e

= weight of **450 plastic bottles**

= driving **16 miles**

[READ MORE \[HERE\]\(#\)](#)

Sustainability in the Operating Theatre Updates:



The Green Surgery Challenge 2021 is an opportunity for the UK's surgical community to recognise the value of sustainable healthcare for surgical conditions: to share and promote ways of practising that are less harmful to the environment and our planet and build social sustainability: to continue to transform surgery for the future. Read more [here](#)

Nurses Climate Challenge Europe In January, Healthcare without harm launched a brand new campaign to mobilise nurses across Europe to educate fellow health professionals on the impacts of climate change on human health and motivate the sector to take climate action. Read more [here](#)



This month a paper that aims to provide an overall carbon footprint of general anaesthetics in the U.K was published in the *Resources, Conservation & Recycling* journal, titled:

The carbon footprint of general anaesthetics: A case study in the UK, Xiaocheng Hu, JM Tom Pierce, Tim Taylor, Karyn Morrissey. Read more [here](#)

The NHS Forest expanded by nearly four and a half thousand trees in the 2020/21 season. NHS sites across the UK have developed their green spaces, improved their local environment and supported wider goals of capturing carbon and protecting biodiversity through their activities. This year's tree planting season has wound to a close, but plans are already in the pipeline for next year's season, which starts in November. If your health site is interested in planting trees, improving provision for wildlife, or developing green space for patient, staff, and local community wellbeing – get in touch with Miriam at info@nhsforest.org to discuss plans.



A typical operation is 150 - 170kg CO₂, which is the equivalent of driving from London to Edinburgh in a petrol car.

Rizan C et al. *Annals Surgery*
202;272(6): 986-995

Operating theatres are typically the most resource-intensive area of a hospital, 3-6 times more energy-intensive than the rest of the hospital and a major contributor of waste. **In Dec 2020, Rizan et al published a paper** with the primary objective to systematically review and evaluate existing literature calculating the carbon footprint of surgical operations to determine opportunities for improving the environmental impact of surgery. This paper identified the **major carbon hotspots** with the examined operating theatres which were electricity use and **procurement of consumables**. It was possible to reduce the carbon footprint of surgery through improving energy-efficiency of theatres, **using reusable or reprocessed surgical devices** and streamlining processes. Read more [here](#).

Reducing waste in Operating Theatres

with Resposable™ solutions

* Environmental impact and life cycle financial cost of hybrid (reusable/single-use) instruments versus single-use equivalents in a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Miss Chantelle Rizan, MRes, MRCS (ENT) and Professor Mahmood Butta, DPhil, FRCS (ORL-HNS) from Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust