

UN Sustainable Development Goals and

Managing Hospital Waste by Reprocessing “Single Use” Medical Devices



GOAL # 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Worldwide consumption and production — a driving force of the global economy — rest on the use of resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet.

The COVID-19 pandemic offers countries an opportunity to build recovery plans and change our consumption and production patterns towards a more sustainable future.

IMPLICATIONS OF HOSPITAL WASTE:

If the global healthcare sector was a country, it would be the **fifth-largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet**. Pollution from hospitals adversely impacts human health.^{1,2}

A majority of hospital supplies become waste, resulting in nearly **7,000 tons of waste each day**. This waste translates to **\$10 billion in disposal costs** annually across the healthcare sector.³

Hospitals generate up to **25 pounds of waste per day, per patient**. For every pound of product made in the U.S., 32 pounds of waste are created during manufacturing and transportation, which also adds to the environmental impact of products a hospital purchases.⁴



HOW REPROCESSING HELPS:

Hospitals that use reprocessed devices diverted **15,889,741 pounds of medical waste** in 2018.⁵

Hospitals in the U.S. and Canada **saved over \$471M by using reprocessed devices**, which typically **cost 30 to 40% less than new devices**. Cost savings promote financial stability, making hospitals more sustainable.⁵

A study of reprocessing in EP labs found that **just 35% of devices that could be reprocessed are** – leaving an estimated **\$500M on the table**. Expanding reprocessing leads to waste reduction, lower costs, and a stronger supply chain.⁶



The global economy runs on consumption and production that requires a healthy planet. Our hospitals must reduce waste to help meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

REPROCESSING IS ONE UNDERUSED, SIMPLE SOLUTION.

SOURCES

- <https://noharm-uscanada.org/ClimateFootprintReport>
- <https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/25/pollution-health-care-harm/>
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