

WASTE SEGREGATION

Improving Waste Management Practices in Systemic Therapy: Effective Segregation Strategies at BC Cancer Surrey.

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INTRODUCTION

- All waste is disposed of in the garbage, ultimately **ending up in the landfills** in systemic therapy.
- Aim Statement - To **increase recycling** bins in the clinical setting **by 80% in 4 weeks**.
- Environmental impacts I am hoping to achieve is to reduce Methane emissions from paper products ending in the landfill.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 24th to 30th all waste was going into the landfill • June 13th to 19th 51% waste is going into the landfill 	<p>49% Waste generated in systemic therapy is now RECYCLED</p>
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APPROACH

What am I trying to accomplish

- Lowering waste management costs (fines and possible removal from the landfill)
- Reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and save energy
- Conserve resources
- Lowering the number of micro-plastics entering the environment
- Reducing the demand on landfill space and waste treatment technologies
- Reducing the release of pollutants that harm human health

What was measured to understand if there was an improvement

- Weight of the garbage cans in POD 2 and 7 (areas where there is no recycling bin)
- Weighed for 5 days at 1130 hrs before housekeeping empties the garbage and after majority of the days waste is disposed of.
- A picture of the contents in the garbage to give a visualization what is in ending in the landfill.

What changes were made

- New Mixed Paper, Mixed Container and garbage bins placed in clinical setting where waste is generated.
- Clear signage placed on and above bins to reduce decision fatigue.
- Bins at a comfortable height for proper ergonomics
- Staff education, presentation, emails and follow up

Some Facts About Waste

- If health care sector were a country, it would be the 5th largest emitter on the planet
- Humans on average ingest about 5 grams of microplastic every week, which is about the size of a credit card
- Keep recycling – Remember if it tears, it can be recycled.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Spread the word and encourage recycling
- Contacting manufactures and encouraging less plastic packaging
- Increase recycling into rest of the Surrey BC Cancer – next ACU