

Green ICU Initiative

Sandra Wood, BS, BSN, RN, CVRN, SCRN Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital



Background/Introduction

A "green hospital" is defined as a healthcare facility that integrates environmental sustainability into its quality services and actively implements waste reduction strategies (Lattanzio et al., 2022).

- Evidence suggests that embedding sustainable waste management into nursing practice can significantly reduce both environmental and financial costs.
- Nurses directly handle large volumes of material and play a pivotal role in influencing waste generation.
- ICU observation for three months indicated \$3428.14 in wasted supplies.
- Extra supplies found in rooms were discarded upon patient discharge leading to an increase in ecological burden.

Purpose

The goal of this project was to educate ICU nursing staff on supply costs and recyclable items to decrease the total cost of wasted supplies and increase recyclable amounts by:

• Comparing preintervention data with postinterventional data for a decrease cost rate of 30% and a 30% increase in recyclable items within a 6-month period.

Methods

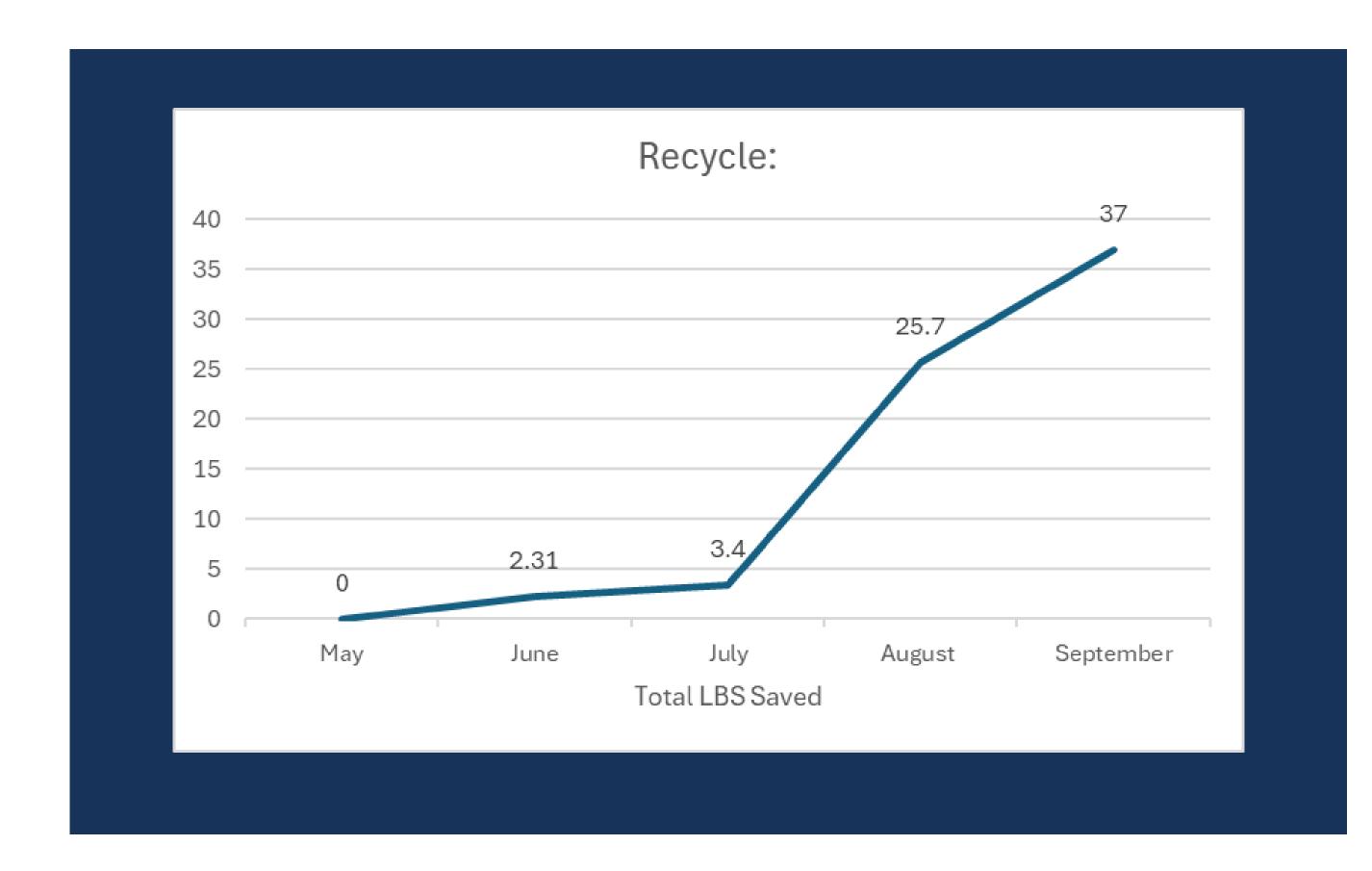
- ✓ Internal review of common wasted supplies.
- ✓ Education on individual supply cost.
- ✓ Establish ICU supply champions to audit wasted supplies and recycling.
- ✓ Collaborate with EVS and supply chain project analyst for recycling bins.
- ✓ Educate staff on recyclable items and bin location.
- ✓ Continual feedback loop to maintain staff engagement, encourage accountability, and provide real-time insight into waste reduction progress.

Result



ICU SUPPLY WASTE 2025						
Date:						
Auditor:						
ITEM:	PRICE/EACH				TOTAL:	PRICE:
Primary IV Tubing	\$3.65					
Secondary IV Tubing	\$1.56					
3ml Syringe	\$0.07					
6ml Syringe	\$0.23					
10ml Syringe	\$0.10					
Saline Flush	\$0.26					
Needless Prep Cannula	\$0.10					
Biohazard Bag	\$0.03					
Irrigation Tray	\$1.07					
Ready Bath Wipes	\$0.73					
Female Purewick	\$15.50					
Light Green Tubes	\$0.20					
Green Tubes	\$0.12					
Lavender Tubes	\$0.07					
Blue Tubes	\$0.12					
Grey Tubes	\$0.13					
Red Tubes	\$0.09					
Butterfly Needle	\$1.35					
Clear Vacutainer	\$0.04					
Blue Vacutainer	\$0.11		 			
Red Vacutainer	\$0.50		 			
Emesis/Kidney Basin	\$0.08	 				





Results/Implications

- Demonstratable decrease in overall supply waste.
- Demonstratable increase per pound in recyclable items.
- Measurable cost savings for the hospital.
- Heightened staff awareness regarding the environmental and financial impacts of supply utilization.
- Improvements in nursing practice which contributed to operational efficiency and alignment with institutional sustainability goals.

Future Actions

- Ongoing monthly random supply waste audits performed by supply champions
- Monthly total wasted supply costs and recycling reported in staff meetings and unit huddle.

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