

REDUCING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE MATERIALS

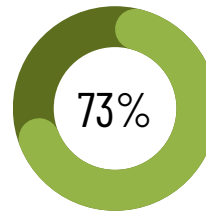
At the CISSS des Laurentides emergency rooms

One of the CISSS des Laurentides emergency departments tested gradually replacing disposable materials with reusable ones. After this testing phase, other emergency departments were informed by a local doctor who spread the word about the project.

Disposable thermometers

Prematurely discarded batteries cause pollution and high costs (\$80,000/year). For an initial cost of \$350, reusable thermometers require only 3 AA batteries for 6,000 uses, are recyclable, and save \$50,000/year.

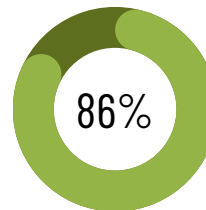
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Disposable blankets

Disposable blankets are made from petroleum derivatives and are non-recyclable. The laundry was able to handle the increased wash volume of reusable blankets without any problems.

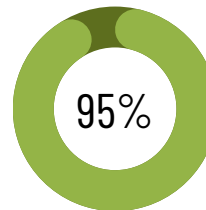
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Disposable speculums

Reusable speculums are more environmentally friendly than disposables after only 9 uses. Over 1,000 disposable speculums are thrown away every year.

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Exam table paper

Exam paper showed no benefit in reducing infections. The false sense of security led to a lack of table disinfection between patients.

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