Waste & Energy Reduction Within the Academic & Healthcare System

UCSF Office of Sustainability

Project Background & Overview

Project 1: Perioperative Waste Reduction Project

- Analyze the use and disposal of two single-use medical devices at the Moffitt-Long Hospital at the UCSF Parnassus campus
- Found that Bair Paws gown and HoverMatt were rarely used on patients and often thrown away
- Gap of knowledge about reprocessing among staff
- ~$51,130 in costs over study period
- Projected annual savings are ~$586,880

Project 2: Fume Hood Competition in Laboratories

- Encourage lab members to “shut the sash” and reduce energy consumption through friendly competition
- A total of 20 labs participated
- Majority of labs were not shutting the sash prior to the competition
- Lab members were not aware how much energy fume hoods used

Results & Achievements

Project 1: Perioperative Waste Reduction Project

- Identified 4 floors without reprocessing bins
- Bair Paws gown was replaced with reusable gowns (~$200,000 in annual savings)
- Coordinated 10 trainings on reprocessing

Project 2: Fume Hood Competition in Laboratories

- $12,727 and 6,652 kWh in energy reduction savings
- Majority of lab members continued to shut their sash after the competition

Lessons Learned

Successful Strategies

- Conduct an audit to gauge waste and energy generation
- Collaborate with staff that are passionate about sustainability
- Incentivize and reward behavioral changes

Recommendations for Improvement & Program Expansion

- Ensure that project methodology is efficient and feasible to conduct
- Develop a training plan before the start of the study period
- Incorporate training on reprocessing and energy reduction into staff training
- Evaluate other single-use devices that can be reprocessed

Acknowledgements

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