



 HENRY SCHEIN

**PRACTICE
GREEN**



Sustainable Checklist for Medical



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Sustainable Checklist for Medical



1. Check the Medical Facility's Environmental Impact

Start with a full review to find areas that need improvement.

Waste Checks

- Measure amounts of medical waste (e.g., used needles, expired medicines) and regular waste (e.g., IV bags, packaging)
- Track energy use in high-energy areas like imaging rooms, sterilization equipment, and heating/cooling systems [1]
- Audit stock monthly to identify potential product expirations
- Combine orders to reduce shipping trips

Talk to Staff and Patients

- Ask healthcare workers about challenges in using eco-friendly methods (e.g., reducing waste from anesthesia gases) [2]
- Study how patients travel to the clinic (e.g., offer rewards for carpooling or virtual visits)

2. Make Sustainability Part of Clinic Policies

Build accountability and clear policies to ensure progress.

Assign Responsibility

- Form a "Green Team" with leaders for waste reduction and energy saving [3]
- Include sustainability in staff training and performance reviews

Share Updates

- Release regular reports on waste reduction, energy saved, and pollution cuts

3. Improve Building Efficiency

Upgrade systems to save resources and reduce harm to the environment.

- Switch to energy-saving LED lights in operating rooms and other areas
- Install motion-sensor lights in less-used spaces (e.g., break rooms, clinics after hours) [4]
- Use medical equipment with [ENERGY STAR® ratings](#) [1]
- Add water-saving faucets
- Follow World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to ban needle recapping and use safe sharps containers [5]
- Use reusable tools in endoscopy to reduce plastic waste
- Place clear recycling/compost bins next to trash cans in busy areas (e.g., cafeterias, exam rooms)
- Replace disposable dishes in break rooms with reusable ones

4. Switch to Clean Energy

Use grants and on-site projects to reduce fossil fuel .

Apply for Support

- Seek government grants or tax credits for solar panels
Visit [DSIRE Incentive Database](#) for solar funding [6]
- Switch to renewable energy plans with local providers

Test On-Site Solutions

- Install solar-powered outdoor lights or electric car charging stations [7]

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5. Reduce Paper Use with Technology

Adopt digital tools to cut waste and errors.

- Use electronic health records and tablet check-in systems
- Train staff on digital prescriptions and telehealth tools to avoid printing [8]

6. Choose Eco-Friendly Supplies

Buy sustainable products and work with green suppliers.

- View Henry Schein Practice Green Medical Products [here](#) [9]
- Select reusable items (e.g., metal medical tools) or biodegradable options (e.g., bamboo tongue depressors)
- Partner with suppliers who recycle PPE or packaging
- Pick vendors with carbon-neutral shipping or electric trucks

7. Cut Waste with Reusable Items and Training

Replace disposable items and teach proper recycling.

- Use washable patient gowns, cloth surgical drapes, and reusable containers
- Join programs to recycle non-hazardous PPE (e.g., masks) [10]
- Train staff to separate recyclables (e.g., clean plastic IV bags) from hazardous waste [11]

8. Encourage Eco-Friendly Habits

Reward green actions and engage the community.

- Offer prizes for carpooling, biking, or public transit use
- Host challenges like "Plastic-Free July" [12]
- Promote tree-planting events or e-waste drives on patient platforms
- Include eco-tips in discharge papers (e.g., safe medicine disposal)

9. Prepare for Climate Emergencies

Upgrade infrastructure and update emergency plans.

- Install backup solar power for critical equipment (e.g., vaccine fridges)
- Stock emergency supplies
- Update disaster plans for floods or wildfires, including safe waste handling
- View Henry Schein's Preparedness Guide for Customers [here](#)

Links and References:

1. [Energy Star Resources for Healthcare Buildings](#)
2. [Anesthesia and Its Environmental Impact Article](#)
3. [Organizing for sustainability success: Where, and how, leaders can start](#)
4. [DOE's Lighting Controls Guide](#)
5. [WHO Injection Safety Guidelines](#)
6. [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#)
7. [The U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Solar Energy Technologies](#)
8. [American Medical Association \(AMA\) Telehealth Guide](#)
9. [Henry Schein Medical Practice Green Web Page](#)
10. [MedPro Disposal's PPE Program](#)
11. [WHO Training modules in health-care waste management](#)
12. [Plastic Free July](#)