

4th International Conference on **Anesthesia**
&
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Major Quality Improvement Project: Recycling, Sustainability & “Green Anaesthesia”

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The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and The Royal College of Anaesthetists recognise that the professional actions of anaesthetists impacts our environment, with the potential to harm the health and wellbeing of the population in the short and longer term. The NHS produces 3% of all UK carbon dioxide emissions, with a carbon footprint of approximately 19 million tonnes. Each theatre produces around 2,300kg of anaesthetic waste and while 40% is potentially recyclable, less than 10% is actually recycled at present. The Mid-Essex Hospital Trust has 22 theatres and two intensive care units. I led a quality improvement project to develop a greener anaesthetic department, minimise waste, maximise recycling and increase energy efficiency. This resulted in a number of schemes being implemented that limited the environmental impact of the anaesthetic rooms, including

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