

# Green Healthcare

GOOD PRACTICES OF GREEN HEALTHCARE AROUND THE EU



## Reducing Pollution

### **CENTRE LÉON BÉRARD (FRANCE)**

The **Centre Léon Bérard** is an excellent example of hospital waste management, its initiatives focusing on waste management and valorisation of the remaining waste according to the 3R principle (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) have been praised by the French High Authority for Health (HAS).

This comprehensive cancer centre in Lyon belongs to the French Federation Unicancer. Formed by 18 private, non-profit hospitals entirely devoted to fighting cancer, with a threefold mission: care, research and education. The establishment has approximately 300 beds and 1800 employees and has been certified ISO 14001 "Environmental Management System" since 2011.

Since 2006, it has had a disinfection waste treatment system, known as a "banalizer." This equipment makes it possible to disinfect healthcare waste with infectious risk while reducing its volume before reintegrating it into the household waste cycle. This household waste is then incinerated at the city of Lyon incinerator, which provides low-carbon heating for certain buildings in the city, including the hospital.

Benefits of implementation include:

- Eliminate the infectious risks associated with waste sorting
- Reducing the risk of BSE (accidents involving exposure to blood) by reducing handling
- Refocusing of professionals on their job
- Reduction in the number of lorry rotations by reducing the volume of waste by 80%, thanks to shredding
- Economic benefits, as the cost of treating household waste, is lower than the cost of treating healthcare waste. For 420 tonnes of undifferentiated medical waste with infectious risk, the annual savings, excluding depreciation, are estimated at € 250 000. This household waste is then incinerated at the Lyon incinerator, which provides low-carbon heating for certain buildings in the city, including the hospital.

The hospital has also gradually deployed some fifteen separate recycling channels. It started with the channels with the highest volume and progressed deposit by deposit. They have been sorting paper and cardboard packaging for 15 years, followed by plastic bottles, waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, light bulbs and neon lights. More recently, they have started to sort aluminium cans, steel cans, aluminium coffee cartridges and Styrofoam.

Additionally, a new project to reduce the use of cups has resulted in a 30% reduction in their consumption (previously 1 million/year - 1 tonne/year). The new switch in 2021 to water fountains and jars instead of plastic bottles will reduce the annual production of plastic waste by 4 tonnes.

More information on the following [Link](#).

