

Green Healthcare

GOOD PRACTICES OF GREEN HEALTHCARE AROUND THE EU



Reducing Pollution

RUOHOLAHTI HOSPITAL

Ruoholahti hospital is part of Terveystalo, one of the largest healthcare service companies in Finland, with 180 clinics around Finland and employing approximately 9,000 healthcare professionals. Nearly 2,500 surgeries are performed annually at the Ruoholahti hospital unit of orthopedics, plastic surgery, and gynecology.

Operating room hygiene requires sterile packaging of instruments and supplies, and inevitably generates a lot of waste. One of the operating room nurses had the idea of recycling operating room plastics. A company specialised in implementing circular economy was contacted and a project was created.

Test collections were done to find out what kind of plastic was being created and how it could be sorted and recycled efficiently. New collection bins were acquired, and workers were motivated and taught about recycling. The initial pilot was so successful that it has been expanded to other two hospitals Helsinki and Turku.

Moreover, as medical centres and hospital units are not only composed of clinical treatment rooms, but also waiting and general facilities, plastic collection has also been piloted in these areas, for example, the plastic cups of coffee machines are recycled or replaced with cardboard ones. The goal is to keep as little stuff as possible from the mixed waste bins. Not only because mixed waste charges are expensive and will increase next year, but because of the environmental benefits it will bring to the whole community and future generations.

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

