



Waste Management Policy

Lead Manager	Operational Waste Manager
Responsible Director	Director of Estates and Facilities
Approved By	Sustainability Governance Group and H&S Forum
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Note: This document does not contain the specific details of the statutory or mandatory arrangements for waste and materials minimisation and management. Reference should be made to NHSScotland waste guidance: SHTN 3 for this information.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC) delivers healthcare services across a wide portfolio of settings, resulting in the production of a correspondingly broad range of wastes.

NHS GGC is responsible for managing the waste produced by its employees/patients and visitors irrespective of whether the waste generated on a site owned or leased by the board.

NHS GGC is obliged to comply with all regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to those related to The Health and Safety at Work Act: 1974 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

NHS GGC is required to assess, manage and control any risks employees, patient, visitors and neighbours who may be exposed in relation to any waste generated by NHSGGC.

NHS GGC is responsible for adhering to the waste hierarchy as far as is reasonably practicable, enacting a waste minimisation strategy and implementing circular economy principles.

In the workplace, a large variety of wastes are produced; these can be classified broadly into the following six 'core' waste streams:

1. **Healthcare (including clinical) waste** – waste produced as a direct result of healthcare activities which may pose a risk of infection and/or is medicinally contaminated.
2. **Other (non-healthcare) special wastes** – waste with hazardous characteristics produced from support (non-healthcare) activities, such as paints, batteries, and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).
3. **Source-segregated recyclates** – glass, paper, card, plastics, metals, and other metals suitable for recycling.
4. **Construction waste** Minor Estates and capital projects works
5. **Food waste** – unwanted food from patients, staff, and visitors of the site
6. **Residual waste** – the fraction of waste that remains once all special waste, recyclates and food have been removed at source. This is typically described as 'black bag' or 'domestic' or municipal waste.

The Policy will ensure that:

1. We take seriously our duty of care and the requirements for a structured approach to the management of waste generated by the organisation or on its behalf in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Waste (Scotland) Regulations and subsequent regulations.
2. We are committed to the effective and safe management of waste. It aims to achieve this through the development of realistic and acceptable risk-based procedures which focus on circular economy principles, waste minimisation, re-use and recycling.
3. We recognise that the management of waste is a significant responsibility comparable in importance to other management and performance objectives.
4. We recognise the importance of the requirement to appoint a Waste Management Officer (WMO) to coordinate and review waste management activities.
5. We acknowledge that waste management can only be effective when everyone (staff and visitors) takes responsibility for waste.
6. We are committed to ensuring compliance with Standing Financial Instructions and all relevant statutory and mandatory requirements by undertaking, maintaining and monitoring the performance of management arrangements and mitigating risks.
7. We will, as far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that waste is secure from areas of public access and properly and efficiently managed throughout.
8. We recognise our responsibilities to all employees, including agency, contract and volunteer staff, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and associated regulations. Employees will be provided with sufficient information, training, supervision, equipment, and safe systems of work to carry out their duties in the implementation of this Policy.
9. We recognise its responsibilities to implement circular economy principles and strategies, minimise the amount of waste generated and to adhere to the waste hierarchy as far as is reasonably practicable.
10. We are committed to achieving the 2025 waste reduction and recycling targets as described in the Scottish Governments Zero Waste plan.

11. All stakeholders at NHSGGC will:

- Be made aware and encouraged to use resources efficiently and responsibly and be made aware of climate change legislation and our plans for net zero by 2040.
- Be made aware of why the UN Sustainable Development Goals are relevant to NHS GGC, as the framework provides the blue print to build a better world for people and our planet by 2030.
- Be made aware of legislation relevant to their role and raise issues or concerns with line managers if necessary.
- Seek specialist support as necessary to ensure that risks associated with our service provision are identified and mitigated.
- Employ the waste hierarchy reduce, reuse, recycle, and energy recovery approach to encourage the minimisation of waste generated throughout all departments.