Greening the Pharmacy – a Local Sustainability Action Plan in action

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Environmental Sustainability Forum
Local Sustainability Action Plan (LSAP)

- Western Health (WH) Environmental Management Roadmap 2015-2020
- A plan of action over 5 years to improve environmental sustainability in the pharmacy department
- Incorporated into the department’s business plan
- Green champion and green representatives, supported by WH sustainability officer
Development of the Pharmacy LSAP

- 2015: Brainstorm sessions
  - April 2016
- Oct 2016: Into business plan
- 2020: Actioning items
Pharmacy LSAP
– 21 actions over 5 years

- Specific environmental criteria into supplier pharmacy contracts
- Supplier take back systems
- Reduce plastic bag usage for pharmaceutical delivery to wards
- Environmental sustainability as part of new staff pharmacy orientation
- Soft plastics & co-mingled recycling streams
- Battery recycling
- Reduce wastage of medications returned from the wards
- Staff pledge to commit to environmental sustainability behaviour changes
- Staff engagement workshops & education sessions
- Move away from reliance on paper
- Vigilant fridge temperature monitoring
- Videoconferencing technology
- Reduce use of disposable kitchenware and coffee cups
- Window tinting
- Plumbed zip tap drinking water
Action 1: Environmental criteria into supplier tender documents

1. Packaging and Logistics
2. Paper
3. Plastics
4. Pharmaceutical waste collection
5. Suggestions from the supplier
Action 7: Returned medications from the ward

Medicines discarded:
- Damaged or defective
- Expired
- Missing expiry date
- Patient’s own medications left behind
- Single patient use items no longer required e.g. inhalers

Medicines and their packaging are discarded
Challenges
Breakthroughs
“If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.”
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