

# LEADERSHIP: TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL'S OR GREEN TEAM



The Toronto General Hospital Operating Room (OR) Green Team came together in 2019 after clinicians and staff connected over the unnecessary waste that was being generated in the OR (which actually began with the safety concerns of laparoscopic instruments protruding from black garbage bags). Since then they have been working hard to educate colleagues, raise awareness, and take measurable actions. The interdisciplinary team made up of clinicians and staff expressed that *"we are in a climate emergency and change must happen now or never."*

## SUCCESSES

**Tangible results:** *"You gather the copper cords, weight them, and see the impact. And, Im personally happy to sit in traffic for >2 hours to drop off our box of cords to the recycling depot. All 21 lbs."* -LD



- Stryker Recycling Program
- Copper Cord Recycling
- Glass Vial Recycling
- Diverting blue sterilization wrap
- Education through knowledge exchange flyers/emails
- Cultivating a passion for environmental action in the OR
- Financial Cost Reductions

## PRACTICAL ADVICE

**Team engagement:** *"People are happy to engage, they want to know what's next, and how they can help."* -CL



- Engage in constant reinforcement with colleagues
- Education and knowledge exchange are key
- The work doesn't have to be perfect 100% of the time, it just has to get done
- Its important to track and demonstrate the impact quantitatively

*"Every little bit helps to make a difference"* -CL

## FUTURE GOALS

**Iterative Steps Forward:** *"We have only been in existence for 2 years. We have done a lot and still have a lot more to go."* -LD



- Expand OR Green Team program to other UHN hospitals
- Involve residents and fellows more deeply so that they can participate in Green team activities

### TGH OR Green Team members:

Dr. Laura Donahoe (LD), Surgeon  
 Marcus George (MG)  
 Carla Luzzi (CL), Anesthesiologist  
 Lisa Vanlint (LV), Manager, Environmental Sustainability  
 Julie Yip (JY), Patient Care Coordinator

