

# Project scope: Green Theatres

22 January 2024

## Research question

What is the evidence supporting the impact of interventions or strategies aimed at improving the environmental sustainability of surgical operating theatres?

## Inclusion criteria

The selection of studies for inclusion in the literature review element of the project will be based on the following criteria:

<b>Setting</b>	Surgical operating theatres
<b>Intervention</b>	Interventions aimed at improving the environmental sustainability of surgical operating theatres
<b>Comparator</b>	<p>Currently, operating theatres are high carbon and energy intensive areas that produce high volumes of waste, that can be attributed to elements, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of volatile anesthetic gases</li> <li>• Energy use to power heating, ventilation and gas scavenging systems as well as equipment.</li> <li>• Energy associated with cleaning (sterilising) and laundering of equipment and devices</li> <li>• Nature of waste and associated risk requiring dedicated removal through clinical waste streams.</li> <li>• Inconsistent waste segregation resulting in unnecessary increase in volumes of unrecyclable / unrecoverable waste.</li> <li>• Single use culture in relation to instruments, equipment and devices contributing to high volume of waste.</li> <li>• Nature of materials used to produce instruments, equipment and devices (for example, types of plastics that cannot easily be recycled or recovered).</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Greener and sustainable operating theatres</p> <p>Other outcomes as reported in the literature including any financial savings, patient experience and staff experience.</p>

## Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of an SHTG Assessment on green theatres:

1. A comprehensive search of the literature
2. A review of the evidence base.

### *Engagement*

A peer-review process will be conducted to give topic experts an opportunity to comment on the review of the evidence.

## End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- An SHTG Assessment on evidence supporting the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve the environmental sustainability of surgical operating theatres
- A plain language summary

## Timescales (approximate)

Spring 2024