



24 Sustainability Success Stories in 2024
Story 14 of 24: Supply Chain and Sustainability

UPMC Supply Chain Enhances Sustainability Through Strategic Vendor Partnerships

UPMC is incorporating sustainability in its supply chain operations by collaborating with vendors that prioritize eco-friendly practices. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to improve environmental responsibility while maintaining high standards of healthcare delivery.

Standardization, sustainability, and resiliency are also the third step for the supply chain's product selection criteria.

In the operating rooms, UPMC is looking to make surgical packs more sustainable. So far, UPMC Shadyside, UPMC Altoona, and UPMC Passavant have had surgical pack reviews. The goal is to expand to all UPMC hospitals. The review aims to minimize waste by reducing excessive packaging and creating more tailored surgical packs that eliminate items that usually go unused.

Since the process began in late 2023 at UPMC Shadyside, there has been a reduction of 218 pounds of waste from single sterile packaging and 2,459 pounds from unused pack components. Additionally, UPMC is transitioning to sustainable plant-based trays during these surgical pack reviews.

Another area of collaboration with vendors is with medical device reprocessing. The plan is to collect multiple types of surgical medical devices for reprocessing. In 2023, 691,188 medical items from UPMC were collected for reprocessing.

Vendor partnerships support UPMC's efforts to reduce medical waste and lower costs. UPMC works with some non-profits to donate surplus medical supplies to underserved communities.

By making sustainability an essential part of the supply chain operations, UPMC is a model for healthcare organizations seeking to reduce their environmental impact.

To learn more about how your unit can participate in these programs, contact the [UPMC Center for Sustainability](#).