



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION
Building Partnerships For Better Health Care

THE LOWER BUCKS HOSPITAL

Reducing Infectious Waste

By removing red bags from most (90%) of the patient rooms, The Lower Bucks Hospital was able to reduce its waste and cost by approximately 60% to 70%. Red bags were removed from all Med Surg rooms and all operating rooms (except in the kick buckets). Smaller red cans were placed in both the Intensive Care Unit and in the Cath Lab.

Red cans were not taken out of Labor & Delivery or the Emergency Department.

The hospital formed a "Green Team". Part of their efforts included recycling many items that previously had not been recycled, which led to a decrease of approximately 10% to 15% in municipal waste.

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Recycling Baseline Matrix

DATE	RMW Red Waste	TARGET	MSW Clear Waste	RECYCLING Cardboard paper	RECYCLING Plastic/glass/ cans
12/07	10,063 lbs	<9,000	35 ton	12 ton	
1/08	8521	<9,000	37.19 ton	9.36 ton	
2/08	9040	<9,000	39.76 ton	10.7 ton	2.08
3/08	10,562	<9,000	47.26 ton	12.5 ton	2.08
4/08	9798	<9,000	37.98 ton	15.87 ton	2.08
5/08	9386	<9,000	49.57 ton	16.82 ton	2.08
6/08	10371	<9,000	38.45 ton	14.25 ton	2.08
7/08	531 **	<9000	39.45 ton	15.41 ton	2.08
8/08	9579	<9000	37.12 ton	12.3 ton	2.08
9/08	8455	<9000	29.12 ton	11.5 ton	2.08
10/08	9313	<9000	37.49 ton	20.7 ton	2.08
11/08	8440	<9000	32.3 ton	18.1 ton	2.08
12/08	8386	<9000	29.5 ton	17.5 ton	2.08

** "Roll Off" was not replaced in July -- it was replaced the beginning of August.