

Sharpak Zero arrives at West Herts

“A very positive experience!”



• Brief

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust provides healthcare services to over 600,000 people living in West Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas. The trust prioritises providing safe, high-quality, timely and sustainable care.

Sharpak Healthcare, in partnership with Grundon Waste Management, were asked to provide a reusable sharps container solution, which would provide first-class user safety, class-leading carbon saving and enhanced training and service.

• Approach

Sharpak Healthcare conducted a complete audit of the trust's three hospital sites. Following the audit, a detailed implementation project plan was formulated, and a proposal was made to roll out the Sharpak Zero range of containers and accessories. The proposal included a third-party audited carbon saving report, detailed equipment specification and quantities, installation and maintenance, communications and staff training requirements and a fully staffed roll-out schedule. The containers would be supplied through NHS Supply Chain, reducing vehicle movements and third-party personnel visiting the site.

The proposal was to systematically replace Sharpsmart containers with the Sharpak Zero containers while simultaneously training the staff.

• Key Facts:

- Carbon saving: 37T as compared to single use bins made from 43% recycled plastic
- Timescale: 3 weeks to implement
- Cost saving: Estimate £40K per year
- Contract: no new contract required, containers available through NHS Supply Chain



• Result

The solution was implemented across all three main sites in three weeks.

Glen Riley, the West Herts Waste manager, said, “The Sharpak team have been amazing. Excellent communication and willingness to help. The level of staff engagement across all of our sites has been brilliant, taking part in training sessions and staff huddles when required, and the speed of response to any queries and finding resolutions to potential issues has been exemplary. I honestly cannot fault the team involved in the rollout.

“We are expecting to make an annual saving of around £40k across the trust. We have moved from a reusable container, so the carbon savings are not as significant as the change from single-use containers; however, the containers will undoubtedly have a lower carbon footprint to make.”

“Working in partnership with Grundon, it means the sharps containers will be included in our current collections, so fewer vehicle movements and a much more sustainable process for disposal. Altogether, this is a positive impact on our carbon footprint and will help us move towards our NHS Net Zero targets.”

Glen concluded, “The reaction of site staff to the new containers has been very positive, and the professional levels of engagement from the Sharpak team have made a world of difference in ensuring all of our staff are aware of the change and the benefits of the Sharpak containers. Overall, this has been a very positive experience.”