

Reducing the Environmental Impact of Healthcare Waste

Improper disposal of medical and pharmaceutical waste substantially impacts the environment. The healthcare industry alone produces more than 5 million tons of waste each year,¹ which, if not disposed of properly, can leech into surrounding waterways and areas of land.

According to the 2022 Healthcare Workplace Safety Report (HWSTR), both healthcare professionals and administrators agree (95%) that improper medical and biohazardous waste management is harmful. Consistent with their responses in 2021, 94% of healthcare professionals and 95% of administrators agree. The issue is also top-of-mind, as more than half of providers (56%) and administrators (67%) state they think about the environmental impacts of regulated medical and biohazardous waste often. They also agree that sustainable environmental practices benefit the health of an overall community (96% of providers and 93% of administrators), which can also be linked to positive patient outcomes (88% of providers and 90% of administrators).

However, while most administrators (81%) believe their organization is doing enough to reduce its environmental impact through proper waste disposal, just half of providers (52%) feel the same. This disparity increased from 2021 when 75% of administrators and 54% of providers agreed.



Environmental Impact and Sustainability Goals

