

# Implementing a gloves off project in the interest of sustainability and patient safety

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## Introduction

The Trust's Green Sustainability Team and IPC Team wanted to reduce the amount of non-sterile gloves worn by staff in the interests of sustainability, patient safety and staff wellbeing.



Table 1. Model parameters for manufacture and supply of PPE items.

Product	Manufacturing electricity (kWh/kg product)	Country of origin <sup>1</sup> (ratio)	Number distributed (factory-region, 2020) <sup>2</sup>
Apron	0.490 <sup>34</sup>	China, Thailand (9:1)	441,061,000
Face shield	0.362 <sup>35</sup> man <sup>34,35</sup>	China (1)	45,326,000
FFP respirator (any type)	0.296 <sup>36</sup>	China, UK, France (1:1:1)	37,212,000
Gloves (nitrile)	2.790 <sup>37</sup>	Philippines (1)	1,879,335,000
Single-use gown	0.216 <sup>38</sup>	China, Egypt, Germany (9:4:3)	1,985,000
Surgical mask (Type II)	0.296 <sup>39</sup>	China, UK, Mexico (11:2:1)	6,623,000
Surgical mask (Type IIR)	0.296 <sup>39</sup>	China (1)	479,341,000
Disinfectant wipe	0.296 <sup>39</sup>	China (1)	-
Reusable gown	0.316 <sup>40</sup>	China, UK (3:1)	-

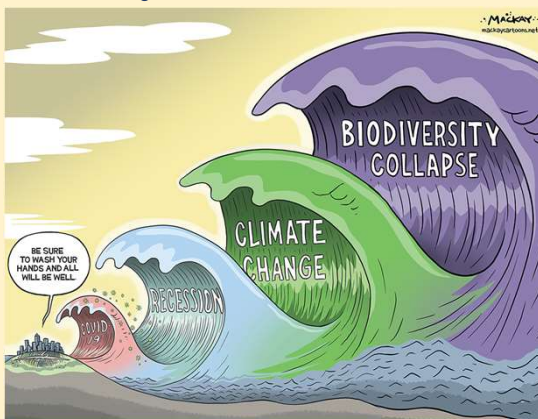
## Methods

Following a regional presentation on gloves off in 2022 from the RCN and another Trust, we invited members of our Green Ambassadors to one of two available workshops to explore attitudes to glove use. We utilised the regional presentations (with permission) and presented the sustainability issues of glove use and invited attendees to share experience. We approached this with compassion and not blame. Following the two workshops, we developed a Trust infographic that was shared with the attendees. Early in 2023 we hosted a short conference with presentations from national experts. These presentations were uploaded to YouTube and shared. We also presented to the senior nurses at their Trust-wide weekly meeting. One issue arose as to how to measure the intervention as gloves were still on push stock and we could not monitor the quantity. We agreed to measure the engagement from colleagues.

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## Results

The workshops were well attended with 30 attendees in each. All attendees were early adopters and keen to take the project forward. Follow up workshops have been planned. There were representatives from nursing, procurement and doctors. We are early in our journey and since the workshops and senior nurse meeting presentations, IPC were invited to speak on the project at a senior allied health professional meeting. This then led to invites from other departments. We have been contacted by several other Trusts asking if they can use our UHSussex info graphic and this has been agreed.



## Conclusions

This is a long term project, and could take years! We have been very successful in recruiting early adopters to the project and via the Green Ambassador route.

**Gloves off:** You don't have to wear gloves when...

1. Checking blood pressure and temperature
2. Dispensing medication to a patient
3. Handing out and collecting meal trays
4. Touching a patient
5. Making and handing out hot drinks
6. Pushing a chair, trolley or bed and mobilising a patient
7. Using a phone or computer
8. Giving IM injections and drawing IV medication

Remember to maintain good hand hygiene by regularly washing your hands with soap and water

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