

Greening the OR: Blue Wrap Sustainable



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Background

MSK's "Greening the OR" journey began in 2013 with efforts to reduce energy, usage & waste while increasing recycling efforts. Eight years later, MSK has a multidisciplinary "Greening the OR Committee" focusing on the following efforts to limit the impact in the surgical setting :

- ❖ Innovative Energy Efficiency
- ❖ Waste Reduction
- ❖ Sustainable Procurement

The most current initiative underway is the:

- ❖ "Blue Wrap" Recycling Effort

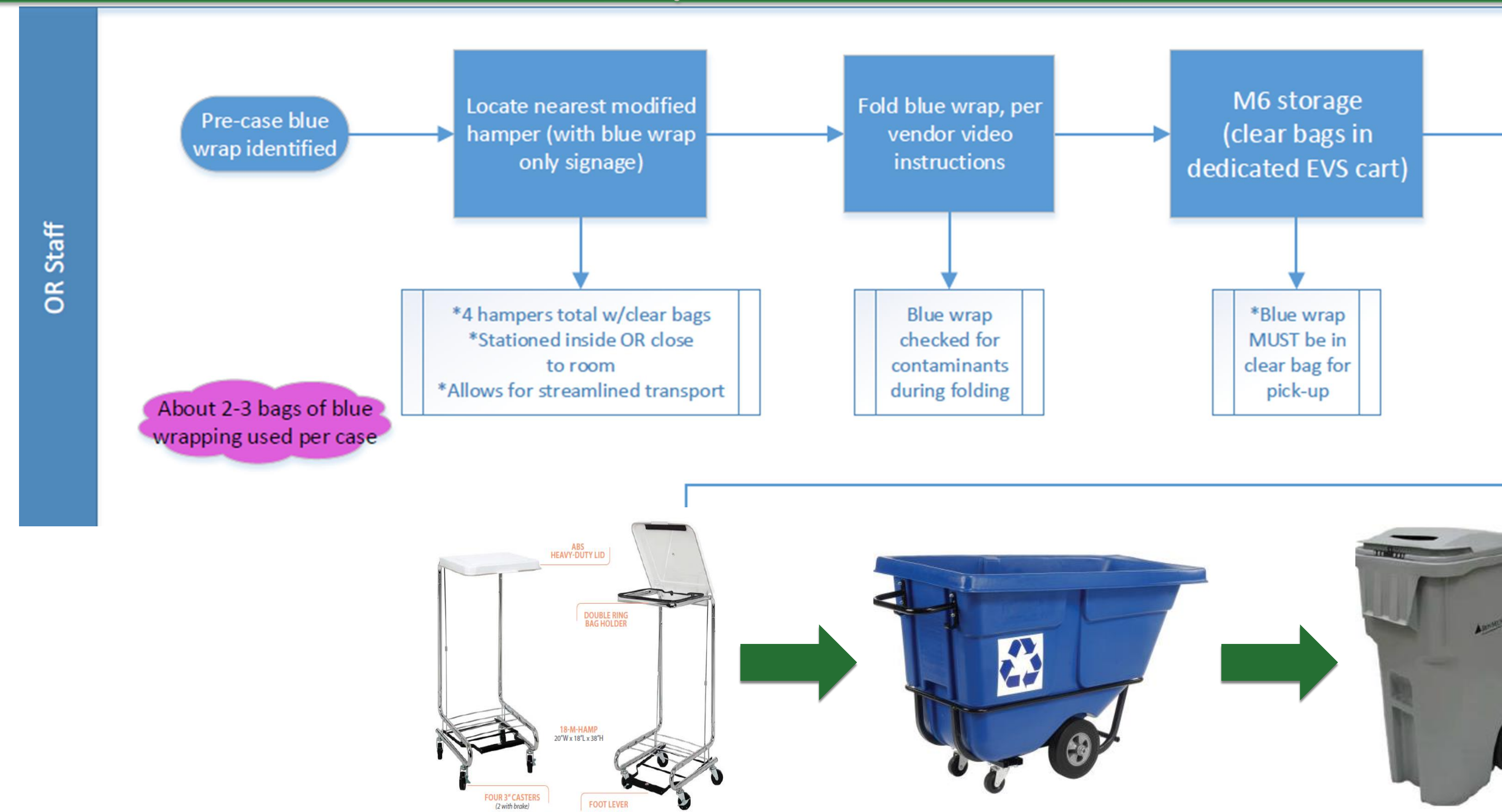
The annual average of blue surgical blue wrap used is approximately 7000 pounds and is discarded into regular waste. However, blue wrap is #5 Polypropylene and 100% recyclable.

Preparation & Planning

The Blue Wrap Initiative pilot was launched in May 2021, with a vision in mind to reuse the blue wrap in a sustainable manner. Prep and Planning included:

- ❖ Collaborating with staff to efficiently use supplies and minimize expired/wasted inventory.
- ❖ Working to enhance energy efficiency strategies through combined staff behavioral changes.
- ❖ And diverting recyclable materials from the waste stream.

Implementation



Description of the Team

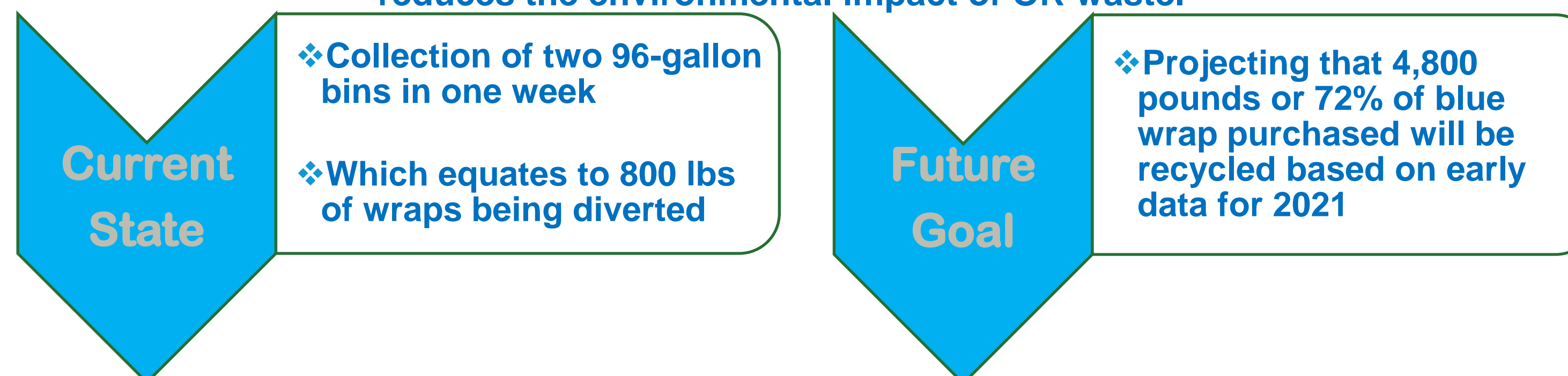
Main OR Greening the OR Committee is comprised of:

- ❖ Perioperative Leadership
- ❖ Nurses
- ❖ Surgeons
- ❖ Anesthesia
- ❖ Environmental Services
- ❖ Facilities Management
- ❖ Radiology
- ❖ Supply Chain
- ❖ Surgical Support Staff



Outcomes

MSK has been recognized with the Greening the OR Leadership award from Practice Greenhealth three years in a row. This award recognizes industry-leading comprehensive programs which reduces the environmental impact of OR waste.



Implications

The diversion of waste from landfills and the reduction of harm to the environment created a sense of unity, awareness, and motivation among the OR staff. The staff feel more empowered to suggest and explore new greening options throughout their daily practice as it pertains to the recycling, reusing, and reprocessing of materials and supplies.

