

# Reflecting on environmental sustainability in management and organisation of healthcare

*Growing environmental sustainability as part of daily practice in an emergency department*

## Introduction

- 7 - 8% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are caused by the healthcare sector in NL<sup>1, 2</sup>
- Due to lack of **awareness/ knowledge** regarding sustainability<sup>3</sup>
- Societal relevance:
  - ✓ Sustainable healthcare
  - ✓ Good quality of care
  - ✓ Patient safety
  - ✓ Cost reduction

## Aim

“Creating more awareness about the importance of sustainability at the ED”

## Methods

- Action research in LUMC
- Semi-structured interviews (n = 14; average duration of 37,59 minutes)
- Photo reportage
- Personal observations
- Reflexive journaling

## Results

- **Awareness** of environmental sustainability not very present and not yet well-known at the ED
- Barriers why people are not acting sustainable:
  - ✗ Lack of **financial resources**
  - ✗ Time constraints
  - ✗ People’s mindset
- Actors involved
  - ✓ Purchasing department
  - ✓ Board of directors
  - ✓ Political side
  - ✓ Cleaning service, infection prevention
- Reflexive space: sustainability has low priority → financial transparency
- Sustainable actions
  - ✓ Disposable to reusable switches
  - ✓ Uniform packages for patients of ED, ICU, OR
  - ✓ Reduce product packaging
- Photo dialogue
  - Raise awareness about sustainability
  - Dutch North Sea Emergency Conference, Zorgvisie magazines, newsletters



**IT'S AN EMERGENCY!**

Patient survived. What about the planet?



**IT'S AN EMERGENCY!**

How many IV's does our planet need?

## Take home message

- More attention to sustainability → create more **awareness** → people act more sustainably
- Raise awareness via **photo dialogues**, education or continuous one-on-one dialogues
- Include **different parties** to implement sustainable actions
- Collaborate on a **national level**

## Future research

- Interview more specialities and functions
- Engage other departments and kinds of interventions for photos
- Top clinical journal
- Expand literature review



**IT'S AN EMERGENCY!**

What do we need to stitch?