

# OUR ENVIRONMENT

We implement stringent measures to ensure our environmental footprint is minimised through efficient consumption of natural resources and appropriate management of generated waste.



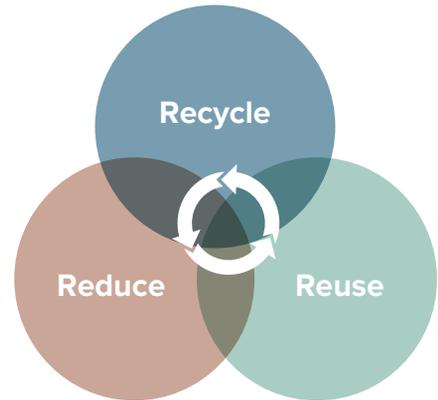
# Our Environment

## Waste Management

The healthcare industry is responsible for protecting and restoring public health. However by-products from treatments are often hazardous, including used syringes and radioactive isotopes used for diagnostic and therapeutic applications. Mismanagement of these by-products can have adverse impacts on the environment and public health. There are strict laws and regulations on waste management in the countries where we operate. Our hospitals and clinics recognise the high-risk irresponsible waste

management practices pose on the environment and the community. To prevent this, they comply with national waste management regulations stringently and engage with licensed contractors for the proper disposal of clinical waste.

As a responsible healthcare provider, we implement and raise awareness among employees on waste reduction practices, including 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) practices. In the long run, we look to further reduce our waste output and minimise IHH's environmental footprint.



## Case Study: Hong Kong

GHK adheres to stringent waste management laws and regulations formulated by regulatory bodies in Hong Kong. To ensure employees follow these laws and regulations, GHK has formulated a number of internal policies and procedures to guide employees on best practices when managing clinical and general waste.

In addition to the policies and guidelines, GHK has undertaken various initiatives to ensure proper waste management practices among its employees. On commencing work at GHK, employees undergo an orientation programme where they are given training on waste management practices. Training, drills and assessments for waste

management are conducted by GHK's departments throughout the year. One waste management drill was conducted this year where 35% of GHK employees participated.

GHK has also implemented various awareness campaigns and programmes to reduce general waste output. These campaigns aim

### Laws and Regulations on Waste Management

- Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical Waste – Major Clinical Producers and Waste Collector, Environmental Protection Department
- Radiation Ordinance (Cap 303)
- Waste Disposal Ordinance (Chapter 354)
- Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Chapter 354C)
- Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354O)
- Privacy Ordinance (Chapter 486)
- Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and regulations (Cap. 509)
- Antibiotic Ordinance (Chapter 137)
- Dangerous Drug Ordinance (Chapter 134)
- Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Chapter 138)

### GHK Policies and Guidelines

- Safety and Handling of Oil/ Grease Waste in F&B
- Pharmaceutical Waste Management
- Cytotoxic Waste Disposal
- Expired Medications Management
- Waste Management
- Chemical Safety
- Clinical Waste Management
- Handling of Domestic Waste
- Handling of Confidential Waste

to promote the rational use of materials and increase general waste recovery. In FY2020, GHK continued to conduct the *Recycle Programme*, which was established in FY2018 to raise awareness among hospital staff on the importance of recycling, and to increase recycling efforts within GHK. Information on the *Recycle Programme* is communicated to employees regularly through roll calls.

Led by the Environmental Services Department, the programme involves collecting recyclable wastes, including plastics, glass, aluminium and paper, and recording the weight of each category to track progress. With this programme, we diverted 20.25 tonnes of non-hazardous waste from the landfill this year.

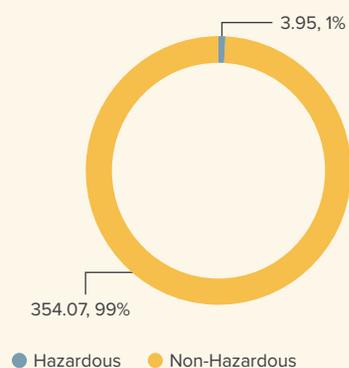
Part of our 3R efforts is to reduce the use of single-use plastics and take-away packaging. At GHK, the Food and Beverage (F&B) Department insists that employees bring their own containers and avoid using plastic straws in the hospital cafeteria.

In line with the *Producer Responsibility Scheme* established by the Environment Protection Department “EPD” of Hong Kong, GHK’s IT Department has established a *Computer Recycling Programme* (CRP). The programme aims to reuse, recycle and refurbish computer hardware in an environmentally sound manner, hence reducing GHK’s output of potentially harmful e-waste.

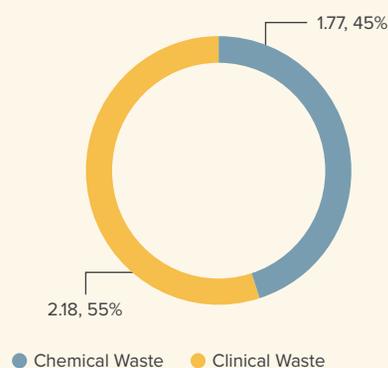
As at 30 September 2020, GHK has generated a total of 358.02 tonnes of waste, of which 99% is non-hazardous. 6% of non-hazardous waste was collected for recovery while the remaining 94% was sent to landfills by licensed contractors.

All hazardous waste generated at GHK is handled in accordance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, and collected for treatment by licensed contractors. While clinical waste is collected and incinerated to meet industry best practices, chemical waste is treated chemically and/or physically in a licensed treatment facility.

**Waste Generation in FY2020 (tonnes)**



**Hazardous Waste Generated (tonnes)**



**Disposal Methods of Non-Hazardous Waste (tonnes)**

