

CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION IN THE OR

OR Sustainability Expert

FIRST
CASE



KAREN GOELST
CEO & FOUNDER OF KLEENEDGE

First Case OR Sustainability Expert™:

HIGH-RISK TOUCHPOINTS AND SURFACES

Karen Goelst | CEO & Founder of KleenEdge

Have you ever wondered what happens to items like used facemasks, gowns, or even those “recyclable” privacy curtains? You may assume they go “away,” but did you know there is no “away” when it comes to these Single Use Disposables (SUDs)?

If a hospital or healthcare system has set a goal to become carbon neutral, then repurposing and re-using these SUDs should be of greatest concern and priority.

A WIN for a healthcare organization is any time they can reduce waste, cost, and lower their carbon footprint while not compromising patient and staff safety. While recycling items such as face masks, gowns, and privacy curtains has been incredibly challenging for healthcare systems, Thermal Compaction Group (TCG) now offers an easy-to-use Thermal Technology that melts AND sterilizes all these SUDs along with a 50% reduction in carbon emissions!

TCG equipment melts and compresses SUDs into sterilized bricks that can then be sold for remanufacturing. This process will keep SUDs out of the landfill and reduces the volume by 85%, while creating a circular economy process that closes the recycling loop yielding a negative carbon footprint; not just zero.

Switching to recyclable privacy curtains at your facility can realize cost and labor savings from 75-90%, and these savings will rapidly off-set the cost of TCG’s CurtainMelt technology. Naturally the equipment can be used to recover and reuse not just curtains, but also will process masks, gowns, and all other recyclable SUDs that are being used to help keep patients, staff, and visitors safe!

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at kgoelst@KleenEdge.com

OR Sustainability Expert Series™ Biography:

Karen Goelst

Founder & CEO



With a 20-year background in architectural specialties and textiles, Karen Goelst became passionate about solving the issues surrounding privacy curtains following her 15-year-old son's hospital stay with MRSA.

Staying at his bedside she noticed everybody touched the fabric privacy curtain, but the label showed that it hadn't been exchanged for 14 months. Thankfully her son recovered, but this realization started her journey in trying to understand why curtains weren't getting exchanged, when other touchpoints in the room were thoroughly disinfected. Karen founded KleenEdge to ensure this infection risk did not impact other families.

KleenEdge builds its privacy curtain solutions on 4 pillars:

- Protocol software that monitors curtain exchange compliance
- Sustainable cost-saving recyclable curtains
- No-ladder solutions to promote lean workflows and safety
- Patient and staff safety

Launched in 2018, the company received early accolades for its innovative Protocol Compliance Software, receiving AHE's Product Innovation Award, as well as getting patents for the QuickLoad and TeleTrack "no ladder" curtain exchange cubicle track solutions. KleenEdge's solutions have helped many healthcare facilities dramatically reduce operational costs, while having peace of mind knowing that their curtain exchanges are compliant and deliver the highest standard of care for their patient's safety.



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THE OPERATING ROOM PODCAST

