

## Abstract

### *Thesis Statement*

The use of sustainable products such as bio-plastics, compared to current products, within hospital surgical departments can reduce environmental waste post-Covid-19 pandemic when the integration process is tailored to the unique hospital workplace culture (North, 2021).

**Background:** Nurse-led change initiatives can have a positive impact on the success of a project. Addressing current deficits in knowledge and improving workplace function can be achieved through these well-organized improvement projects. As healthcare industries begin to recognize the importance of planetary health and climate change as it relates to human health outcomes, sustainable practices in healthcare must be prioritized. The integration of more sustainable products to diminish healthcare generated waste are essential to the preservation of our planet and the positive long-term health outcomes of all peoples. Resistance to change initiatives can stem from a lack of long-term financial data, initial upfront costs, and negative workplace culture towards ecological sustainability (Wyssusek et al., 2019). A product exchange, such as introducing biodegradable plastics in an acute care tertiary facility, among other multifaceted waste reduction and energy savings methods, could generate pertinent financial data and address other resistance to environmental sustainability.

**Method:** A unique theoretical framework developed for this project, will serve to guide nurse-led ecological change initiatives in tertiary healthcare organizations in industrialized nations. Interpretive description methods will be used to assess the qualitative and quantitative aspects of this study. The qualitative components of workplace culture associated with environmentally focused adaptations will be examined and elaborated through survey assessments of staff and

key stakeholders. While the impact of product and policy changes will be assessed through quantitative assessment.

**Implication of the study:** By examining and understanding the unique culture and perceptions of staff towards ecologically sustainable changes, a sustainable change initiative may be tailored to the institution to ensure positive results.

The objective for this research project is to create a functional nurse-led change initiative for ecological sustainability integration that can be replicated across industrialized nations.

*Keywords: Environmental Sustainability, Change initiative, Nursing Framework, Environment, Healthcare Generated Waste, Surgical Products, Bio-Plastics, Community Development, Ecological Implementation Plan, Workplace Culture, Nursing Leadership, Nurse-Led Change Initiative*