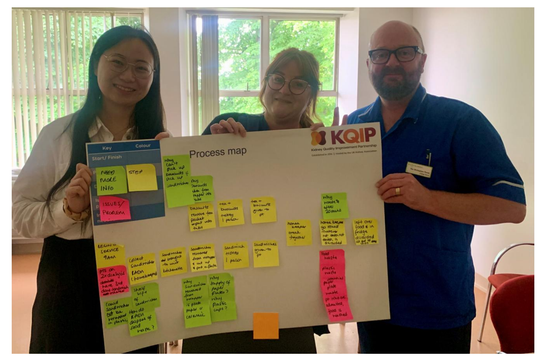
Reducing carbon emissions by reducing food waste in a dialysis satellite unit

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INTRODUCTION

Reducing carbon emissions from in-centre haemodialysis (ICHD) is one of the key priorities for the **Yorkshire and Humber Kidney Network (YHKN).** In partnership with the **UK Kidney Association (UKKA) Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQIP),** a regional project was set up. This project was named **Trying to Reduce UnNecessary Carbon in Haemodialysis (TRUNC_HD).**



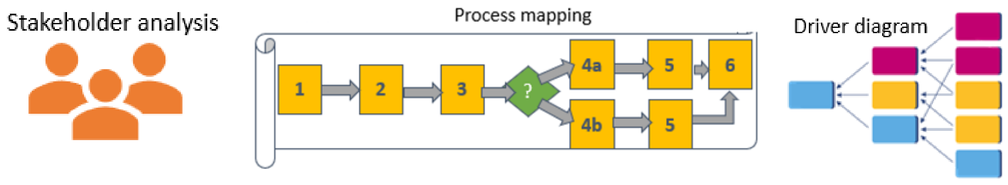
The aim was to implement measures to reduce food waste by September 2024.

Image X Y&H TRUNC-HD Programme

Jan – March 2024	March	April – June	June	July – Sept	Sept	Oct – Dec	May 2025
Unit face to face QI training and support	Y&H virtual sharing progress meeting	Unit face to face QI training and support	Y&H virtual sharing progress meeting	Unit face to face QI training and support	Y&H virtual sharing progress meeting	Unit face to face QI training and support	Y&H face to face celebration event

METHODS

Project leads were identified and participated in the **Y&H TRUNC-HD programme (see image below). Some QI tools and concepts used to help shape and develop ideas:**



- Meetings were held with the:
  - **domestic supervisor** to explore the causes of food waste
  - the **materials management officer** to discuss reusable tableware, given the unit has a dishwasher.
- Discontinuing paper plates and plastic cups in **favour of reusable alternatives**, supported by additional reusable items procured for the unit.

Before and after the implementation of changes, data was collected to calculate the **environmental, financial and social impact** of the project

RESULTS

A significant contributor to food waste - **ordering sandwiches for patients who were not dialysing on certain days** (twice-weekly schedule or due to hospital admission)

Staff attempted to order single-use tableware again, **emphasising the need for ongoing vigilance and reinforcement of the new practices**

Regular communication with the domestic supervisor so sandwich orders can tailor to actual demand

RESULTS

kgCO2e= kilograms in carbon dioxide gas equivalent*

	Annual Carbon savings	Annual Financial savings
Reducing wasted sandwiches (from 20 to 3 a week)		
	695kgCO2e (132.6kg prevented food waste)	£928.20
Reducing single-use tableware (Saving 8,000 paper plates and 20,000 plastic cups annually)		
	286kgCO2e	£267.20
TOTAL	**981kgCO2e**	**£1,195.40**

CONCLUSION

These findings demonstrate how simple, practical measures can lead to meaningful environmental and financial benefits in healthcare settings.

The project highlights **the importance of maintaining staff engagement** to sustain changes and avoid reverting to previous practices.

Improved communication fostered team cohesion and inspired both staff and patients to consider carbon reduction efforts in their daily and working lives.

Next project, **empowering patients to bring their own blankets for dialysis**.

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