Waste anesthetic gases cost UNMH money and contribute to our institutional carbon footprint

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Waste anesthetic gases cost UNMH money and contribute to our institutional carbon footprint.

Background:
Anesthetic gases are potent greenhouse gases. We do about 21,000 anesthetic cases a year at UNMH, Cancer Center and OSIS combined.

Goals:
- Decrease desflurane use specifically
- Decrease total anesthetic greenhouse gas emissions by 50%

Both to be measured in 2020, compared to 2018 data.

How we will get there:
1. Choose sevoflurane and isoflurane for all routine anesthetics.
2. Practice low flow anesthesia by utilizing low fresh gas flows whenever clinically appropriate.
3. Ongoing education in the department including a recent Grand Rounds presented by the authors of this poster.

When achieved we will have decreased our greenhouse gas emissions by almost 700 tons of carbon equivalents (equal to approximately 1,650,000 miles of driving).

Other Dept. of Anesthesia green initiatives include recycling disposable pulse oximetry probes and decreasing use of disposable venturi face masks. These are already saving thousands of dollars and reducing trash.

Table 1 from: https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/governance-and-committees/asa-committees/committee-on-equipment-and-facilities/environmental-sustainability/greening-the-operating-room Accessed 2/17/2020