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# A prescription for change

Rethinking plastics use in healthcare to reduce waste, greenhouse gas emissions and costs

## THE STATE OF PLAY

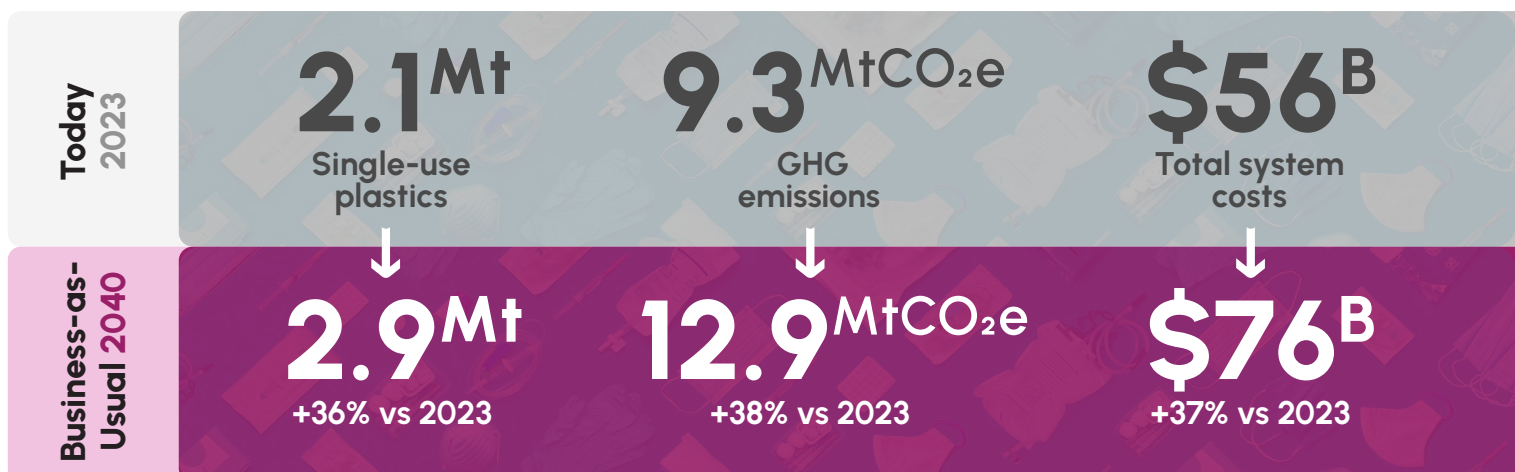
Today in Europe and North America, **seven product categories** make up most of the single-use plastic consumption in the healthcare system



## THE RISK OF INACTION

Inaction would result in significant environmental, financial and social impacts.

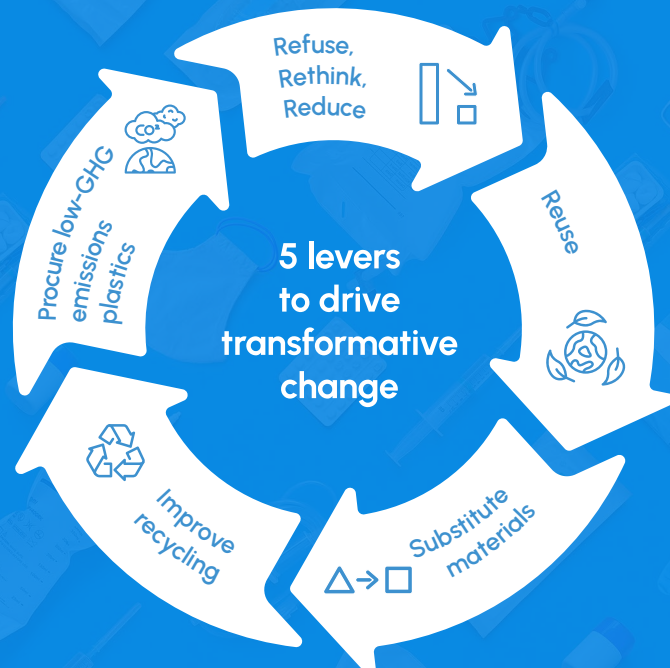
In a Business-as-Usual scenario, **plastic waste, GHG emissions and costs could grow by 35 - 40% by 2040**





## THE PATH TO RECOVERY

The healthcare sector is at a critical turning point. This study highlights five practical, evidence-based circular economy strategies that hospitals and suppliers can scale today, without compromising patient health or safety.



## A TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE

If adopted at scale across Europe and North America by 2040, these interventions could result in significant environmental and economic benefits

### High-Ambition Scenario 2040

Relative to the Business-as-Usual Scenario

# 1.4M<sup>t</sup>

Single-use plastics

↓ 53% vs BAU

# 5.8M<sup>t</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>e

GHG emissions

↓ 55% vs BAU

# \$58<sup>B</sup>

Total system costs

↓ 24% vs BAU

*avoids over a decade's worth of the UK NHS's entire plastics footprint*

*annual savings of up to \$18 billion (€15 billion)*

## Now is the moment to act.

The next five years will decide whether healthcare locks in a high-cost, high-carbon future – or leads the shift to resilient, sustainable care.



**Early movers are likely to benefit** from long-term cost efficiencies, improved supply chain resilience, and stronger alignment with evolving regulatory and investor expectations.

Even in the High-Ambition Scenario, the healthcare systems in Europe and North America **will not be on track to achieve net zero by 2040**, and therefore should consider additional levers.

[Download the full report](#)



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