



# THE LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF SURGICAL GOWNS

## REUSABLE & DISPOSABLE

### SURGICAL GOWN LIFE CYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS



Surgical gown life cycle results continue the conclusions from six other reusable/disposable gown/coverall studies that show reusables provide a significant improvement in energy, environmental footprint, blue water\*, and energy-associated emissions. and energy-associated emissions.

\*Blue water represents water that is used and not returned to the source, and thus represents depletion of a fresh water source.

### SURGICAL GOWN LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS



Surgical gowns were studied thoroughly from material extraction from the earth, to the manufacture of the gown product, to use including laundry and sterilization, to final end-of-life. This scope and the results emphasize transparent, science-based life cycle analysis.

### MEDICAL INSTRUMENT RECOVERY

Medical laundry operations find and return a significant amount of lost instruments to health care facilities. The instruments are often found wrapped in surgical drapes and would otherwise have been lost to a landfill. The value of these items was found (in other studies) to be in the thousands to tens of thousands of dollars per year.



### REUSABLE SURGICAL GOWNS ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Selecting reusable surgical gowns instead of disposable alternatives decreases the environmental footprint by:



64% lower natural resource energy consumption

66% lower greenhouse gas emissions (measured as CO2 eq emissions)

87% lower total water consumed (blue water\*)

84%-87%

lower solid waste generation at healthcare facility



End users can count these improvements as a credit toward improving their sustainability programs.