



Empowering Change: Reducing Paper Usage by 50% in Healthcare Organizations

Singapore Healthcare Management 2024

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Background

ALPS and some public healthcare institutions have set a bold environment sustainability target of reducing paper usage by 50%, with the baseline set at 2019.

Aim

To ignite a movement within healthcare, rallying everyone to achieve the same environmental sustainability target by providing visibility and showcasing the tangible impacts of such efforts through the use of dashboards for effective monitoring.

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Methodology

While some institutions have begun monitoring their paper usage, this dashboard provides a National overview on consumption pattern of paper consumption over time.

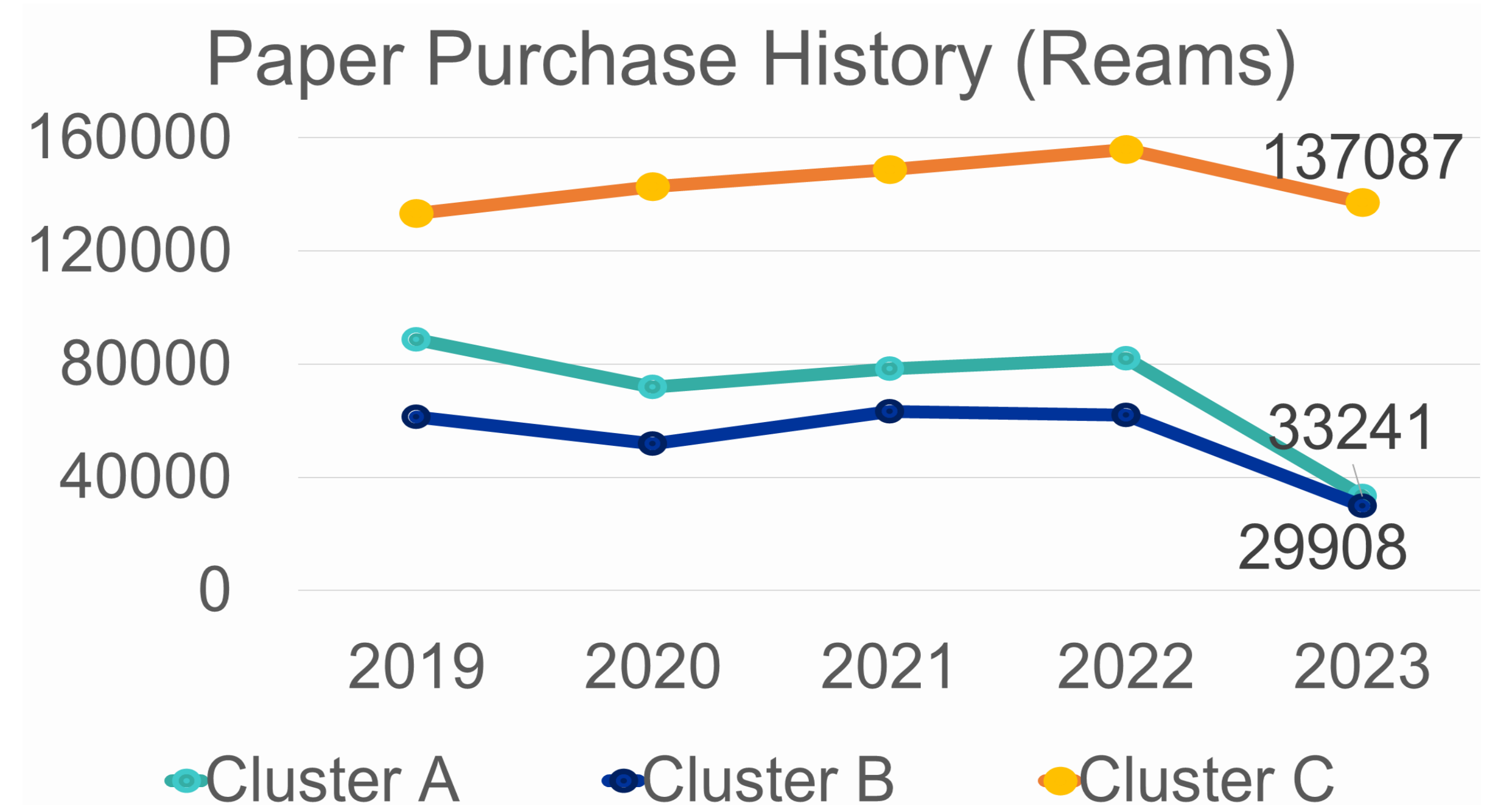
The purchase history from 2019 to 2023 of 70gsm and 80gsm copier paper from all 3 healthcare clusters were obtained from the current vendors.

Dashboards were created for different institution settings i.e. hospitals, community hospitals, specialty centres and polyclinics, to compare the trend of copier paper utilisation over time. The information helps Institutions to monitor and reduce their usage, to meet their targets.

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Results

The purchase history revealed a **29%** reduction in paper usage in totality from all 3 clusters inclusive of ALPS.



The purchase history also identified institutions that achieved significant reductions in paper usage and their best practices.

	2019 (Baseline)	2023	50% Target
Paper Usage (Reams)	283,438	200,236 (29% Reduced)	141,719
CO ² Produced (Ton)	834	589	417
Cost	\$941,014	\$664,784	\$470,507

In 2023, there was reduction in paper usage. **83K** lesser reams of paper (**29%**) were used. This equates to lesser 245 tons (**29%**) of CO₂ being emitted and a cost reduction of **\$276K (29%)**.

If 50% reduction target can be achieved in the coming years, this will equate to **50%** reduction in CO₂ and cost as compared to the baseline in 2019. If 1 football field can fit 299 trees, this would be equivalent to over 28 football fields of trees preserved! This also translates to the reduction of 417 tons of CO₂ being emitted and a cost reduction of **\$470K!**

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Conclusion

Public Healthcare can achieve environmental sustainability and cost reduction through collective effort in reduction of paper usage. This effort not only generates less waste but also conserves other resources such as energy and toner cartridges used in printing. In 2023, there was a reduction in paper usage and carbon emission by **29%** and cost reduction by **\$276K**. The development of national dashboards will continue to provide visibility of the progress and the collective efforts of institutions to reduce paper usage.