



Sustainable Research Procurement Guide

UNSW Science Sustainability Working Group

Did you know that 33% of UNSW's carbon footprint comes from our supply chain¹? The purchasing decisions of our research community have a significant impact on human health and the natural environment. We can make big improvements to the social and environmental impact of our work through sustainable laboratory procurement.

BEFORE PURCHASING NEW MATERIALS

Reduce

- Buy only what you need and consolidate orders.
- Maintain an accurate inventory in your laboratory to reduce the number of new materials you need to purchase.

Reuse

- Consider sharing equipment between research groups or laboratories.
- Consider giving unwanted materials and equipment to other user groups for a second life.
- Where possible and safe to do so, use washable or reusable labware in place of disposable items.
- Consider refilling pipette tip racks rather than buying pre-racked tips.

Recycle

- Set up and maintain a convenient recycling facility inside or near to your laboratory. Clean, uncontaminated plastic, glass, paper, cardboard and polystyrene can be recycled. Read more about how to recycle on campus [here](#).
- Book an [Archibus request](#) for bulk or IT e-waste disposal.

WHEN PURCHASING NEW MATERIALS

Choose Energy & Water Efficient Models

- Request the manufacturer's energy consumption data to see if the equipment's power use has been independently metered. For equipment such as lab grade refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, and computers, compare energy efficiency and running costs using either the [Energy Rating Label](#), or [Water Rating Label](#).

Consider Packaging and Recycled Materials

- Look for products made from recycled materials.
- Choose products with reduced packaging and/or packaging made from recycled content.
- Give preference to products that have take-back programs for packaging and end-of-life equipment.

Seek Out Greener Alternative Chemical Products

- Use greener alternatives to reduce the environmental impact and cost of your research without compromising on results. Check out [My Green Lab](#), [Green Chemistry](#) webpage for resources on chemical substitutions.

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