*Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (**LEAF**) guides*

Procurement

Did you know that approximately half of UNSW's carbon footprint comes from our supply chain? Your purchasing decisions have a significant impact on human health and the natural environment. Adopting sustainable laboratory procurement practices can make a big difference.

Before purchasing new equipment:

Reduce

Buy only what you need and consolidate all orders.

Maintain an accurate lab inventory to reduce the number of new materials you need to purchase.

Always consider repairing existing equipment before purchasing new.

Reuse

Consider whether you have the right communication channels to encourage equipment sharing between groups.

Where safe and appropriate, share chemicals between labs using the **UNSW Jaggaer Chemical Inventory Management** software.

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. See the LEAF **waste minimisation guide** for examples.

Refill pipette tip racks rather than buying pre-racked tips.

Use **UNSW reuse programs** where possible.

Recycle

Ensure recycling bins are placed in effective and appropriate locations. Read more about recycling on campus **here**.

Use the **UNSW Sustainability map** to find recycling points and drop-off locations.

When purchasing new equipment:

Choose sustainable products

Request the manufacturer's energy consumption data to see if the equipment's power use has been independently metered. Compare energy efficiency and water costs using the **Energy Rating Label** or **Water Rating Label**.

Use the **ACT database** to make informed decisions when purchasing:

- Chemicals and Reagents
- Consumables
- Equipment

Request Life Cycle Assessments (LCA's) from manufacturers prior to purchasing.

Further sustainability considerations for purchasing lab equipment can be found **here**.

Consider packaging and recycled materials

Look for products made from recycled materials.

Choose products with less packaging and/or packaging made from recycled materials.

Request minimal packaging from all suppliers.

Give preference to products that have take-back programs for packaging and end-of-life equipment.

Seek out alternative green chemicals

Use greener alternatives to reduce the environmental impact and cost of your research without compromising on results.

For resources on chemical substitution check out **My Green Lab Green Chemistry** webpage or the **DOZN Green Chemistry Evaluator tool**.