



Sustainability Office

Office of Campus Planning / Sustainability Office / Get Involved / Collaborations / Lab Plastics Recycling Program

LAB PLASTICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Sustainability Office, Risk Management Services, Payment and Procurement Services, and Facilities Management are working together to eliminate recyclable plastics from the campus waste stream.

As a key action toward the achievement of this goal, a Lab Plastics Recycling Program was developed in 2010 to capture and recycle all plastic packaging and non-hazardous plastic lab products supplied to our campus laboratories.

How does the program work?

Lab Plastics Recycling Program recycling bins have been provided to participating labs in various academic buildings across campus. These white recycling bins are used by lab faculty, staff and students to collect and measure all plastic recycled material processed by the labs. Once measured and recorded, the white recycling bins are simply emptied into the larger blue campus recycling bins for recycling processing through Facilities Management. Measured volumes are reported to the Sustainability Office through an on-line tracking tool found [here](#).

What can be recycled?

Packaging Recycling

- All number 1- 7 plastics are acceptable. This includes the wrappers on items like plates, flasks, dishes, pipettes, centrifuge tubes, cryo bags and filters.
- All cardboard boxes used in packaging
- Microplate boxes
- Pipette tip boxes

Product Recycling

Waste Containing Risk Group 1 Agents: Risk Group 1 Agents are considered by Health Canada to be of low individual and community risk. This includes:

- Tips used to extract DNA (using lysis buffer, Pro K, ethanol).
- Tips used to do polymerase chain reactions(Taq polymerase, dNTPs, Mgcl2)
- Plates containing amplified DNA
- Tubes holding plant tissues
- Plates containing extracted DNA, or PCR product
- Strip tubes holding PCR products and DNA

What is not accepted?

- Packaging or products containing hazardous materials

How can I participate?

1. Register for Lab Plastics Recycling Program, contact the [Sustainability Office](#)
 1. Once registered your lab will have a short meeting with the Advisor, Sustainability to review the program and to receive the recycling bin.
 2. It is advised that one or two individuals are identified as contact person(s) and are leads for this program to ensure that the bin is emptied and [reported](#) when required.
2. Laboratory purchases lab products from UBC preferred suppliers
 1. List of UBC Preferred Supplier can be found on Payment and Procurement Services UBCBuySmart [website](#).
3. Laboratory receives purchases
 1. Packaging materials are deposited into white recycling bin – refer to **Packaging Recycling** for list of accepted materials
4. Laboratory uses supplies
 1. Used plastic lab products are deposited into white recycling bin when no longer required – refer to **Product Recycling** for list of accepted materials
5. Lab staff empties filled white recycling bin into blue UBC commingled recycling bin found in the hallways outside the laboratory doors.

LAB PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM

ACCEPTED

Products

- ✓ Tips used to extract DNA (using lysis buffer, Pro K, ethanol)
- ✓ Tips used to do polymerase chain reactions (Taq polymerase, dNTPs, Mgcl2)
- ✓ Plates containing amplified DNA
- ✓ Tubes holding plant tissue
- ✓ Plates containing extracted DNA, or PCR product
- ✓ Strip tubes holding PCR products and DNA

Packaging

- ✓ All #1-7 plastics including wrappers on items such as plates, flasks, dishes, pipets, centrifuge tubes, cryo bags and filters
- ✓ All cardboard boxes used in packaging
- ✓ Microplate boxes
- ✓ Pipet tip boxes



NOT ACCEPTED

X Packaging or products containing hazardous materials



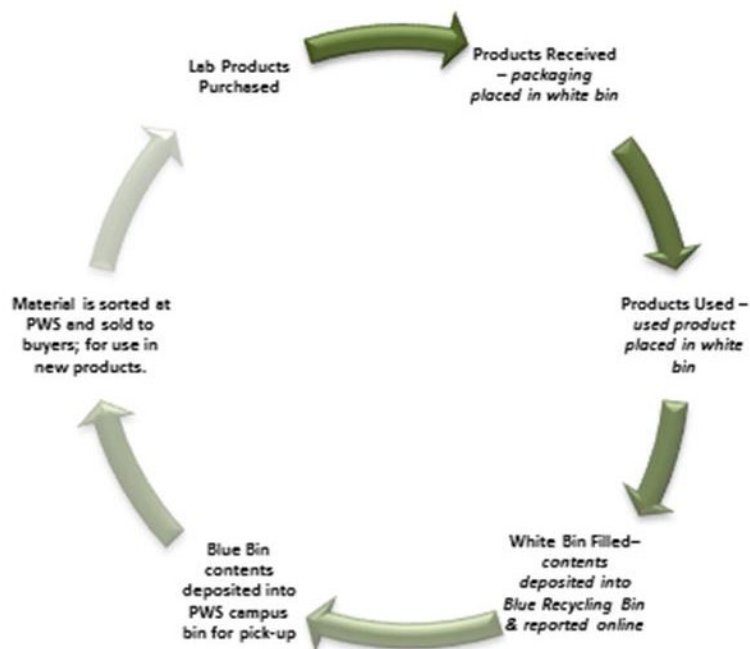
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6. Lab staff returns emptied white recycling bin to lab and steps 2-6 are repeated.

Recycled Plastics Life Cycle



Program Contact

Follow these links for more information about [tracking](#), to [register](#) for this program, or you can contact the Sustainability Office via [email](#).

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