



recyclelab

SUSTAINABLE LAB STARTER PACK

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Welcome!

Ready to reduce your lab's plastic waste but not sure where to start?

Our Sustainable Lab Starter Kit gives you everything you need to take practical, impactful steps toward a greener lab. Designed for busy labs, this free downloadable resource is packed with tools to help you take action now.

What's Inside:

- A quick-start checklist for sustainable lab practices
- Tips for reducing and segregating single-use plastic waste
- Guidance on decontamination and recycling-readiness
- A breakdown of common waste streams and what can (and can't) be recycled
- A mini waste audit template to assess your current impact
- Real-world examples from labs already making a difference



4 ways to reduce LAB WASTE

1

UNDERSTAND



To be able to reduce your labs waste, it is helpful to understand your current waste management practices. Waste audits can be used to analyse your labs waste and help to implement waste reduction strategies.

2

REDUCE

Produce an inventory of consumables purchased or used. This will help to track how much you need and will stop over purchasing and over using.

Design experiments to use less consumables.



3

REUSE



Reuse bottles/tubes/pipette tips that have only contained water

Sterilise consumables and use them again.

Switch to glass that can be sterilised in an autoclave eg. glass beakers and conical flasks.

4

RECYCLE

Ensure you have recycling bins present inside your lab.

Recycle cardboard, paper and plastic packaging.

Recycle single-use plastic lab consumables through RecycleLab waste recycling scheme



4 tips to a more SUSTAINABLE LAB

1



ENERGY USE

Switch off equipment and lights when not in use, and choose energy-efficient models where possible

2

WATER USE

Reduce water waste by using recirculating systems, turning off taps when not actively in use and installing aerators on taps to reduce water flow.



3

GREEN CHEMICALS

Reduce the use of hazardous and toxic chemicals by opting for green alternatives, reducing the volumes of solvents used and minimising the use of chemicals in your experiments as much as possible.



4

RECYCLING

Set up clear waste streams for plastic lab consumables and other recyclables to keep materials out of incineration disposal routes.

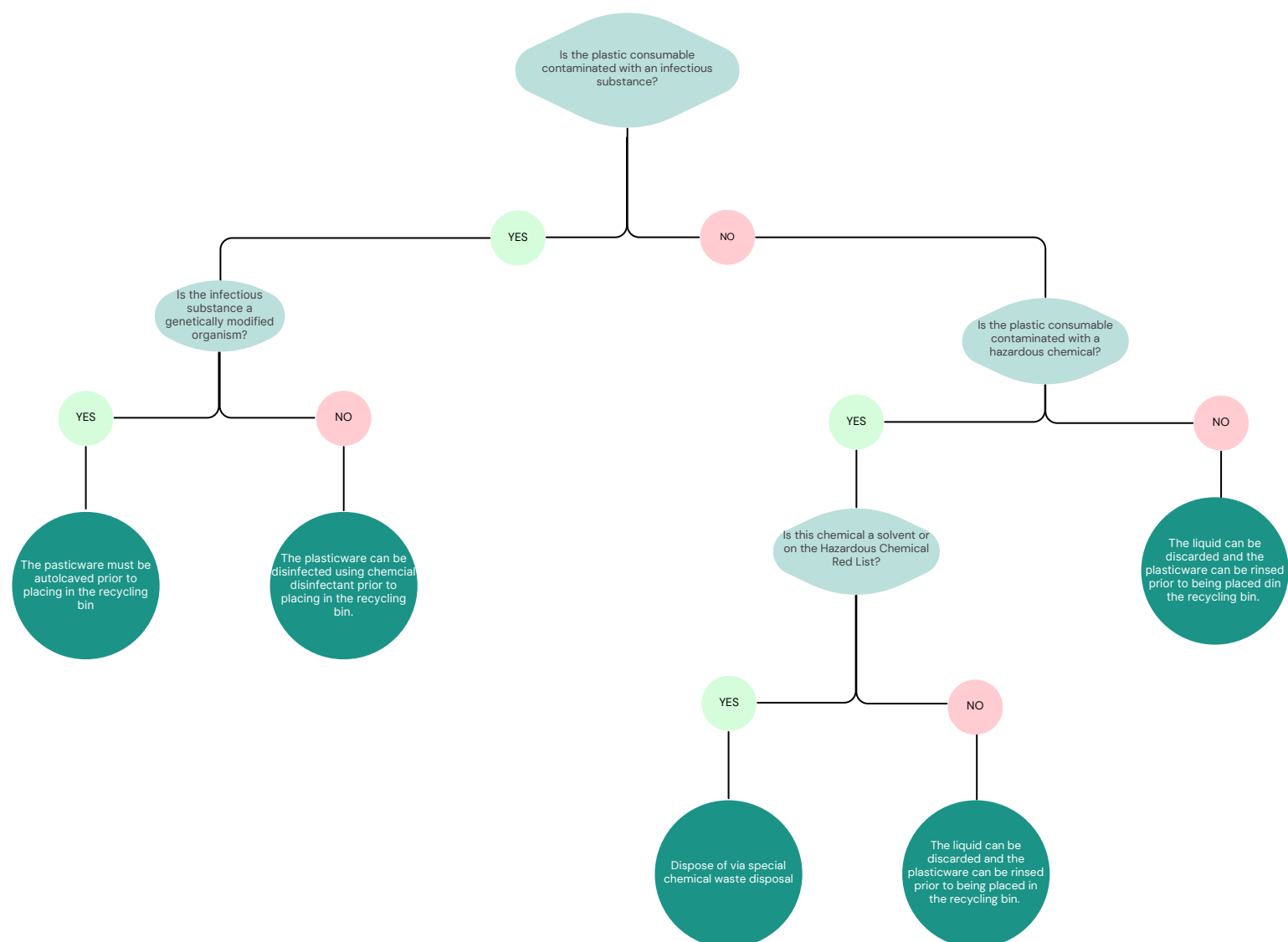




Decontamination & Recycling Readiness

RecycleLab are able to accept uncontaminated or decontaminated plastic lab consumables for Recycling.

We have put together a simple flow chart to help you determine whether your lab plastics need to be decontaminated prior to recycling, or whether they can be placed directly in our bins.



Need support? RecycleLab can help you develop tailored decontamination guidance for your lab setup. Just get in touch!



Mini Waste Audit template

Conducting your own waste audit is a great way to identify which items could be recycled through RecycleLab’s plastic lab consumable recycling stream, designed specifically for science labs.

Below is a simple table showing the type of information you can collect from conducting “bin dives” across your different waste streams.

By gathering this data, you’ll gain a clear picture of how much waste your lab produces, and how much of it could be diverted from disposal into recycling.

Waste Stream (e.g. General, Lab Plastics, Recycling, Clinical, Sharps)	Item Description	Material Type (plastic, paper, cardboard)	Quantity (items or weight in grams)	Recyclable? (Yes/No)	Notes/Observations



Lab Recycling Success Stories

Exatracellular

Before partnering with RecycleLab, Extracellular faced a major challenge: most waste services wouldn't accept scientific plastic waste, meaning recyclable lab materials were being sent directly to landfill or incineration. The team was actively seeking a sustainable solution that could accommodate the specific needs of a science lab.

Their primary goal was clear, stop recyclable scientific waste from ending up in landfill or incineration. Upon discovering RecycleLab through the Science Creates innovation hub, the lab team found exactly what they were looking for: a simple, effective, and science-specific recycling service.

What stood out most to the team was the ease of use and excellent communication provided by RecycleLab. From the initial setup to regular collections, the service has integrated seamlessly into their lab routine. Since starting the recycling scheme, the lab has achieved an impressive 90% reduction in plastic waste sent to landfill, a huge milestone in their sustainability journey.

"This was an amazing service to discover. RecycleLab's communication has been great and the whole process has been so easy to use."

Folium

The lab team at Science Creates sought a more sustainable solution to their plastic waste management after recognising how much lab waste was being sent to landfill or incineration. Their goal was simple: to reduce the environmental impact of their operations without adding complexity to their workflow.

RecycleLab's service stood out for its quality, ease of use, and alignment with the team's sustainability values. As the only recycling solution available within the Science Creates community, the team found the onboarding process straightforward and the ongoing service seamless.

Since implementing RecycleLab's recycling waste stream, the lab has diverted a significant volume of plastic waste from landfill, all while maintaining a workflow that requires no more effort than their previous disposal methods

Ready to implement lab plastic recycling? Or have any lab sustainability questions?

Get in touch!

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