

# A Nudge in the Right Direction

DEPARTMENT: Histology

## TEAM MEMBERS' NAMES:

Olly Mawson,  
Olly Gomme,  
Sarah Jones,  
Eunice Inacio,  
and Alison Finch



## AIMS:

- Reduce water consumption which is particularly high in the histology department.
- Educate staff and change the culture to increase recycling.
- Investigate reducing packaging requirements for transport of specimens from the department to the laboratory either by absolute reduction or by reusing packaging.
- Explore the department's suppliers to ensure products purchased have a minimal carbon footprint.

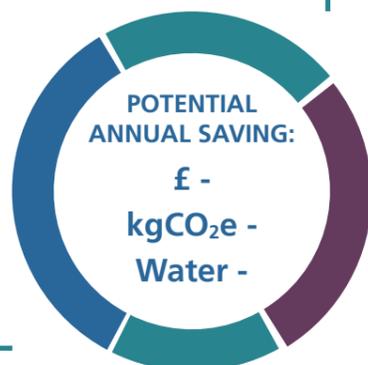


Suppliers and staff members have got on board with sustainability and the 'nudge' ethos.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Liaising with the Estates Team has led to some developments regarding the reduction of water as well as some wider sustainability measures.
- Both suppliers and staff members have got on board with sustainability and the 'nudge' ethos.
- Disposable pipettes have been swapped out for a bottle which allows chemicals and stains to be measured out, reducing domestic waste.
- The department's supplier of specimen bags is being reconsidered, aiming to replace virgin polythene bags with recycled plastic.
- The potential for a paperless system is to be revisited following the introduction of the 'EPIC Beaker' database. This will also provide easier access to past pathology history.



## CHALLENGES

- Water reduction has been difficult as the department has a high requirement for water.
- Hygiene concerns arose surrounding the use of water hippos to reduce water. This mini project has therefore not been implemented.
- Reuse of specimen bags has been suspended at present as it was very difficult to ensure that bags were sterile and free of any infection.
- Lab processes and Health & Safety have been the team's main barriers, including infection control, patient safety and safe disposal of chemicals and waste.



Procurement of specimen bags is being reconsidered, to replace virgin polythene with recycled plastic.

