How UniGreenScheme Is Helping UEA Avoid the Unnecessary Disposal of Unwanted Equipment

The University of East Anglia is undergoing extensive refurbishments across its laboratories and workshops.

Through this process a wide range of surplus equipment often accumulates in the facilities.

Rather than this surplus equipment going to disposal, a pilot trial of UniGreenScheme was launched in 2016.

UniGreenScheme collect, store and sell unwanted equipment for universities across the UK.

Over four projects, UniGreenScheme collected over 7,000kg of unwanted equipment ranging from microscopes to air tables to lasers.

Over 3,000kg of the equipment collected has already been sold for re-use preventing over 10,000kg of supply-chain CO2e.

The university has already received nearly £2,500 from the equipment sales.

"UniGreenScheme provide a unique opportunity for Universities to reallocate laboratory equipment so that it can continue to be useful in a scientific facilities.

Much of this unused equipment would otherwise be stored or taking up valuable space in labs and in practice depreciates as it becomes a less useful resource.

We have been very impressed with both the service provided and results of the scheme at UEA so far."

Matthew Bennett, Senior Lab Technician, UEA

Impact So Far:

- 441 Items Collected
- £2.4k Rebate Received So Far
- 80+ Staff Hours Saved
- 3.07t Waste Prevented So Far
- 10.01t CO2 Equivalent Avoided
UniGreenScheme often come across laboratories full of equipment that is surplus to requirements and this was certainly the case in the labs at UEA.

There were several clear-outs involving rooms full of equipment.

With a careful sort through, numerous items of high value were identified as suitable for resale.

The focus of UniGreenScheme is on lab equipment, but all manner of surplus assets can be sold through the scheme.

"The projects at University of East Anglia have typically involved large clear-outs. Essentially the department has removed all the equipment that is suitable for use internally, and then we go in afterwards and collect anything suitable for re-sale. It's great because we are able to divert so much equipment away from typical waste disposal streams."

- Michael McLeod, Managing Director of UniGreenScheme
The team at UEA were particularly impressed with the diverse range of equipment that UniGreenScheme were able to collect and sell during the project.

One of the largest clearances was a workshop full of brass nuts, screws, bolts and other bits that were in mint condition and had so much more potential to be re-used than simply as scrap metal.

Initially the equipment was collected from the Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy, but the potential was soon realised and so the School of Biology began using the service. As a result UniGreenScheme sold a number of items for the department including a set of 4 air tables.

A Beckman HPLC System was destined for waste disposal until UniGreenScheme collected it from a lab. The unit was fully working but it was old and it's software operated off floppy disks.

But refurbishment by UniGreenScheme resulted in the system being sold to a start-up company in cheshire with a one-year warranty.
UniGreenScheme helped the University of East Anglia turn a problem of surplus equipment into a cash opportunity, and prevented over 3 tonnes of waste in the process.

Some Of The Items Collected From UEA So Far:

- 4 Air Tables
- 40 Brass Endecotts Sieves
- 10 Edwards Vacuum Pumps
- 20 Heating Mantles
- 7 Microscopes
- 5 Centrifuges
- 1 Micro-plate Scintillation System
- 500kg Brass Screws and Bolts

Find out how UniGreenScheme can help you do the same for your school or department.

Whether you have existing equipment surplus to requirements or just want to find out more about the scheme get in touch with our waste prevention team on the details below.

We Collect, Store, and Sell Your Surplus Equipment and Return a Share of the Profits to Your Department.

To Find Out More Please Contact Us: