



Steps to a LAB PLASTIC WASTE ASSESSMENT

What's in the bin?

Understanding your plastic lab waste lays the foundation to **SHIFT** your lab's recycling success. This guide provides introductory steps to conducting a single-use lab plastic waste assessment. If you are interested to learn more about joining the lab plastics data collection project, contact us at ssbi@merckgroup.com.



1 IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Gather support from relevant stakeholders impacted by the assessment
- Remember: the assessment is fundamental to reducing the impact of your lab's single-use plastics



2 CHARACTERIZE YOUR PLASTIC WASTE

- Determine the types of plastic in each of the single-use items your lab is using
- Classify the different levels of contamination and the disposal routes of each stream
- Prepare separate bins for each type of plastic and their waste classification (i.e. biohazard, chemical hazard, etc.)



3 PLAN ASSESSMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- Assemble team and define responsibilities: how to weigh your waste, what logging system to use, and how long to run the assessment
- Decide how to dispose the different waste bins with your EHS representative



4 CONDUCT WASTE ASSESSMENT

- Start collecting, weighing and recording your separated plastic waste!
- After the allocated time, make sure the wastes get disposed of according to your local regulations



5 ANALYZE RESULTS

- Benchmark: analyze the major types of plastics being used in your lab
- Identify opportunities for reduction and recycling

Take Action Together

Recycling lab waste is a complex undertaking—let's find solutions together. Sharing your results can help us develop new and innovative recycling processes for single-use plastic waste. Looking for more support or need a comprehensive how-to guide? Email us at ssbi@merckgroup.com.

The Life Science business of Merck operates as MilliporeSigma in the U.S. and Canada.

© 2023 Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and/or its affiliates. All Rights Reserved. Merck and the vibrant M are trademarks of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany or its affiliates. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Lit Code:MK_FL12792EN 48963 09/2023