



By Kimberly-Clark Professional®

Students and staff in the University of Edinburgh School of Chemistry

Recycle Used Gloves Through The RightCycle™ Programme



The challenge

The University of Edinburgh is one of the most prestigious universities in the world and both the University and the School of Chemistry have very strong academic reputations with outstanding research profiles.

The university is also committed to the Sustainable Development Goals Accord and the University has highlighted projects and initiatives that directly contribute to each of the goals.

The School of Chemistry uses 200,000 pairs of gloves every year for teaching and research, presenting a considerable amount of waste.

The solution

“As a School, we are and always will be looking to embrace new methods of working that help to reduce the impact our teaching and research activities have on the environment”, says Tim Calder, Waste Management Officer. “Awareness of the scheme was brought to our attention during dialogue with our distributor partner and it was clear the RightCycle™ scheme would be a great way to tackle a waste stream which, at the time, had no clear and obvious route for recycling/upcycling waste. Given the large quantity of gloves used on a daily basis within the School of Chemistry it was a no brainer to pursue the possibility of introducing the scheme in collaboration with Kimberly Clark.”

The RightCycle™ Programme works with research and manufacturing facilities to convert hard-to-recycle products such as used, non-hazardous gloves and protective apparel, into new consumer goods.

The results

The School has recycled about 85% of all its used laboratory gloves and in 2019 they reached the incredible milestone of having collected one million pairs of disposable gloves – amounting to 15 tonnes of waste – since introducing the pioneering recycling scheme in late 2014.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Chemistry



Picture courtesy of the University of Edinburgh.
www.chem.ed.ac.uk

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