



IDRM Sustainability Progress Report

Reporting period: 2025

Institute of Developmental & Regenerative Medicine (IDRM)

During 2025, the Institute of Developmental & Regenerative Medicine (IDRM) made substantial progress in embedding sustainability into everyday operations, research practices, and infrastructure management. Significant achievements were realised through comprehensive engagement with the LEAF and Green Impact frameworks, resulting in multiple Gold and Beyond Gold accreditations across research groups and facilities.

Key environmental gains included the generation of over 225,000 kWh of renewable electricity from on-site solar panels, preventing more than 128 tonnes of CO₂e. Recycling infrastructure was expanded to include soft plastics, specialised laboratory waste streams, and pen recycling, positioning IDRM ahead of many comparable University buildings.

IDRM has also been recognised externally as a model of best practice. Feedback from the University-wide LEAF Forum highlighted the institute's leadership in waste management, sustainable procurement, and its floor-wide consumables system, which has reduced packaging, congestion, and delivery frequency.

Building on this success, IDRM will continue to develop its school engagement programme, expand recycling and reuse initiatives, pursue Green Impact Beyond Gold at institute level, and strengthen University-wide sustainability networks in 2026.



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1. Overview

2025 marked a significant year for sustainability at IDRМ. Through a combination of accreditation success, expanded recycling streams, energy efficiency projects, and external engagement, the institute has continued to strengthen its position as a leader in sustainable laboratory operations within the University of Oxford. This report summarises key achievements, feedback from University-wide forums, and the next phase of planned activity.

2. Sustainability Accreditations and Recognition

IDRM has achieved strong and comprehensive engagement with both LEAF and Green Impact schemes.

LEAF Gold: Wood Group, Cardiac Floor, Hollander Group, OVG Group, PSI Group, BMSU

LEAF Silver: Sanders Lab, Trig Group

LEAF Bronze: Simoes Group

Green Impact – Beyond Gold: BMSU

Green Impact – Gold: IDRМ Facilities

3. Environmental Impact and Operational Improvements

Solar panels installed on site generated 225,117 kWh of clean electricity in 2025, resulting in an estimated 128,316 kg of CO₂e savings—approximately enough to power an average household for three years.

Preventative maintenance of ULT freezers included safely adjusting set points to –70 °C where appropriate to reduce energy demand.

4. Recycling and Waste Management

Recycling now covers borosilicate and Pyrex glass, polystyrene, pipette tip boxes (TipOne fully implemented), mixed dry recycling, glass, soft plastics, and pens.

Coffee grounds continue to be recycled locally, saving enough CO₂e to charge a phone ~53,000 times. A relationship with a local B-Corp coffee roaster embeds sustainability in procurement as well as waste management.

5. Sustainable Procurement and Reuse



Surplus lab consumables and equipment are redistributed to local schools. Greener Merck product lines are increasingly adopted. Water-usage guidance posters have been installed. Infrastructure improvements included bug houses, upgraded bike racks to encourage active travel, and donation of old racks for reuse. Winter energy-saving messages are displayed across institute screens.

6. University-Wide Engagement and External Feedback

Following attendance at the Oxford LEAF Forum at the LaMB building, IDRМ's practices received positive feedback from colleagues across the University. Soft plastic recycling was highlighted as leading practice; local coffee sourcing and closed-loop initiatives were seen as models to replicate; and the floor-wide Level 1 consumables system (developed by Denise Lynch and Sarah De Val) was recognised as best practice for reducing deliveries, packaging and lab congestion.

7. Building on Success

Planned developments include expanding the school network for surplus consumables; formalising water filter, food waste and soft plastics within the recycling portfolio; recycling soft gel ice packs and developing a safe cleaning method for hard plastic packs for redistribution; and working towards Green Impact Beyond Gold at institute level.

8. Future Projects and Next Steps

IDRM will build a University-wide sustainability network, increase attendance at sustainability events, and explore grant support to offset soft-plastic recycling costs via the sustainability administration team.

9. Conclusion

The progress made during 2025 shows what can be achieved when sustainability is embedded into everyday practice and supported across teams. IDRМ is well placed to continue leading by example within the University while remaining open to collaboration and continuous improvement.