In 2020, the NHS launched the Greener NHS campaign to reach a “net zero” NHS by 2040. A key area of this campaign is a reduction in the amount of waste produced delivering clinical activities. Waste produced within the research field is often influenced by use of study-specific stocks, study labels and Sponsor’s policies.

As part of the Green plan for NIHR Oxford Cognitive Health Clinical Research Facility, we therefore implemented a guidance/policy for the repurposing of all to-be-disposed items in January 2023. The aim of the SurPLus project is to quantify the effectiveness of our guidance in reducing the number of supplies wasted during the delivery of research trials.

Methodology
- A before-after study comparing the monthly figures of disposed supplies in the 6 months before and after implementation of the guidance.
- At the end of each month, study-specific and general stock items to-be-disposed have been counted.
- Quantitative and qualitative information about the study and the items (e.g. expiry date, repurposing method and commercial or non-commercial study) have been collected in a priori prepared spreadsheet.

Results
- Study-specific items
  - **BEFORE**
    - 11192 items to be disposed.
      - 68.75% items for sample collection.
      - 42.82% items not expired.
      - 100% destroyed (Potentially repurposable items ranged from 32.21% to 100%).
  - **AFTER**
    - 1016 items to be disposed.
      - 74.98% items for sample collection.
      - 45.95% items not expired.
      - 93.7% items repurposed.
- General stock items
  - **BEFORE**
    - 7328 items to be disposed.
      - 70.59% items classified as ‘other.
      - 70.61% items not expired.
      - 100% destroyed (Potentially repurposable items ranged from 0% to 97.09% per month).
  - **AFTER**
    - 3846 items to be disposed.
      - 61.36% items for sample collection.
      - 0.52% items not expired.
      - 35.62% items repurposed.

**Conclusion**
- The implementation of the guidance led to a notable reduction of waste in both study-specific and stock items, with almost all study-specific stock items repurposed rather than disposed of.
- The re-purposing ability was less noticeable for general stock items due to the nature of the items. However, the percentage of non-expired items to be disposed was reduced by 70.09%.

**What Next?**
- More sustainable materials should be used in the manufacturing of single-use products for clinical research.
- A crucial stage of study set-up should be negotiation of management and disposal of study-specific stocks.

**REFERENCES:**