Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) Freezer Replacement Fund Guidelines

Background
The University of Oxford has set a carbon reduction target of 33% by 2020/2021 on a 2005 baseline. Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) and Medical Sciences departments are responsible for 76% of the carbon emissions of the University. A key driver of these high carbon emissions is the energy hungry equipment contained within the laboratories. Therefore, as part of the Carbon Reduction Programme, funding has been made available to support departments and research groups in replacing their equipment.

ULT freezers consume a significant amount of energy in a lab and often come with high maintenance costs due to compressors, insulation, seals and doors failing after 5 to 10 years. More detail on how to maintain a freezer can be found in the Freezer Maintenance Guidelines.

If a freezer is older than 10 years then it might be beneficial to replace it with a more efficient model. There are a number of benefits to doing this:
- reduced running costs
- reduced maintenance costs
- increased security of samples
- a new and valid warranty
- increased capacity due to no ice
- increased capacity as unnecessary samples can be disposed of in the move over
- increased organisation as an inventory system can be implemented
- reduced carbon emissions

An upgrade could result in a saving of £500 a year in running costs and up to 3 tonnes of carbon savings a year.

Calculating your replacement funding
Funding is offered on a rate of £670 per tonne of carbon saved in the first year. This typically means a contribution of £2k can be made towards a freezer replacement. A number of efficient freezer models are available and can be advised upon by contacting one of the preferred suppliers found on the purchasing website or by contacting the sustainability team on sustainability@admin.ox.ac.uk. Meters are available upon request in order to identify your current freezers efficiency.

How to apply for funding
To apply for funding please e-mail the Environmental Sustainability team at sustainability@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Published 9 May 2016