

Action plan for environment and sustainable development for the Department of Oncology-Pathology 2026-2027

Reference 1-494/2026



**Karolinska
Institutet**



Action plan for environment and sustainable development for the Department of Oncology-Pathology 2026-2027

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1. Introduction

Karolinska Institutet has developed an action plan to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. As part of a global effort to minimize the environmental impact of our activities, we at OnkPat adhere to KI's goals and guidelines in our plan that includes concrete actions associated with our laboratory operations. The Environment and Sustainable Development Representative, (*Miljö- och hållbarhetsombud*) plays a crucial role in promoting and communicating sustainability efforts within OnkPat and is responsible for engaging all staff in implementation of the actions.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this action plan is to set the objectives, implementation and responsibilities for the Department's work with environment and sustainable development.

3. Goals and actions

3.1 Research activities

The overall goal is to reduce the environmental impact of research activities within planetary boundaries.

Aim 1: Reduce negative environmental impact from business travel and commute.

Action 1: Implement KI support in relation to travel bookings: Choosing train within Europe, using digital meetings or digital options for conferences.

Action 2: Obtain statistics on travel and transport to raise awareness.

Action 3: Regularly inform on KI events for bicycle repair and parking spaces thereby promoting bicycle use and public transport.

Status: Statistics on OnkPat air travel is published at the Staff Portal and health ambassadors regularly inform on bicycle events.

Aim 2: Reduce and optimize energy use.

- Action 1: Turn off biological safety cabinets (BSC) overnight. Follow NinoLab recommendations of 15 minutes full airflow before work starts.
- Action 2: Bring down the shield in chemical cabinets after work is done. Inform and remind the staff and post signs on each cabinet.
- Action 3: Restrict usage of UV-lights to ≤ 30 minutes for saving energy and protecting health. Put the signs on BSC.
- Action 4: Substitute light tubes in the BSCs to LED lamps.
- Action 5: De-frost, organize and discard samples/chemicals not used from -20 and -80 freezers. Regularly scrape off snow from -80 freezers. Convert when possible -80 freezers to -70 .
- Action 6: Turn off lights, computers and appliances when not in use. Localize equipment for which timers can be installed.
- Action 7: Get statistics on energy usage in each core and inform every quarter.

Status: Signs have been put up on cabinets. Timers have been purchased and installed. Information regarding optimization of energy use is included in introduction for new employees. Group leaders are reminded to promote optimizing energy usage within the group. COOR provides statistics on energy usage in BioClinicum every quarter and sustainability representative regularly spreads the information.

Aim 3: Apply relevant environmental goals in procurement and purchasing.

- Action 1: Inform group leaders and purchasing responsible on the rules and routines. For direct procurement, create a quick guide on environmental perspective.
- Action 2: Decrease purchasing by maintaining and upgrading core facilities and the instrument park, and by regularly servicing common instruments. The infrastructure group and

coordinators regularly investigate the needs for common equipment.

Action 3: Systematically consult procurement office and Environmental coordinators/ Council for sustainable development at KI on rules in every direct procurement process.

Status: Guidelines for procurement and purchasing with an environmental perspective are sent to group leaders twice a year. The infrastructure group and coordinators regularly investigate the needs for common equipment and investments are made. Common instruments are regularly serviced. The guidelines are published on home page and guidance is provided by coordinators and sustainability delegate.

Aim 4: Reduce resource use and waste generation and increase recycling.

Action 1: Targeted campaign for monitoring and providing information on hazardous waste. Make a poster in dialogue with KI with a goal to decrease hazardous waste (yellow boxes).

Action 2: Make efforts to decrease plastic waste, recycle or substitute. Keep dialogue with companies, KI and NKS on packaging.

Action 3: Reduce paper usage and increase recycling. Set printers to double sided, and black and white mode as default. Increase sorting and prevent mixing copy paper with cardboard when recycling

Action 4. Targeted campaign on using correct gloves for each purpose by placing a guide in the shop and in the labs.

Action 5: Exchange and give away week at Research theme Cancer twice a year.

Action 6: Share equipment, extend instrument park and core facilities.

Action 7: Prevent “lost” lab coats. Lab coats at BioClinicum (NKS) not sent to laundry withing 3 months are counted as “lost”. Lab coats at SciLife are not returned from the laundry. Creating large costs for society and individual groups

Status: The instrument park has been increasing. Exchange and giveaway week has been organized twice per year, and it works well. Signs on lab coats' return are put up in each lab. ITA has set printers to black & white by default. Coordinators, sustainability delegate and work environment group are involved in this work.

Aim 5: Reduce hazardous chemicals and chemical waste generation.

- Action 1: Reduce the purchase of chemicals by sharing: check in KLARA and send a request about sharing, coordinate purchases between groups that share labs and chemical cabinets.
- Action 2: Produce charts of statistics of chemical purchases and phased-out dangerous chemicals for each year and inform the staff.
- Action 3: Phase out hazardous chemicals according to KI plan. Inform on Green Chemistry.
- Action 4: Introduce ACT label in procurement of chemicals to purchase "greener" alternatives ([mygreenlab ACT ecolabel](#)), involve chemical coordinator at KI. Send suggestion to Environmental Council at KI to create guidelines on purchasing more environmentally friendly substitutions.

Status: OnkPat chemical representative, Anna Malmerfelt, helps to check in KLARA for sharing chemicals and coordinating purchase. She has substituted Triton–X100 by Tween20 at Histology Services Core facility. Further substitutions are promoted and statistics are provided. OnkPat procurement officer, Paula Mannström, promotes Green Chemistry in procurements together with KI environmental coordinator Lilia Dianova.

3.2 Information and education

The overall goal is to achieve competence in sustainable development at all levels.

Aim 1: Inform about KI's policy and OnkPat's work in sustainable development and on KI and NKS activities and engage personnel in training the mindset in saving resources and protecting environment.

- Action 1: Inform new employees in their introduction. Post news at the bulletin boards. Send out monthly newsletters. Keep OnkPat’s website on environment and sustainability updated.
- Action 2: Monthly newsletters to everyone at OnkPat with a theme of the month and information on events
- Action 3: Once a year, a speaker on sustainability is invited to Breakfast meeting at the Department. Former speakers: Peter Stenvinkel 2023–10–18, Liselotte Schäfer Elinder 2024–10–13 and Ann-Charlotte Bunge 2025–11–05.

Status: Systematic ongoing work involving sustainability representative, coordinators and OnkPat administration. Monthly newsletter with a theme of the month and information on events is being sent out to the department.

Aim 2: Ensure training, motivate and improve waste sorting.

- Action 1: Inform new employees in their first Introduction.
- Action 2. Inform regularly on sorting mixed paper vs. cardboard, clarify regarding brown paper. Make a poster on “yellow boxes”.
- Action 3: Put up notes on sorting food waste, introduce an easier way to collect.

Status: Systematic ongoing work involving sustainability representative, coordinators and work environment group. A pedal bucket for easier sorting of food waste is placed in BioClinicum’s lunchrooms at floor 5 and 6. This has improved food waste sorting.

3.3 Organization and management

The overall goal is to enable systematic work with environment and sustainability and to reach out to all at OnkPat.

Aim 1: Dedicated person for work with sustainability and planning of activities.

- Action 1: 20% is dedicated to a sustainability delegate who is also a member of the work environment group at the Department.
- Action 2: Formulate and publish the activity plan on the Staff Portal.

Action 3: Prepare for environmental audits conducted at KI every three years.

Status: Systematic work is ongoing. Next environmental audit will take place during autumn 2026. Responsible: Sustainability representative

Aim 2: Monitoring news and Disseminating information.

Action 1: Participate in meetings and conferences, such as KI and NKS Sustainability Day, environmental representatives' meetings, seminars at "MyGreenLab", Stockholm TRIO.

Action 2. Monthly letters to the department from the sustainability delegate to inform on oncoming events.

Action 3. Regularly advertise the news on the boards and screens

Status: Systematic work is ongoing. Responsible: Sustainability representative