



# Dr. Amy Pickering, Roslin Institute

## Reducing Plastic Waste in a Microbiology Laboratory

### Why I became a Sustainability Champion

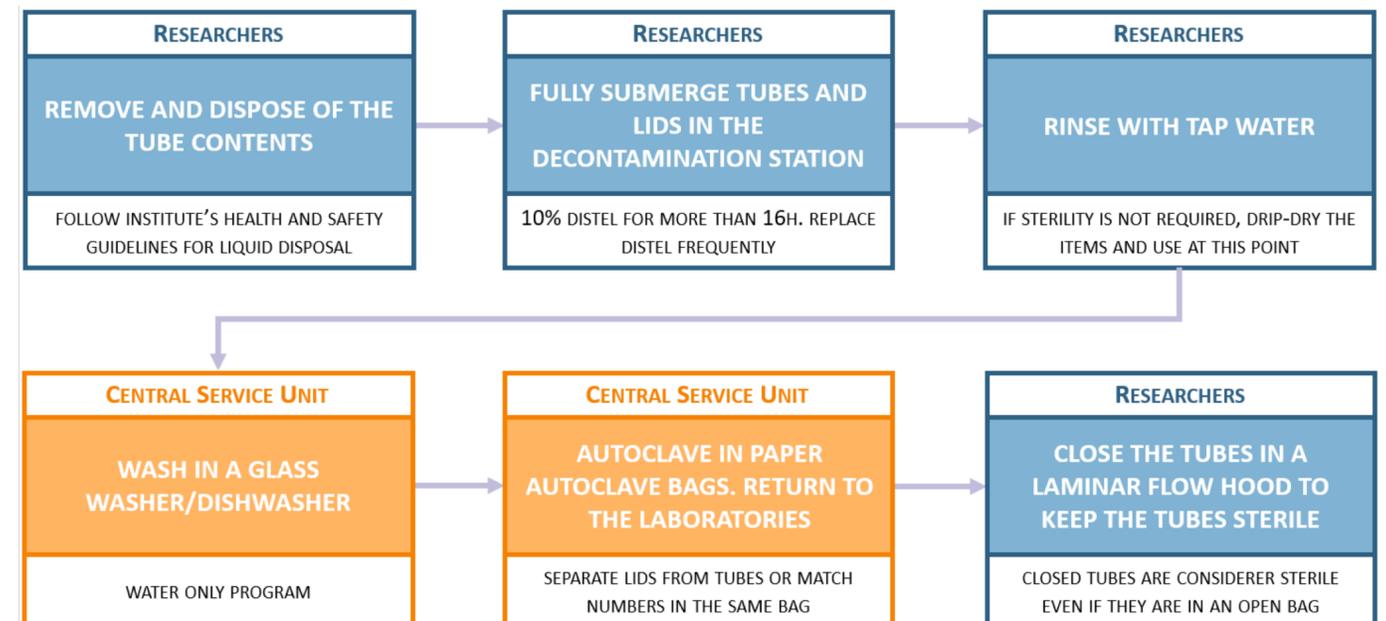
I heard about becoming a Sustainability Champion as an SRS newsletter subscriber. It sounded like a great initiative to encourage both staff and student members to get more actively involved in developing sustainable solutions throughout the University. This encouraged me to take on a lab sustainability project, alongside my colleague Joana Alves, to reduce the amount of single-use plastic we use on a day-to-day basis. It's also been useful to be part of a network of staff members who are interested in sustainability and to learn about what others champions are doing.

### My sustainable project or actions

- Through the implementation of a decontamination station we have been able to save over 1,500 plastic tubes per month leading to a saving of 43 kg of biohazard waste per month
- Over the course of a year this would equate to reducing our laboratory waste by 516 kg and saving 20,000 plastic tubes. This reduction in tubes would save £1,390 annually
- We hope to encourage others to evaluate how they can reduce their laboratory plastic use by publishing our findings. We are waiting to hear if the publication will be accepted in a peer-review journal



Decontamination Station



Workflow for decontaminating plastic items in the lab

