

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY

Recycled **85%** of Used Laboratory Gloves

Diverted **19,680 kg** from Landfill Since 2014



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from landfill since 2014



85% of used laboratory
gloves recycled



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Chemistry



Picture courtesy of the University of
Edinburgh.
www.chem.ed.ac.uk

THE CHALLENGE

The **University of Edinburgh** is one of the most prestigious universities in the world and both the University and the School of Chemistry have very strong academic reputations with outstanding research profiles. The University is also committed to the **Sustainable Development Goals Accord** and the University has highlighted projects and initiatives that directly contribute to each of the goals.

The **School of Chemistry** uses 200,000 pairs of gloves every year for teaching and research, presenting a considerable amount of waste.

THE SOLUTION

“As a School, we are and always will be looking to embrace new methods of working that help to reduce the impact our teaching and research activities have on the environment,” says Tim Calder, Waste Management Officer. “Awareness of the scheme was brought to our attention during dialogue with our distributor partner and it was clear the RightCycle programme would be a great way to tackle a waste stream which, at the time, had no clear and obvious route for recycling/upcycling waste. Given the large quantity of gloves used on a daily basis within the School of Chemistry it was a no brainer to pursue the possibility of introducing the scheme in collaboration with Ansell.”

The **RightCycle Programme** works with research and manufacturing facilities to convert hard-to-recycle products such as used, non-hazardous gloves and protective apparel, into new consumer goods.

RESULTS

Since introducing the RightCycle Programme in late 2014, the School of Chemistry has:

- ✓ **Recycled about 85% of all its used laboratory gloves**
- ✓ **Reached the incredible milestone of having collected 1.5 million pairs of disposable gloves, amounting to 18.5 tons of waste**
- ✓ **Diverted 19,680 kg of PPE from landfill**

By integrating RightCycle into its operations, the University has set a benchmark for academic institutions seeking to reduce their environmental footprint. In September 2025 Ansell presented The University of Edinburgh School of Chemistry with the Greenovation Award. The Greenovation Award celebrates the school’s ongoing commitment to The RightCycle Programme and the university’s role in driving meaningful change.