IRON MOUNTAIN®

SUSTAINABILITY Brief

Advancing Sustainability in Life Sciences

Within the Life Science industry, managing the lifecycle of information is critical to driving true sustainability and positive environmental impacts.

Have You Assessed Your Supply Chain for Sustainability?

Life Sciences companies must manage a supply chain's environmental impact to avoid introducing dangerous, toxic, and illegal substances into products and the environment. These are tracked through the company's information lifecycle, creating a constant chain of data related to risk assessment, suppliers and vendors, and environmental or labor practices for sustainability initiatives.

Start asking the right questions. How is your supply chain performance affecting:

- The regional climate?
- Material production efficiency?
- Natural resource usage?
- People and community?
- Hazardous waste disposal?

The Missing Link Between Life Sciences and Sustainability

With Life Sciences dealing with the unique challenges and innovations of biotechnology, healthcare networking, chemical manufacturing and more, it makes sense that most are heavily invested in sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. Still, toxic biological and chemical substances are used on a daily basis. Clinics and medical device manufacturing plants contend with water and energy consumption costs. Labs and supply chains require safe disposal methods, and drug production facilities often have large carbon footprints. Acknowledging this has driven industry leaders to embrace broad sustainability efforts.

Beyond the direct environmental impact of Life Sciences companies, digital transformation and growth have resulted in an increased consumption of natural resources and new forms of waste. This plays out primarily in how Life Sciences companies handle their records and data, both digital and physical. The lifecycle of information sits at the center of a circular economy, which exists to minimize any negative environmental impacts by enabling the repair, recycling, remanufacturing, or refurbishment of resources for reuse.

A Deeper Look at Digital Transformation's Impact on the Environment

Life Sciences companies rely on the ebb and flow of their data systems, but this still creates invisible waste even on purely digital platforms.

- **Data** demands expand with every email shared, customer profile exchanged, supply chain order updated, and lab result produced. Likewise, data centers - and the consumption of natural resources required to power them - expand as connectivity and network demand rise.
- **Testing and pharmaceutical R&D** results in reams of reporting with the intensive oversight and rigorous regulations such companies adhere to.
- **Biomedical and healthcare tech developers** generate paper and plastic waste as products are engineered and distributed.

Proper management of all this data and related collateral, both physical and digital, can help drastically reduce natural resources consumption and minimize waste.

"SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSES ON MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS."

INVESTOPEDIA

How Can ILM Help Advance Sustainability?

Iron Mountain has zeroed in on several ways in which Life Sciences companies can harness better information lifecycle management to reduce corporate waste and optimize energy usage.

Reduce Consumption of Natural Resources
Significantly reduce paper waste and help save environmental resources with secure, eco-friendly shred and recycling.

Reduce E-Waste
Recycle, repurpose or remarket electronic devices while recycling plastics.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
Reduced CO^2 emissions caused by data center growth by embracing renewable energy sources.

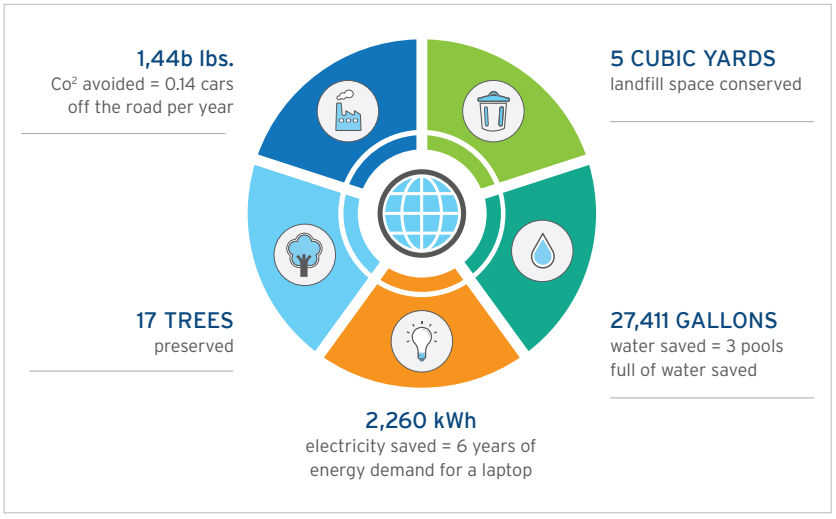
Reduce Consumption of Natural Resources through Eco-Friendly Shredding and Recycling.

It's important to understand the way in which you manage information at the end of its lifecycle can contribute to waste reduction and enable more strategic use of natural resources.

By recycling paper records or remarketing IT devices, organizations extend the life of these materials, thereby saving natural resources used that would have otherwise been needed for paper production or to manufacture these devices anew.

Example

The Iron Mountain Green Report example below illustrates the positive outcomes companies can achieve to reduce waste and preserve natural resources when they use eco-friendly destruction processes to destroy paper records that are no longer needed.



Sample Iron Mountain Green Report for one ton of eco-friendly paper shred and recycled.

"65% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ECONOMIC GROWTH (30%), UP 8% FROM THE YEAR BEFORE."

GALLUP 2019

"NEARLY 50 MILLION TONS OF E-WASTE ARE PRODUCED EACH YEAR. THIS IS EQUIVALENT IN WEIGHT TO 4,500 EIFFEL TOWERS, ENOUGH TO COVER AN AREA THE SIZE OF MANHATTAN. WORD ECONOMIC FORUM."

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Reduce E-Waste Through IT Asset Remarketing

E-waste is quickly becoming the fastest growing municipal waste stream in the country. This can be attributed to everything from shortened medical device refresh cycles to increasingly frequent upgrades of data centers that handle pharmaceutical networks. The resources required to create and manage growing volumes of devices in the Life Sciences sector necessitates seeing and harnessing the connection between IT asset recycling and remarketing and a significant reduction in e-waste and related environmental harm.

Stamp Out Your Carbon Footprint With Renewable Energy Powered Data Centers

With more data and analytics, Life Sciences companies can achieve more biomedical breakthroughs, establish more powerful life system technologies, and expand medical device distribution and support. But there is a cost, as the data centers that make this possible can impose enormous consumption demands. According to the Department of Energy, some of the world's larger data centers "each contain many tens of thousands of IT devices and require more than 100 megawatts (MW) of power capacity—enough to power around 80,000 U.S. households."

To combat this, companies can update or invest in data centers that align with their sustainability goals, such as implementing renewable energy sources. This reduces CO2 emissions and keeps costs down thanks to more stable renewable energy pricing.

The Iron Mountain ILM Difference

At Iron Mountain, the sustainability effort begins with our own company where, over the last year alone, we:

- Recycled **588,846 tons** of paper and cardboard
- Disposed of **9,116 tons** of electronics and backup tapes, **2,239 tons** of X-ray films, and **8,153 tons** of plastic pharmacy bottles
- Reduced the carbon impact for the entire Iron Mountain corporation by **47%**
- Advanced our goal of an internet powered by **100%** renewable energy
- Launched a **Green Power Pass (GPP)** program to inspire and enable more organizations to use renewable energy-powered data centers
- Established our first-ever sterilization wrap recycling program contract with **75%** buyback

The Final Say in ILM Sustainability

Information management – whether paper, data or devices – has a very real, albeit unintended, environmental impact. By taking this into consideration and integrating more sustainable information management processes, materials, technologies and solutions, life sciences organizations can elevate sustainability while also driving **real, measurable business outcomes**.

CLICK HERE

Check out this ebook to learn more about how you can amplify your sustainability initiatives in partnership with Iron Mountain.

Sources

1. "Sustainability & Sustainable Investing," Mitchell Grant, Investopedia, 2020, https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sustainability.asp
2. "Preference for Environment Over Economy Largest Since 2000," Lydia Saad, Gallup, 2019, https://news.gallup.com/poll/248243/preference-environment-economy-largest-2000.aspx
3. "The world's e-waste is a huge problem. It's also a golden opportunity," Guy Ryder and Houlin Zhao Houlin, World Economic Forum, 2019, https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/how-a-circular-approach-can-turn-e-waste-into-a-golden-opportunity/

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