

Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan



2025
2026



Overall Sustainability Strategy



Climate change is a global challenge that requires concerted efforts to counteract it, from worldwide collaborations to actions at country, region, city, institution up to individual level. The scientific consensus is clear: immediate and sustained action is necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Research institutions, while pivotal in advancing knowledge and innovation, can significantly impact the environment through greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, and resource depletion. Recognizing this, IDIBAPS is committed to addressing its environmental footprint and integrating sustainability into its core operations. This is also reflected as a priority in the new IDIBAPS Strategic Plan 2025-2028.

In 2022, IDIBAPS established a dedicated Sustainability Steering Committee to systematically ignite and trigger change, engage the IDIBAPS community, evaluate the effectiveness of implemented measures and collaborate with other institutions. This committee's long-term mission is to foster a sustainable research environment through a comprehensive approach. This includes making evidence-based decisions when purchasing goods and services, reducing energy and water consumption, minimizing waste, and promoting recycling and reuse.

IDIBAPS believes that sustainability is not just a responsibility but an opportunity to lead by example in the research community. By embedding sustainable practices into our research and administrative activities, we aim to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change and inspire others to do the same.



To achieve the sustainability mission, the overall strategy embraces three main goals:

- 1 **Promote good practices:** implement improvements and new measures in the labs and institution with a focus on energy, supplies, waste, water, and mobility. Assess the impact of proposed measures and changes.
 - 2 **Engage and raise awareness:** communicate the urgency and necessity of changing behaviors and practices in research to embed a culture of sustainability.
 - 3 **Network and collaborate:** connect with other institutions nationally and internationally to exchange good practices, learn from each other, and influence relevant stakeholders.
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After the implementation of the first action plan 2022-2024, IDIBAPS is now proposing the next two-year action plan 2025-2026 to sustain previous initiatives and develop new actions for a more environmentally sustainable research institute.



Action Plan 2025 2026.

The new sustainability action plan has been developed collaboratively, with a dedicated brainstorming session held in summer 2024 involving Sustainability Committee members and other IDIBAPS staff to gather new ideas and insights.

First goal.

Promote good practices and new measures in the labs and in the institution towards sustainability, with a focus on energy, supplies, waste, water and mobility. Assess the impact of new proposed measures and changes.



Energy

IDIBAPS energy consumption study

An undergraduate student at the Biomedical Engineering program of the University of Barcelona will conduct a comprehensive study of the energy consumption of all equipment used within IDIBAPS. This study will involve collecting and analyzing data to identify high-energy-consuming devices and potential areas for improvement. Based on the findings, informed recommendations will be developed to optimize energy usage, guiding future decisions on equipment usage, maintenance, and replacement. The implementation of these recommendations will be monitored to ensure ongoing energy efficiency improvements.

Responsibility: Student with the support of a dedicated working group

Assessment indicators: In 2024, IDIBAPS' energy consumption was approximately 5,321,000 kWh.

The study report and a set of recommendations based on the study will aim to further diminish energy consumption.

Timeline: June 2025

Ultra-freezers temperature campaign

We will continue the ongoing campaign to increase the temperature of ultra-freezers from -75°C to -70°C. This adjustment will significantly reduce energy consumption while maintaining the integrity and safety of stored samples. Additionally, the IDIBAPS manual of sustainability good practices will include guidelines on optimal storage temperatures for various types of samples to ensure energy-efficient and safe storage practices.

Responsibility: Lab managers, core facilities and communication department

Assessment indicators: Number of ultra freezers with temperature at -70°C

Timeline: 2025

Lights renewal

An improvement will be implemented in the current laboratory lighting system, involving the replacement of the existing lights with a LED system. This will enhance the lighting quality and improve energy efficiency.

Responsibility: Assets and General Services Office

Assessment indicators: Actions implemented

Timeline: 2025

Installation of solar panels at the CEK

We will upgrade the current installation by adapting and implementing solar panels in collaboration with Energética, a public sector company. This initiative aims to promote sustainable solar energy and minimize energy demand as much as possible.

Responsibility: Assets and General Services Office

Assessment indicators: Produced energy

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Promote the acquisition of energy-efficient products and equipment

Supplier Requirements: In collaboration with the SuRe network, we will request that all suppliers provide detailed energy efficiency characteristics of their products. This will ensure that IDIBAPS can make informed decisions based on the energy performance of the equipment and products being purchased.

Status: SuRe has made a joint request from all the centers that make it up to the CSUC so that it should be visible to users when consulting a product. Waiting for CSUC.

Public Tenders: Include energy efficiency as a mandatory requirement in all public tenders. This will prioritize the procurement of energy-efficient products and equipment, reducing overall energy consumption and promoting sustainable practices within the institution.

Status: Coordinated with contracting department to take it into account and include it when preparing technical specifications for new tenders.

Responsibility: Purchase and public tender departments

Assessment indicators: Yearly monitoring of energy required to produce purchased products and equipment

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Water

Promote responsible use of pure water

We will implement diverse measures to ensure the responsible use of pure water in the lab. This includes correct labelling of pure water taps, providing training for staff on efficient and appropriate use, and including detailed guidelines in the IDIBAPS manual of sustainability good practices, accompanied by short explanatory videos. These steps will help minimize water waste and promote sustainable water management practices within the institution.

Responsibility: Lab managers, Assets and General Services Office, communication department and sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: In 2024, IDIBAPS' water consumption was approximately 5,142,000 liters. Yearly monitoring of water consumption will be conducted to track improvements and ensure the effectiveness of the implemented measures

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Waste

Improve plastic recycling in the labs

We will promote new actions and collaborations to improve plastic recycling efforts within the labs. We will implement clear labeling of recycling bins, provide training and guidelines for staff on proper recycling practices, and explore new products that reduce plastic use. These measures will ensure that plastic waste is correctly sorted, recycled and reutilized, reducing the environmental impact of lab activities.

Responsibility: Lab managers

Assessment indicators: Regular monitoring of recycled and reutilized materials (e.g., tips boxes, porexpan boxes, ice packs, etc.)

Timeline: End 2025



Facilitate product exchange

We will promote the exchange of products among the institute's laboratories to reduce waste by creating a dedicated mailing list, Teams channel, or section on the new intranet. This tool will facilitate the sharing and reuse of surplus lab supplies and equipment, ensuring that resources are utilized efficiently, and waste is minimized.

Responsibility: IT department

Assessment indicators: Tool usage

Timeline: 2026

Suppliers' delivery grouping

We are collaborating with our main suppliers to group deliveries, thereby reducing packaging waste and minimizing the environmental impact of transportation. While a few agreements have already been achieved, efforts will continue to establish similar arrangements with additional suppliers. This initiative aims to streamline supply chain operations and promote sustainable practices.

Status: Once we have managed to coordinate with the suppliers with the highest number of deliveries, work continues to do so with those whose deliveries are not so repetitive but could be grouped.

Responsibility: Purchase department

Assessment indicators: Numbers of reached agreements with our suppliers

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Mobility

Reduce travel and raise awareness

We will raise awareness to reduce travel-related carbon emissions by exploring agreements with travel agencies that prioritize communicating the carbon footprint associated with different travel options. This initiative aims to encourage more sustainable travel choices among staff and researchers, ultimately reducing the environmental impact of institutional travel. We will also explore to develop a specific policy that incentivizes travelling by train.

Responsibility: Purchase department and sustainability committee.

Assessment indicators: In 2024, air travel at IDIBAPS generated approximately 524,020 kg of CO₂, covering a total distance of 4,722,781 km. Monitoring of CO₂ emissions from travel will be conducted, along with the implementation of a new policy to promote more sustainable travel options.

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Second goal.

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Engage, raise awareness and communicate about the urgency and necessity to change behaviors and practices in research.

Designate “eco reps” of each IDIBAPS laboratory

We will appoint Eco Representatives in each lab to promote sustainability initiatives and practices implemented at the institute. They will be responsible for promoting sustainable behaviours, sharing information, and ensuring that their lab adheres to the sustainability guidelines set by IDIBAPS. They will also serve as points of contact for any sustainability-related queries or suggestions within their respective labs.

Responsibility: IDIBAPS direction and sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: Update list of eco reps

Timeline: 2025 first semester

Enhance internal communication on sustainability

We will foster internal communication by including dedicated news on sustainability in the IDIBAPS Friday newsletter and creating specific videos focused on sustainability initiatives and good practices. These communication efforts will keep the IDIBAPS community informed and engaged with ongoing and upcoming sustainability projects, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

Responsibility: Communication department

Assessment indicators: Number of videos and news published

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Raise awareness among PhD students

We will organize targeted sessions for PhD students, including interactive activities such as quizzes, during the PhD Welcome Days. These sessions aim to raise awareness about sustainability issues and encourage new researchers to adopt sustainable practices from the start of their journey at IDIBAPS.

Responsibility: Sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: Number of participants to the event

Timeline: 2025 first semester



Highlighting sustainability in the welcome resources for new staff

We will emphasize the importance of sustainability in the IDIBAPS welcome booklet and any future welcome initiatives. This includes providing new staff and researchers with information on the institution's sustainability goals, practices, and ongoing initiatives from the outset, ensuring that sustainability is integrated into the institute's culture from the very beginning.

Responsibility: Sustainability committee and HR department

Assessment indicators: Welcome resources

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Third goal.

Network with other institutions nationally and internationally to exchange good practice, learn from each other and influence relevant stakeholders.

Active participation in the SuRe Network

IDIBAPS will continue its active participation in the SuRe Catalan network (Sustainable Research in Catalonia) with other research institutions and science parks to exchange good practice, influence relevant stakeholders (e.g. government, lab supply industry, etc.) towards positive changes and organize joint initiatives (e.g., seminars).

Responsibility: Sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: Number of meetings and joint actions

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Environmental sustainability awards of the Campus Clínic

We will plan and organize a contest to recognize and award the best ongoing initiatives and new ideas promoting sustainability at Campus Clínic. The awards ceremony will take place during the event detailed in the following point.

Responsibility: Sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: Number of participating initiatives

Timeline: 2025 - 2026

Joint event on sustainability at the Campus Clínic

We will plan and organize a joint initiative at the Campus Clínic in collaboration with the Hospital Clínic of Barcelona, ISGlobal, and the University of Barcelona, with talks, prize presentations, and roundtable discussions on sustainability topics, all in celebration of International Environment Day (expected date 05.06.2025).

Responsibility: Sustainability committee

Assessment indicators: Numbers of participants

Timeline: 2025 first semester



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