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| **Criteria Theme – Water** | | | | |
| L042 | In laboratories with considerable water use, there is awareness of related cost and environmental issues amongst laboratory users and policies on appropriate practices. | Labs can consume significant amounts of water, and there is potential for wastage through leakage, oversight or choice of equipment. Often savings can be made at very little additional cost. | Evidence of policies and actions, e.g. stickers, training. Interviews with lab user(s). | * ***Training*** * ***Policy*** * ***Notices*** |
| L043 | Water for cooling is recirculated rather than running continuously to waste. | Once-through cooling can consume significant amounts of water. | Visual inspection of relevant equipment such as, condensers, lasers, mass spectrometers. Rotary evaporators are used instead of aspirators Interview with lab user(s). | *The X-ray facility used by all staff has been fitted with a recirculating cooling system – replacing the open water cooled system – with a significant saving in water consumption* |
| L044 | Water-using equipment is ‘rightsized’ for tasks and used with as high loadings as possible. | Water using equipment such as glass washers, sterilisers, autoclaves consume significant amounts of water. It is more efficient to make sure that the equipment is full when operated. | Visual inspection of relevant equipment. Interview with lab user(s). NB In some cases this will be achieved through central provision of equipment. | * ***QUB Policy on Green procurement in GI folders*** |
| L045 | Purified water is used only when appropriate, and produced by reverse osmosis (RO) wherever possible. | Water purification is energy intensive, especially when it is done by distillation. | No water stills in use. Interviews with lab user(s). | *Estates water produced by RO – confirmation emailed from estates as evidence* |