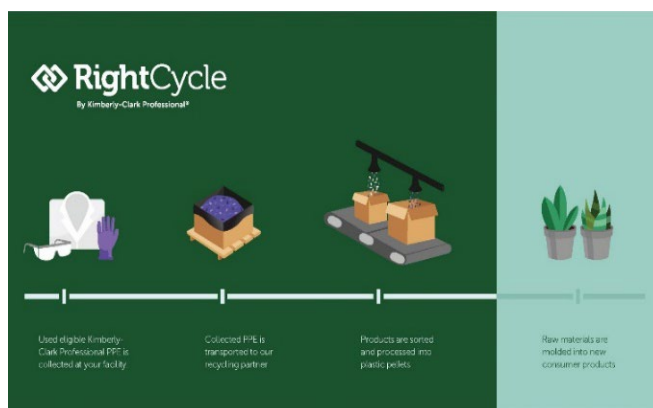


The Davidson School of Chemical Engineering is taking giant leaps towards enhancing its commitment to sustainability with the introduction of the RightCycle Program. Facilitated by Kimberly-Clark Professional and Dr. Gabriela Nagy as Purdue's Chemical Engineering administrator, this initiative allows researchers to actively participate in reclaiming previously difficult to recycle items, such as nitrile gloves, safety eyewear, and single-use apparel items. Participants of this program not only contribute to the reduction of landfill waste, but also play a crucial role in the creation of new consumer goods.

*"It was brought to my attention that Kimberly-Clark Professional had a glove recycling program, and we decided to give it a try." said Dr. Gabriela Nagy, Purdue's Chemical Engineering Safety Committee Chair. "There are limited opportunities to introduce sustainability in research labs operations, and by making small changes in how our researchers dispose of their non-hazardous nitrile gloves, we can have a huge impact on reducing the amount of waste that reaches landfills."*



The RightCycle Program perfectly aligns with Purdue's long-standing dedication to sustainability, with various departments on campus participating, including the Purdue University Department of Chemistry and Lilly Hall of Life Sciences. The program's collaborative effort across departments actively contributes to Purdue's goal of having an annual campus waste recycling rate of 50% by FY2025.

One key aspect of the RightCycle Program is its unique approach to recycling personal protective equipment products. Used items such as nitrile gloves are collected in designated RightCycle boxes, shipped to an off-site facility where they are processed into plastic pellets used for creating new consumer products such as flowerpots, patio furniture, and playground equipment.

It's important to note that currently, different PPE streams cannot be mixed during collection (e.g., gloves and safety glasses). However, when it comes to PPE of the same type and brand, mixing is permissible, allowing for convenience and flexibility. The focus on Kimberly-Clark brand PPE is not only for quality control but also ensures that the program remains free of charge for participants, fostering wider engagement in sustainable practices.

The official launch event for the RightCycle Program took place on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, garnering support from Purdue Chemical Engineering staff, students, and various key stakeholders. Representatives from Purdue Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), the Sustainability Department, and Fisher Scientific attended, demonstrating the university's commitment to the success of the initiative.

Having RightCycle at Purdue University exemplifies the collective Boilermaker commitment to environmental stewardship, paving the way for a more circular economy and sustainable future!