



CASE STUDY

Central Government

The National Institute for Biological Standards and Control is continually looking for ways to become sustainable and reduce their environmental impact.

Overview

- Central government organisation
- Research intensive
- 300 staff
- Saved £25k in 6 months
- Avoided 14 tonnes of supply chain carbon emissions



Central Government Facility

The Premises at The National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC)

The challenge

Jude Hughes is the Environment and Energy Manager at The National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), and is embedding sustainability into the Institute. Jude is committed to continually improving systems and site processes to be being more “green” and reducing the organisations impact on the environment.

Talking to Jude it is obvious to see she is passionate about waste. “Someone has to be!” she says. “A culture of ‘Ask Jude’ has developed and staff know where to go to seek advice when they have items to dispose of, and we certainly come across some unusual things!”

Warp It is an easy-to-use online portal which provides a platform for organisations to redistribute (give, loan) resources legally and conveniently within an organisation, but also beyond - within other organisations. The platform

- Makes it easy for staf within an organisation to find colleagues with items to spare inside the same organisation or beyond - reducing procurement spend

- Makes it easy for individuals within an organisation, who wish to part with items, to find new owners - saving on waste disposal

Warp It: Benefits to the organisation

- Reduction of unnecessary procurement
- Reduction of waste
- Savings of staff purchasing time
- Better use of space
- Better internal collaboration
- Support local organisations
- Recording and tracking of assets across the organisation
- Convenient marketplace for staff
- Storage stock flow facility
- Loans of underused resources with idling capacity
- Opening-up of internal network to partners prioritising internal staff
- Downloadable management reports for procurement and environmental savings
- System management for whole building clearances
- Deals with waste legislation and liability
- Access control for staff
- Integration with existing portering or task management software



NIBSC has a Very Small Storage Area for Surplus Items

NIBSC is the global leader in the field of biological standardisation and control, responsible for the development and production of over 90% of the International Standards in use around the world to assure the quality of biological medicines.

Collaboration

Referring to the collaborative nature at the Institute Jude said “It is important to us to embed sustainability into our organisation. Our site has a community feel and we wanted to develop this aspect by creating an atmosphere for sharing resources to help save purchasing costs and unnecessary waste in the Institute.”



The Staff allotment demonstrates the community and sustainability ethos.

Jude said, “We launched Warp It in October 2013 and the first stage really centred on getting staff thinking about items they no longer need or haven’t used. Like most government organisations, we have to be careful with budgets, and this represented a way to reuse items and reduce purchasing costs.”

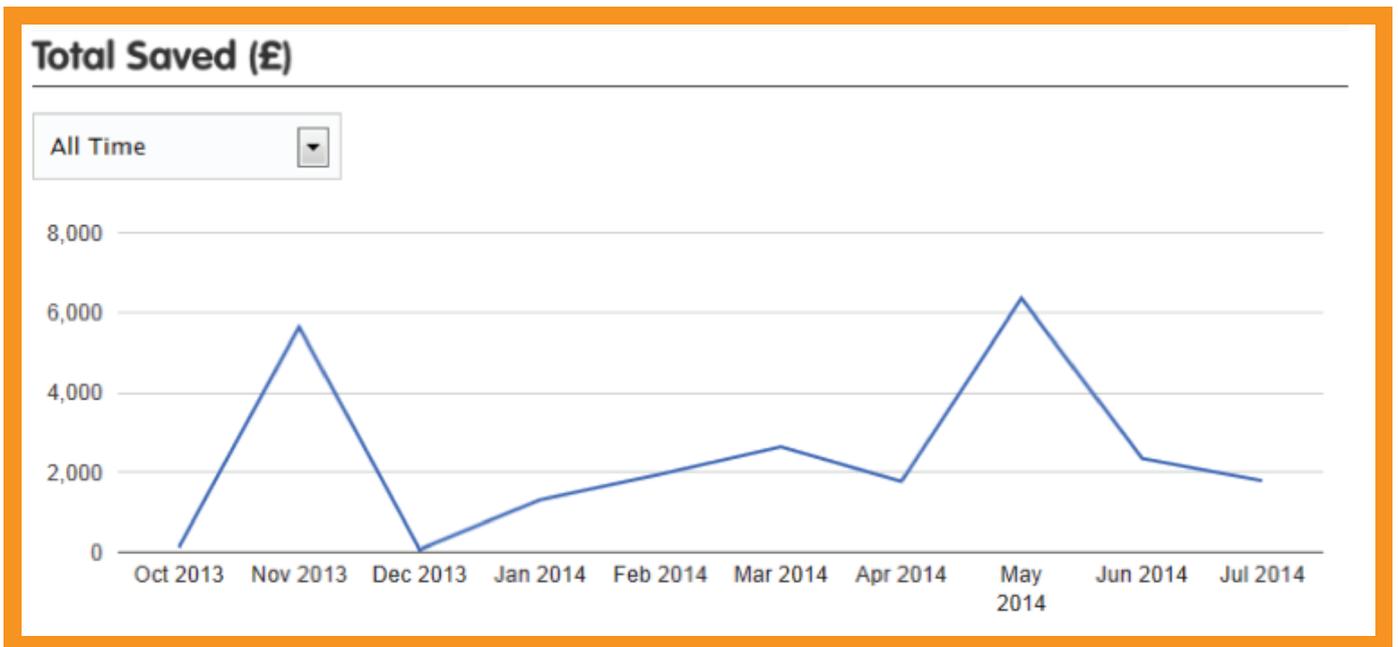
Easy to upload items

When asked about what has worked well within the organisation Jude replied, “We invited key staff to come along to training sessions. Staff were asked to bring details of an item they could put onto Warp It. They got to see how easy it was to upload items, as well as having help on hand, but also this was a great way to help get the site populated.”

Asked about the challenges that have been faced Jude replied, “The process has gone smoothly, but really just getting staff to start using the system and encouraging people to upload items for the first time.”

Reuse to reduce costs

When asked about benefits, Jude said “I had wanted to encourage more reuse across the Institute for quite some time as this is such a great way to help reduce costs and waste. This system seemed to fit particularly well as it was so straightforward to use. A lot of staff are used to using similar systems outside work e.g., freecycle, eBay and Gum Tree, so would be familiar with the approach, though it’s even easier as there are no costs involved.”



NIBSC Savings from avoided procurement and waste minimisation

Photo library

“The ability to upload photos is invaluable and the photo library makes it easy for staff who don’t want to upload photos. There is a count feature so you can see exactly how much savings have been made each time you visit the site. You can also brand the website and add your own company logos and colour scheme,” said Jude describing the features on the site which have particular appeal.

Talking about the future, Jude said, “I hope to see it as a mandatory requirement for all staff to examine the reuse option first before beginning the purchasing route, as well as justifying buying new.”