Best Practices for Greening Your Lab

Quentin Gilly
FAS Green Program Senior Coordinator, Harvard Office for Sustainability
green.harvard.edu | @greenharvard
Best Practices for Labs

#1 Energy

LABS ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY 50% OF THE ENERGY USE AT HARVARD, BUT TAKE UP ONLY 23% OF THE SPACE.

- Fume hoods
- Freezers
- Lab equipment
Fume Hoods

• **Shut the Sash!** An open fume hood consumes the same electricity as 3.5 U.S. homes annually.
• Closing the sash is safer for the lab.
• Look for the indicator to read “FLO”.

$240,000 saved through the Shut the Sash competition in the Chemistry Department alone.
Shut the Sash Competition

- 19 labs currently participate, most in CCB, and one lab at SEAS.
- Each lab has custom goals that are updated annually.
- Monthly pizza parties, semi-annual wine and cheese parties.
- Would you like your lab to be part of the competition?
ULT (-80) Freezers

- ULT (-80) Freezers use the same energy as an average US home.
- Setting to -70 saves 25-33% energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions. Safe for most samples.
- Good organization and filter cleanings improve efficiency.
- Get a $688 rebate for purchase of a Stirling freezer.
Freezer De-icing kits

- Keep your freezer running in top condition!
- 80 kits are free.
- 20 kits can be reserved and delivered to your lab.
Lab Equipment

• Cut the energy use of your bench in half by mindful use of lab equipment.
• Turn off refrigerated centrifuges and put the buckets in the 4-degree.
• If you run a thermal cycler before leaving, ask someone who is staying late to take out your samples.
Best Practices for Labs

#2 Waste

LABS ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF WASTE PRODUCED AT HARVARD.

• Purchasing
• Recycling
• Reuse
This Lab participates in a special laboratory recycling program and is certified through the Green Labs Program.

CLEANED & UNCAPPED MEDIA BOTTLES  
PIPETTE TIP BOXES  
CARDBOARD  
FOIL

Also check out our “Top 10 Purchasing Tips for Labs” green.harvard.edu/labs
Green Teams

• New Green Team Charter coming soon
• Green Team “Sectors”
• Representative from each department
Sign up to receive monthly tips, news, and events.

green.harvard.edu/labs
Questions? energy@fas.harvard.edu

@GreenHarvard

LEARN IT. LIVE IT.

FAS GREEN PROGRAM

GREEN.HARVARD.EDU
@greenharvard
#greenharvard

HARVARD UNIVERSITY | Sustainability