

## NIH 2019 Green Labs Program

The NIH Green Labs Program is an initiative of the Sustainability Management Team to recognize laboratories who choose to reduce their environmental footprint by participating in NIH environmental initiatives. The purpose of the program is to recognize laboratories for their achievements; to encourage greater participation in NIH environmental initiatives; and to make it easier for the researchers to learn about environmental stewardship by providing one source of information about relevant programs, policies, regulations, and mandates.

The Green Labs program is a self-assessment tool. Laboratory personnel can apply to the program by filling out one form, which has 25 statements.

### The topics covered in the NIH Green Labs Assessment tool include:

- Energy Conservation
- Freezer Management
- Water Conservation
- Chemical Waste
- Medical Pathological Waste
- Radioactive Waste
- Waste reduction
- Recycling
- Green Chemistry
- Inventory Management
- Communication and Outreach

**Who can apply?** All laboratories are eligible to apply. Any person representing the lab can apply to the program by filling out the Green Lab Assessment.

**What is the application process?** First, please take a few minutes to read the Green Lab Self-Assessment statements [here](#). It may take a little bit of time to collect enough information to reply to these 25 statements. Once you have all of the information, please scroll down the link to fill out the Green Lab Self-Assessment form. Please select the best choice among the options: “True: We do this,” “False: We do not do this,” or “NA: Not Applicable” to reflect the current practices in your lab. In addition, you will be requested to comment and share best practices in your labs within the blanks provided.

After reading the Green Lab Self-Assessment statements, if you become aware and recognize that you are willing to participate in an environmental initiative, please respond “True,” as your commitment in doing this moving forward. For instance, if you have not subscribed to the NIH Green Zone Newsletter, you can sign up and then respond “True,” before filling the Green Lab Assessment.

Please note that the application **MUST** be completed all at one time. It is not possible to complete part of the application, and come back to finish it later. The anticipated time to complete the application is about 10 minutes. Once all of the responses to the statements are provided, please click "Finish" to submit the application.

**What is the Timeframe?** Applications for the 2019 Green Labs Program can be submitted until Dec 31, 2019. Once the application is submitted, it is locked for review. The Green Labs Program Manager will review the application and send a reply within 2 weeks.

**What is the Criteria to achieve a Green Lab Certification?** There are three levels of Green Lab Certification: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

**Bronze Level:** Labs that reply “True” or “NA” to statements 1 – 7 will receive the Bronze Level Green Lab certificate. Statements 1 – 7 reflect the federal, state, and local regulations, including HHS and NIH policies.

**Silver Level:** Labs must also reply “True” or “NA” to statements 8 – 22 to receive the Silver Level Green Lab certificate. Statements 8 – 22 reflect the Best Management Practices for greening labs.

**Gold Level:** Labs must also reply “True” to statements 23 – 25 to receive the Gold Level Green Lab Certificate. Statements 23 – 25 demonstrate a commitment to the Green Lab philosophy through participation and collaboration in greening initiatives at NIH.

**How will labs be recognized for achieving the Green Lab?** The NIH Sustainability Management Team (SMT) will award Green Lab Certificates to each lab that applies to the program and meets the criteria. The SMT will also share the results with the NIH Office of Intramural Research and the IC Scientific Directors.

For additional information, please contact the [Green Labs Program Manager](#).