

2019 NIH Green Lab Self-Assessment Tool

The 2019 NIH Green Lab Assessment Tool is comprised of 25 statements. For each statement, please select the best choice among the options: “True: We do this” or “False: We do not do this” or “NA: Not Applicable” to reflect the current practices in your lab.

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.

| Environmental Management Programs | |
|--|---|
| 1. | We ensure that all waste and pollutants are managed in accordance with the NIH Policy Manual – 3032 Environmental Management and Waste Minimization . |
| 2. | We follow procedures to dispose of waste (including chemical, multihazardous, radioactive, medical pathological, and general solid) as stated in the NIH Waste Disposal Guide . |
| 3. | We follow the requirements for the procurement, use, and disposal of mercury and mercury-containing products as stated in the NIH Policy Manual – 3033 Procurement, Use, and Disposal of Mercury and its compounds . |
| 4. | We comply with Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements for managing, disposing of, and diverting non-hazardous solid waste and hazardous waste per the Executive Order 13834 . Please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7990 for more information. |
| 5. | We follow the requirements for management of Ultra-Low Temperature freezers as stated in the NIH Policy Manual Chapter 26101-16 . For more information, please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7775. |
| 6. | We purchase Energy Star appliances and instrumentation per the Federal Acquisition Regulations . |
| 7. | We ensure compliance with NIH policy regarding wastewater discharges from wet lab photoprocessing units (dark rooms). Please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7775 for information. |
| Best Management Practices | |
| 8. | We acquire containers to collect and dispose of batteries , mercury containing products, chemical waste, and empty chemical bottles from NIH Chemical Waste Services . |
| 9. | We recycle pipette tip racks, toner and ink cartridges, and Styrofoam (Thermo Fisher Scientific coolers only). Please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7990 for information. |
| 10. | We use the NIH Free Stuff Program and the Lab Manager’s listserv to donate usable items, including chemicals, computers, laboratory equipment, etc. |
| 11. | We review the inventory list of unused laboratory chemicals, which are available at no cost from the Surplus Chemical Redistribution Program. This list is circulated regularly by the Lab Manager’s and Greenserv listserves. |
| 12. | We participate in the NIH Solvent Recovery Program to have used chemical solvents (ethanol, formalin, acetone, xylene, Propar, Histo-Clear, and Histo-Solv) purified for our re-use. |
| 13. | We consider less toxic and nontoxic alternatives, before purchasing chemicals and solvents used in our laboratories. as stated in the Toxic Chemical Reduction Initiative (TCRI) document. For more information, |

2019 NIH Green Lab Self-Assessment Tool

| | |
|-----|--|
| | please see EPA safer choice , GSA Green procurement , USDA bio-preferred product , and Green Seal products. |
| 14. | We recycle soft plastics (e.g., grocery bags, Ziploc bags, air shipping pillows, bubble wrap). Please call the ORF DEP's contractor, Ecology Services, Inc. at (301) 402-6349 for pickup, or deliver to the Bldg 10 Supply Store. |
| 15. | We participate in the annual NIH Freezer Challenge . For more information, please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7775. |
| 16. | We enter data about our freezer failures in the NIH freezer failure tracking database . For more information, please contact the ORF Division of Environmental Protection at (301) 496-7775. |
| 17. | We participate in the Intramural Research Program's Collaborative Research Exchange (CREx) to utilize core facilities and shared resources. |
| 18. | We encourage our laboratory vendors to research and obtain My Green Lab's ACT label for laboratory products. Please contact My Green Lab for more information. |
| 19. | We incorporate the 12 Design Principles of Green Chemistry when planning experiments. |
| 20. | We have adopted the best management practices in our labs to conserve energy. We do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the fume hood after use. • Turn off equipment, incubators, ovens when not in use. • Post signs and reminders to turn off lights when not in use. • Specify other examples: |
| 21. | We conserve water in the labs by doing the following, please specify: |
| 22. | We do not purchase excess chemicals in our lab in a manner that leads to wasteful disposal. |
| | Communication and Outreach |
| 23. | We participate and collaborate with NIH Sustainable Laboratory Practices Working Group on greening initiatives at the NIH. |
| 24. | We have motivated an NIH colleague from another lab to join the NIH 2019 Green Labs Program. |
| 25. | We subscribe to the NIH Green Zone Newsletter to be informed about the NIH environmental programs. |

Thank you for participating in the NIH Green Labs Program. If you need assistance, please email the NIH Green Labs Program Manager, Bani Bhattacharya, bani.bhattacharya@nih.gov