

NIH Green Team Accomplishments

The IC Green Teams play a major role in achieving sustainability at NIH. These teams often plan and conduct their own events to facilitate green practices within their respective IC. In addition, the IC Green Teams play a crucial role with Earth Day by volunteering for various roles and hosting their own exhibits. To highlight the IC Green Teams commitment to the environment, we have listed a few of their accomplishments from 2017!



The Net-Zero Energy warehouse on the RTP campus.

NIEHS – Paul Johnson and Bill Steinmetz lead the NIEHS Green Team, located at the Research Triangle Park campus in North Carolina. A major accomplishment for the NIEHS team was opening the first net-zero energy building for NIH (located on the RTP campus). This building produces energy with solar panels to offset any energy expenditures, meaning it consumes a net-zero amount of energy! A few more accomplishments

include testing the NIH Drain Disposal Authorization form, holding outreach activities for Earth Day and America Recycles Day, and receiving two Green Champion Awards.

ORS/ORF – The ORF and ORS Green Teams have recently joined efforts to create a single ORF/ORS Green Team whose goal is to promote sustainability on the NIH Bethesda campus. The first initiative the team is taking on will be a campaign to spread awareness about proper recycling in the campus cafeterias. The team found that there is confusion around the correct use of the recycling containers, which results in contamination of the recycled items. Currently, the team is preparing tabling sessions, posters and recycling cards to spread awareness on recycling and the proper recycling procedure. If you work within ORF or ORS and would like to help support the Green Team, please contact [Jaroslav Sebek](#).

NHGRI – Yasmeen Beckett, a co-lead of the NHGRI Green Team on the Bethesda campus, held the “Go Green, Go Vegan” event during lunch time. This event provided an opportunity for the NHGRI staff to enjoy four types of free vegan chili while discussing a few greening practices to be implemented within NHGRI. The main focus of these green practices was reducing and/or ending plastic pollution. Ms. Beckett encouraged the participants to bring their own non-disposable utensil, to accompany the free mug provided to enjoy the food. These supplies can be kept in your office afterwards to limit the use of plastic items. Several vegan diet plans were also shared with the participants.



NIA, NIDA and NHGRI (Bayview) – James Pitt leads the Green Teams located at the Bayview campus in Baltimore, MD. A few of the accomplishments of the Bayview campus include recycling over 72 tons of waste, creating a more effective disposal method for lab trash and recycling over 1000 articles of Styrofoam. Additionally, the Bayview campus hosted a pair of collection events that combined to gather nearly 3,000 pounds of recyclables!

NIGMS – Julie Chang and Angela Urdaneta co-lead the NIGMS Green Team on the Bethesda campus. A few of their accomplishments include revamping the NIGMS Green Team website, creating a NIGMS Green Team SharePoint website and organizing the NIGMS Fall Clean-Up Week. The NIGMS Fall Clean-Up Week included an office supply swap, collections for various items (eyeglasses, cell phones, electronics, etc.) and confidential paper shredding. The final tally revealed that 1,300 pounds of material was collected from only two floors of their building!



The NIGMS Fall Clean-Up Collection from the 2nd floor.

Thank you to all of the NIH IC Green Teams for your hard work!