

Join the NIH Sustainability Community!

Do you have ideas for making the NIH more environmentally-friendly? Would you like to participate in or organize activities to help the NIH achieve its sustainability goals? If so, then consider joining your [NIH IC Green Team](#) and representing your IC in the Green Team Leads Council (GTLC) and/or Sustainable Laboratory Practices Working Group (SLPWG).

Within the NIH, each IC has its own Green Team to champion its efforts towards improving sustainability and protecting the environment. The Green Teams consist almost entirely of IC staff members that volunteer their time for this cause. Two meeting series, the GTLC and the SLPWG, provide a forum for NIH staff to gather and discuss NIH environmental initiatives, with the GTLC focusing on administrative topics and the SLPWG focusing on laboratory topics. These meetings allow IC Green Team representatives to:

- Learn about the current and upcoming environmental programs and initiatives at the NIH
- Collaborate to create new solutions to address environmental issues
- Share and promote their IC Green Team's efforts in environmental stewardship.

These sustainability groups have been established within the NIH for more than a decade and they are always seeking new, dedicated members! New faces and fresh energy have helped the IC Green Teams and the GTLC and SLPWG stay active within the NIH community throughout the years!

Here's a few examples of recent greening activities at the NIH:

Green Team activities:

- IC Green Teams have a strong presence at Earth Day celebrations, either by hosting an activity or organizing an entire event at their own campus! Read about their success in our [Earth Day Recap article](#) from our June 2019 issue.
- The IC Green Teams hold collection events, such as the [NIGMS Soft Plastic Collection](#) held in early May of this year.
- Some of the Green Teams create fun activities to help spread green practices throughout their IC, like the [NHGRI Chili Cook-off](#).



Laboratory activities:

- IC laboratory staff collaborate to create events, like the [NIH Green Labs Fair](#) and the [Green Labs Program](#).
- Individual members of the labs have volunteered to create and expand initiatives, like the [Styrofoam Take-Back Program](#) in Building 50 on the Bethesda campus and the year-round collection bins for cell phones, batteries and eyeglasses at 6710B Rockledge Drive.



If you would like to join your peers in protecting the environment at the NIH, then please consider joining your IC Green Team and the GTLC and SLPWG meetings. Please contact [Ms. Bani Bhattacharya](#), the NEMS Program Manager, to learn how to join your Green Team or to receive an invite to our next meeting.