

## **Certify Your Lab with the 2019 Green Labs Program!**

In 2018, the NIH started the Green Labs Program to recognize the sustainability efforts of NIH labs and to promote green practices throughout all aspects of NIH laboratory operations. This is achieved by certifying labs that pass the designated threshold in a self-assessment form. The collection of information housed in the self-assessment form also serves as a great how-to guide for labs looking to start or improve green practices. The first year of the program certified 46 labs under the direction of 17 Principal Investigators (PIs) from 9 ICs. In addition to providing certification, the Green Labs Program also provided travel awards to a few interested Green Lab awardees to attend the 2019 International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I<sup>2</sup>SL) Conference. We're happy to announce submissions are now open for the 2019 version of the Green Labs Program! You can complete the self-assessment form for your lab(s) using the link below:

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE 2019 GREEN LABS PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT](#)

The 2019 Green Labs Program follows a format similar to the previous year, but with a few significant changes. The most substantial change is the addition of certification levels. The Bronze level represents the minimum requirements for being certified as a green lab, while the Silver and Gold levels signify progressively higher sustainability achievements. To achieve the Bronze level, labs must follow the regulations mandated by law and HHS or NIH policy, such as properly disposing of waste and purchasing Energy Star equipment. To achieve the Silver level, labs must adopt best management practices for sustainability, like recycling soft plastics, using less-toxic chemical alternatives, and many more. To achieve the Gold level, labs must actively participate in environmental initiatives, such as through the Sustainable Laboratory Practices Working Group and [subscribing to this newsletter](#)! In addition to implementing certification levels, the topics covered by the self-assessment have been expanded. The Green Labs Program now covers an even more comprehensive list of lab green practices.

We hope each of our readers will take a few minutes to complete the self-assessment form for the 2019 Green Labs Program (using the link above). Many labs have been performing the actions necessary to be certified for years and now it's time to receive your recognition! Please contact [Ms. Bani Bhattacharya](#) with any questions about the Green Labs Program.