

The 2020 Green Labs Program

The Green Labs Program is entering its third year on the NIH Bethesda campus! The 2020 program is set to build off the success of the previous two years and continue the fine-tuning process of becoming an all-encompassing green lab tool. As before, the Green Labs Program will be completed by filling out a self-assessment form for your lab. Based on your answers to this assessment, your lab may be awarded a certification as a “Green Lab.” There are three tiers for the certification, ranking from Gold (as the hardest to achieve) down to Silver and then Bronze (as the easiest to achieve). There is also an honorable mention category, should your lab not qualify for the Bronze level certification. In addition to providing a certification, the Green Labs Program seeks to be a central repository of information on all topics related to green labs.

One difference from previous renditions of the Green Labs Program is that the self-assessment statements will be grouped together into a multiple answer format. Please keep in mind while responding to these statements that you can select as many answers as are applicable. Further, these statements are grouped into categories that are each weighted towards the final assessment score. Each of these adjustments make it easier for our staff to complete the self-assessment, while giving us more flexibility in determining the certification tiers. We’re hoping this is a win for both sides!

The 2020 Green Labs Program will launch later this year. Full information will be available on the [NEMS website](#) at that time. Additionally, the program will be announced through various communication outlets, such as the [Lab Managers Listserv \(LOCL-L\)](#) and the [Greenserve Listserv](#). Please make sure you are subscribed to one of these groups if you would like to receive a notification when the program goes live!

The participation in the Green Labs Program increased from 18 labs in 2018 to 30 labs in 2019. We are hoping to keep that trend going in 2020, but we need your help to get there! Once available, please share the 2020 Green Labs Program with anyone that may be interested; you can even get a point towards your lab’s score for doing so! Feel free to share the Green Labs Program with staff from other campuses as well. Although some statements are specific to the Bethesda campus, many of the overlying principles are true for all campuses. We look forward to recognizing all of the great work being done at the NIH to create and maintain green labs!

