

OCTOBER 2022

Revitalizing the NCI Green Team at Frederick

The NCI Green Team at Frederick was recently revitalized after being dormant for about 5 years. This was accomplished through the hard work of Paul Marshall, Kylee Stenersen and others from NCI. The ICO Green Teams are voluntary groups that carry out sustainability initiatives for their institutes. The Green Teams are also vital for identifying environmental issues and challenges within their ICO and relaying that information to the Division of Environmental Protection and NIH leadership. A strong framework of Green Teams will greatly assist the NIH in meeting its environmental goals and becoming more sustainable.

This section of the NCI Green Team is located in Frederick, Maryland within Fort Detrick, a United States Army Futures Command installation. As one of their first projects since the revitalization, the NCI Green Team held a "Paint the Drain" contest for World Water Day. Submissions competed to raise awareness of water conservation, with the winner's artwork painted on a storm drain inside Ft. Detrick. The winner for this contest was 6-year-old Vihaan Patel, whose artwork is shown to the right above a picture of the painted storm drain.

Another NCI Green Team initiative was tree plantings for Arbor Day. The Fort Detrick campus consists of 90% impervious surfaces, which increases stormwater runoff and erosion. Tree canopies intercept rainfall, which slows rainfall rates and helps to reduce stormwater runoff. The NCI Green Team have planted five trees so far this year and they are planning another planting for the fall of 2022. Once mature, these trees will help offset the stormwater runoff caused by the large amounts of impervious surface.

The NCI Green Team has held a pair of meetings thus far during the revitalization effort, with around 15 people attending both meetings. The group is working on creating committees to tackle specific interests, such as building birdhouses for native bird species. Other future initiatives include a focus on developing the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for NCI Frederick, increasing ICO green purchasing and encouraging participation in the NIH Freezer Challenge. An internal EV survey with over 450 responses indicated a desire for EV chargers on-site. The energy needs and number of chargers have been estimated based on the survey response data, so the Green Team will now look into installation locations and costs.

All NCI staff from the Frederick campus are welcome to join the Green Team! If you would like to join the group or sit in on a meeting, please contact [Kylee Stenersen](#).



SPOTLIGHT



Get Involved with the NIH Green Teams!

Would you like to volunteer for environmental initiatives? Would you like to improve the sustainability of your ICO? Do you have ideas for helping the NIH protect the environment? Then you should join the NIH Green Teams!

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