

## **Get Involved with the NIH Green Teams!**

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

The Green Teams are a vital part of the environmental protection efforts of the NIH. Each of these Green Teams represent an ICO and are composed of volunteers from within that ICO. The Teams meet periodically to discuss environmental initiatives of interest to the group that can benefit the ICO and the NIH. A few examples of Green Team initiatives from the past few years include a recycling drive for office materials, a Paint the Drain stormwater awareness contest, a sustainable eating week, a Recycle Right campaign and planned group trips to acquire surplus items. The NIH Green Teams are also crucial for providing information on environmental challenges and potential initiatives from an ICO level to NIH leadership and the Division of Environmental Protection. The Green Teams have been well-recognized for their environmental efforts through OD Honor Awards, HHS Green Champion Awards, International Institute for Sustainable Lab (I2SL) Awards and more!

Many ICOs already feature active and thriving Green Teams that can be joined right away! Other ICOs may offer the ability to start from scratch and revitalize the Green Team like the NCI Frederick Green Team in this issue's Featured Article slot. Your work with your ICO Green Team can fit your environmental interests, whether that means starting a new initiative or joining an established program! If you are looking for information on your ICO Green Team, a good place to start is the [Green Teams page](#) on the NEMS website. You could also attend the bi-monthly Green Team Leads Council Meeting to learn about the current Green Team initiatives. Please [send an email to the Green NIH account](#) if you are interested in this meeting series, which next meets on October 19, 2022 from 1:00-2:30pm.

Become a steward of the environment at the NIH and join your ICO Green Team!