

NIH SURPLUS CHEMICAL REDISTRIBUTION PROGRAM The NIH Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) implemented the innovative Recycling and Toxic Chemical Reduction Initiative Programs at the Bethesda main campus as part of its Environmental Policy and Sustainability Goals. These programs have provided significant savings to the NIH (over 2.2 million) as well as hazardous waste minimization. These programs received the ***OD Honor Award in December 2013 and the HHS Green Champion Award in 2014*** for successful implementation. The efficient chemical reagent recycling and redistribution Program implemented in April 2013 at the NIH Hazardous Waste Facility (B26T – Recovery Lab) incorporated the NIH Free Stuff program for posting and sharing of unused chemicals collected as waste. This innovative and sustainable program incorporated 4000 research laboratories that generate large quantities of chemical waste that are collected and subsequently disposal by the NIH Chemical Waste Services (CWS) contractor. The waste that is collected for disposal includes discarded unused chemicals, referred to as surplus chemicals. The chemicals are sorted and placed into a surplus chemical repository for redistribution online and then become available to intramural researchers. All the collected sealed or unopened and unexpired chemicals are surplus items from NIH labs that are:

- Moving with limited storage space
- Laboratory Closure and
- Discontinued research, protocol or processes that no longer needed

In the past DEP had little success implementing the sharing of unused chemicals during lab moves within institutes and/or buildings. The design of the NIH Free Stuff website by NIAID, now run and managed by NCI has solved this issue and provided DEP with stewardship and the control of redistributing discarded unused, unexpired and unopen chemicals. This is facilitated by maintaining an online inventory of surplus usable chemicals that are stored at the Hazardous Waste Facility. The program is a FREE service on a first come, first serve basis offered to all NIH intramural researchers through DEP's CWS Program. The program is being expanded to include NIH leased facilities throughout Maryland and had been in existence at the NCI Frederick facility since 2004.

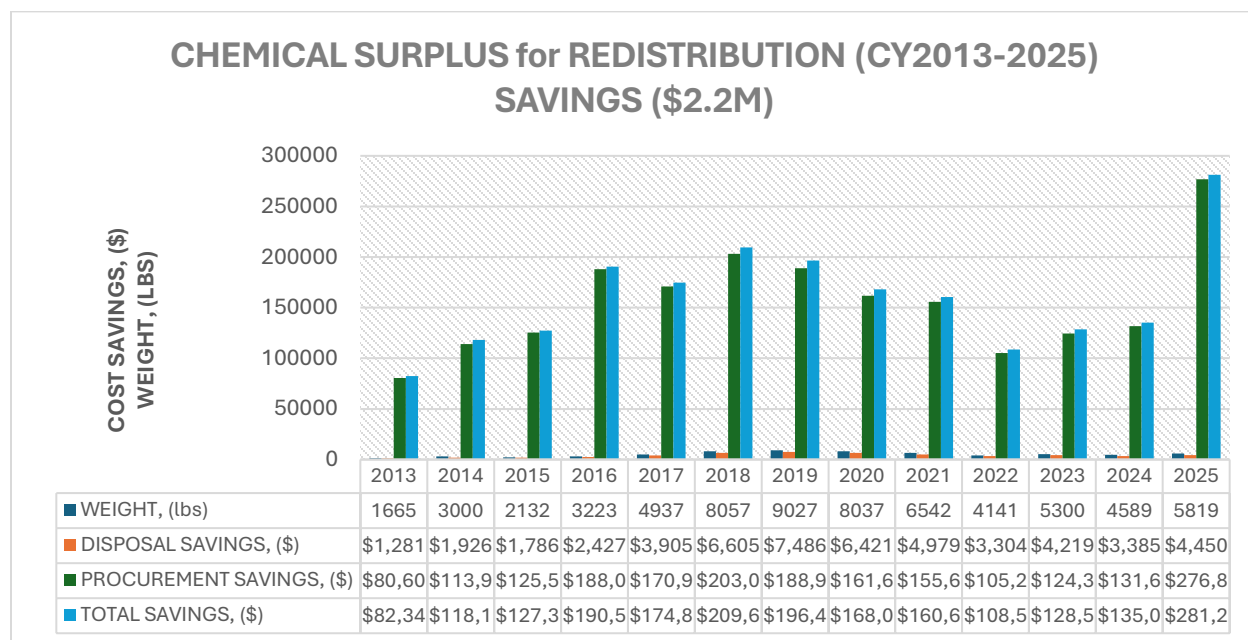
The NIH Free Stuff website is easy to use, post, search and/or exchange free items in several categories including laboratory and office supplies, equipment and chemicals. An email correspondence is generated between NIH employees posting items and requesters to arrange for the transfer of items. However, the chemicals and reagents category is under DEP's jurisdiction since it involves the transfer of chemicals from different buildings. Bethesda campus researchers are encouraged to post and exchange chemicals within the same building with notifications to their appropriate Program manager to arrange pick-up

and transfer of the chemicals. The program is part of DEP's Toxic Chemical Reduction Initiatives that aims to replace and minimize the use and disposal of toxic chemicals as waste, which is beneficial to NIH, the environment and economically advantageous to DEP. Participation in the program is located at the following - NIH Free Stuff website (<https://stuff.nih.gov>). Free Stuff provides the opportunity to have chemicals and reagents delivered to your lab within one to two days free of charge.

Relocating Labs and donation of chemicals:

Relocating labs that have surplus unopened and unexpired chemicals to donate to the program as well as chemical waste to eliminate should call CWS at 301-496-4710 or email DEPChemWaste@OD.NIH.GOV two months prior to move dates to arrange for pickups and redistribution. Please place a chemical waste tag on the surplus chemicals to specify that they are to be redistributed. Please only request chemicals that will be used.

The program generates substantial monthly procurement savings for the NIH based on diversion of discarded chemicals that are used in research, as shown below:



Long-Term Performance and Trend Analysis

The program's data shows evolving trends in laboratory resource utilization. Volume and fiscal returns grew steadily from 2013 through 2016.

- **Peak Volume (2019):** Operations reached a physical peak of 9,027 pounds diverted.
- **Post-2020 Stabilization:** This was during COVID when staff worked remotely. Annual weights settled between 4,100 and 6,500 pounds.
- **Peak Fiscal Return (2025):** The program achieved its highest annual savings of \$281,294.

The record savings in 2025, despite lower volume, highlights a strategic focus on redistributing high-value specialized chemical reagents. For more information, visit the NIH Surplus Chemical Redistribution Program at <https://stuff.nih.gov>.

Cut Your Lab's Chemical Costs This Summer
Find Chemicals and other "stuff" on the NIH
FreeStuff Website

100% Free	Rapid Delivery of chemicals	Quality Items	Claim	Receive
save your budget	to Maryland labs only	verification before listing	Search the Website	Reduce waste

[Click Here to Browse for Available Items
stuff.nih.gov](https://stuff.nih.gov)

