

What is the Green Labs Program?

The Green Labs Program aims to reduce the energy consumption and waste generated by research labs at CWRU. There are over 1,300 labs on campus conducting world-class research. Yet, providing the power and materials to conduct this research does take a toll on the environment, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and materials sent to the landfill. The Office for Sustainability has therefore developed a program to help interested labs reduce their environmental footprint, without affecting their research workflow and productivity.

How much time will it require from our lab staff?

We understand that research labs are busy places. The Green Labs Program will require 60-90 minutes of your time, depending on your needs.

The timeline from initial questionnaire to receiving your report is one month. Below is a breakdown of the process and your time commitment.

1. Preliminary questionnaire for lab manager (15-30 min)
- 2a. In-person lab audit (audit track option; 45-60 min). This involves:
 - A lab visit by our auditors, who will interview the lab manager to better understand your lab workflow and energy demands.
 - Partial inventory of lab equipment and instruments to determine energy demands
 - Install temporary energy monitors to collect data on energy consumption (with your permission). These small, unobtrusive monitors can give us information such as how often lights remain on, if your lab hood sash is open or closed, or how often you open your -80 C freezer.

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- 2b. Self-Report audit (self-report option; 30-45 min)
 - Self-report questionnaire for the lab manager
 - Partial inventory of key lab equipment that typically consume significant amounts of energy
3. Data analysis and final report from our team. This report will provide specific recommendations on how you can reduce your energy consumption and minimize waste in your lab.

Benefits

The research buildings on CWRU's campus are the largest energy users, surpassing the average building at CWRU by orders of magnitude! Participating in the green lab audit process will help:

1. Provide tangible practices your lab can implement to reduce its environmental footprint.
2. Give CWRU students experience in conducting audits, understanding energy use and waste streams, and performing data analysis and report writing.
3. Decrease greenhouse gas emissions to help achieve the University's Climate Action Plan goals

To sign up for the Green Labs Program, please email greenlabs@case.edu