

## Meeting Minutes 220718

- Attendees: James Linton, Vijaya Kumar, Kate Malecek, Erick Bonilla, Wen Chen, Sina Booeshaghi, Tasha Cammidge, Sarah Torres
  - o Virtual zoom meeting failed, TC will work on improvements for next time
- Went through TC slides and discussed feedback from PB and MC for proposal
- Talked about examples of each size goal (small, medium, large)
  - o Some questions about glove recycling- especially in seeing if they are actually more environmentally friendly and have less CO2 emissions
  - o TC brought samples of biodegradable gloves from Genesee and mentioned that if a lot of labs partnered with Genesee we could get a bigger discount than what TC was able to get (still cheaper than normal gloves)
    - Discussion of partnering with EH&S re re-using gloves, maybe talking to Laurianne about developing guidelines (or developing guidelines within a lab privately)
  - o Some questions about fish facilities water waste
    - Need more data on what % of water is wasted, how much it costs city to process that water to make it drinkable etc
    - Need to figure out how to move and store water for facilities to use for irrigation or DNA pool features etc
  - o Comments about smaller-scale recycling
    - For example: could have pipette box recycling program on campus, currently either labs keep them or recycle/trash them, some labs have relationship with USASci where they will pick up the boxes and distribute them to labs in need, could have a central location for these drop-offs so people could come get what they need?
- Talked about how group should look, what people want to see from group
  - o People think monthly meetings, at least initially, are going to keep momentum up
  - o Work towards lab-centric changes that are smaller, but also put our weight also behind larger initiatives like transportation etc
    - Small changes make big differences
  - o Proposal could include some staff-driven rather than solely student-driven action items/proposal items, should include staff
    - DEI proposal was passed, but our group has an opportunity to include staff in a larger way (staff have little support at Caltech so this is a nice way to include staff members)
    - Staff have purchasing power and longevity, making program more stable
    - Staff make purchasing decisions and could “sneak” in sustainable products without lab even noticing?
    - Could have financial or other incentives to encourage participation?
      - Perhaps gift cards or something, raffle? Not sure what this should look like
      - Professional development or access to sustainability conferences?
- Website needs to have information on purchasing, events etc
  - o Website could be based on Trinity College <https://www.tcd.ie/provost/sustainability/>

- Or UCSD: <https://sustain.ucsd.edu/involve/green-labs.html>
- Or UPenn: [https://sustainability.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/Green%20Labs%20Guide\\_UpdatedSummer2020\\_v2.pdf](https://sustainability.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/Green%20Labs%20Guide_UpdatedSummer2020_v2.pdf)
- Can develop signage that is consistent across campus
- Needs more oomph to make it a place people go to for information, highlight achievements more accessibly
- Mailing list also important, but website is most visual and easiest for people to access
- Have information about GLR meeting schedules etc
- Incorporate ACT labelling system
- Incentives
  - Paying people to make slides or newsletters, having staff maybe get other benefits (financial or other) to contribute time to these efforts especially collection of data for studies
    - Could have competition to make logo or work on website
  - Could have a building-wide or floor-wide competition to encourage participation in sustainable practices
    - Other events could include Green Week near Earth Day
    - Could have tally of standing on green labs website, with each lab collecting points throughout the year to compete to be more sustainable?
    - Could have each lab make a little video of some sustainability initiative and people could vote on the best one?
    - For example: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/sustainability/get-involved/green-labs/lab-accreditation/>
  - Incorporation into grants etc to make it more palatable for PIs
    - Students want labs to be more sustainable, so this is a benefit to labs looking to grow and lead
    - ACT labels could be useful here
  - Make funds available for labs who want to purchase more sustainable products that are more expensive or have incentives that encourage purchasing products that will last longer, use fewer reagents, have end-of-life programs
    - Could have incentive programs that have conditions to qualify for funds
      - For example: if purchasing a new freezer: freezer must be energy star certified etc etc AND your lab must either: be green lab certified, OR commit to becoming green lab certified within 1 year of receiving incentive
        - <https://sustain.ucsd.edu/involve/green-labs.html#Discounts-and-Offers>
  - Codifying sustainable product purchases into Caltech so that initiatives keep momentum
  - Hard to get people behind small changes in labs since there is not a lot of impact as compared to carbon capture etc, but these changes add up!
  - Could have funds set aside for professional development including attending green labs conferences

- Decided that each group will find 1-2 small or medium things in their lab that they can change to be more sustainable for next meeting where we will discuss
- Decided that we need to incorporate more staff-centric ideas into proposal, everyone will think on it and add to document by next Monday, TC and ST will edit and submit to the group for review, then submit to Richard Murray to keep our foot in the door and start the process of getting GLR off the ground

#### Further notes

- Change verbiage for proposal to be inclusive – TC notes that we should be inclusive of both staff and students, but not exclusive of either group (we want to make an inclusive environment, encouraging both staff and students to participate)
- Have separate document with internal goals or incentives for representatives including much of what was discussed above such as:
  - Funding for conferences for representatives
  - Building-wide or campus-wide competitions (and prizes)
  - Incentives for reps and labs that participate in certification etc
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#### Securing funding

- Ask for money for refreshments/food for the meetings
- Ask for money for prizes for events
- Internally in chen sustainability competitions pilot, winners get donuts or bagels or something
- Funding for attendance for conference