

220812 Green Labs Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Wen Chen, Karen Lencioni, Kate Malecek, Erick Bonilla, James Linton, Yvette Garcia-Flores, Brianna Garcia, Elisha Mackey, Michelle Ravel, Sarah Torres, Tasha Cammidge

- Introductions and updates
 - Update on proposal: David Warren said there is generally good feedback but that there will likely be questions. He will get back to us next week or the week after with suggestions or comments and we will work with their team on adjusting the proposal etc.
- Discussion of committee structure
 - Committee Members
 - Comprised mostly of staff? Post-docs and students welcome but more involved than representative role
 - Chairs
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Membership coordinator/onboarding new representatives and committee members
 - Event coordinator?
 - Duties:
 - Monthly meetings
 - Making final decisions about spending
 - Planning and coordinating projects
 - Organizing representatives
 - Representatives
 - 1-2 representatives per lab
 - Duties
 - Attending meetings quarterly at least
 - Input on planning and spending
 - Bring projects, problems, suggestions etc to the group
 - Attendees
 - Everyone welcome
 - Help GLR with projects and can make suggestions to reps
- TC brought up choosing permanent time
 - People responded Fridays are best, so ST will ask Sue about what times are available between 9 and 2 Fridays and establish a permanent time
 - Link is here for zoom attendees:
 - Topic: Green Labs Representatives Meeting
 - Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
 - <https://caltech.zoom.us/j/86357284963>
- ST gave presentation on sustainable purchasing
 - She will upload her presentation to the google drive
 - YGF mentioned she purchases Rocket books which are erasable as alternatives for notebooks for every new onboarded person: (KL sent link: <https://www.amazon.com/Rocketbook-Fusion-Smart-Reusable->

[Notebook/dp/B07ZH6B75/ref=mp_s_a_1_3?adgrpid=88612858518&gclid=CjwKCAjw9NeX BhAMEiwAbaY4IhI- jKLOaKgN_cYTHJs4SHFbZrd6Q1RHZ6y5Aaend3oeknvcw3sL7xoC6AkQAvD_BwE&hvadid=609115673467&hvdev=m&hvlocphy=9031108&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=2241354421797398969&hvtargid=kwd-331409207732&hydadcr=20106_13388452&keywords=the+remarkable+tablet&qid=1660332046&sr=8-3\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331409207732/hvdev=m&hvlocphy=9031108&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=2241354421797398969&hvtargid=kwd-331409207732&hydadcr=20106_13388452&keywords=the+remarkable+tablet&qid=1660332046&sr=8-3) and we will add to shared resources doc

- YGF mentioned Keurig has a cutter so you can recycle up and dispose of filter and coffee
- Round table updates
 - TC: biodegradable glove implementation generally going well, having issues with recycling bins so would like to make better signage and educate lab group
 - EM mentioned putting in an AiMs request for bins rather than purchasing, or at least requesting lids to encourage proper recycling practices
 - EM gave lab meeting to her lab about waste management annually, this may also help with education
 - KM: looking into tips for her automated machines
 - Looking into where to source and recycle boxes and refill inserts
 - Automation center could be a place to test out stuff, part of resources they provide
 - USA scientific will move empty boxes to other labs that want them
 - Try out strategies to work with recycling programs on boxes AND tips
 - YGF mentioned that USA Sci now has sterile filter tips in stacks rather than just individually wrapped
 - KM mentioned some people are concerned with sterility issues, so trying to encourage best practices, increase awareness etc
 - Perhaps look into autoclaving tips
 - Look into life cycle of tip boxes, increasing education, perhaps post a buying guide, what to do with blue boxes etc
 - TC: This would be cool to follow up with and we would like to see a presentation on this as data is collected
 - EM: biodegradable gloves and tip usage
 - Lab members question if they can be used for all projects, so they may have to use other gloves for high risk activities
 - She is trying to encourage use of cassettes of tips from USA Sci in tissue culture room, so she is only purchasing inserts for the 100uL tips, keeps full boxes in tissue culture room and recycles boxes later
 - EM wants to change behaviour to increase cassette usage in tissue culture rooms
 - Also wants to encourage less wastefulness in tissue culture, for example sometimes they buy large bottles of chemicals but only a little is used as it is considered “contaminated” so what to do to change behaviour, reduce waste, recycle bottles etc
 - Increase awareness of these practices in her lab
 - JML: lab energy and water waste

- Lab members are looking at energy lost in things like thermocyclers, incubators (CO2 usage), instruments, and trying some strategies to get people to turn them off at the end of the day
 - Wants to collect data on cost/time, to through lab once or twice a day and these practices will add up to a lot
 - JML is hoping to lead by example, so if himself and a few others are turning off stuff regularly, hopefully others will adopt these practices throughout the lab
 - KM commented that to prevent confusion, her old lab adopted signage with instructions on how to put to low power modes, or how to turn off, and information on how much energy is saved per hour if it is off etc
 - Wants to use the autoclave more efficiently, so is looking into how to coordinate others to reduce usage of energy and water, wants to collect data on this
 - Wants to look into consumables and see if there are places to reduce usage
 - For eg washing plates for their flow cytometer – if JML washes them and makes them available, hopefully people will use them
 - They also have an automated machine, so they are looking into tips for that, and would like to do experiments on autoclaving tips to see if they can be re-used, present this data to lab and see if there are others who may want to participate
 - EM commented that some of her lab members are afraid of autoclaved tips since they might be contaminated, so JML will need lots of data to show that autoclaves aren't contaminating tips etc
 - This was suggested as a good topic for the next meeting, JML will let us know if he has collected enough data by then
- KL: OLAR updates
 - KL looking into extending lifespan of large plastic inventory like caging that is not recyclable
 - KL talked with colleagues about this and has implemented changing handling practices, changing soaps to sustainable products that are more eco-friendly
 - Not only is this safer for the workers but also better for the environment by reducing chemical hazards, reducing soap usage, and will hopefully increase lifespan of the plastics
 - KL will share links in shared doc on these products
 - KL is working with Max Christman to compost mouse bedding, there is a new rep for trash disposal, so she is hoping to meet with them to push them to compost, otherwise they may look for a new company to work with
 - KL and team moved offices recently and identified lots of hoarding of excess stuff so they consolidated it into one area to share, so this will hopefully reduce spending
- YGF: lab is very receptive to changes
 - Needs to educate lab since they are so enthusiastic, they want to recycle everything
 - Working on recycling non-hazardous chemical filters, bottle top filters
 - Also looking into whether washing out bottles and recycling them is even worth it, or if it is better to use them for chemical waste

- JML mentioned EHS has guidelines on wasting resources and what can be recycled
 - KM mentioned Nalgene has reusable filter where you just replace the filter pad, not the plastic, she will add a link to the drive
- ST: gloves recycling going slowly
 - Wants to look into plate recycling
 - YGF says she uses a special soap for washing and will add link to the drive
 - ST will bring up glove and plate recycling at her next lab meeting
 - Wants to look into recycling tips, hard tips (not filter tips) are recyclable
 - TC implemented 3 tub system for waste on her bench, one for liquid waste, one for trash (kimwipes etc) and one for hard plastics (tips, tubes, etc) and that helps with not having to sort trash
 - JML also mentioned Styrofoam is recyclable
- EB: wants to help us when we are ready to find finding so we can start incorporating new practices or try new things, maybe develop stockpile to help test stuff out
- MR: from Covid Lab, just sitting in but wants to learn, TC suggested next time they come with a project in mind for next time
- End of meeting, will ask people for updates next time and will hopefully get an updated from Richard Murray about the proposal
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