

SUSTAINABLE DURCHASING SLIDES

Check out the **ACT Label**

Any questions please email: greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu
For more information visit https://greenlabs.caltech.edu



Many sustainable products cost the same or less than other, less sustainable, products!

Sustainable products can be indicated on <u>TechMart with the Green</u>

<u>Designation symbol</u>, or through the <u>ACT Label system</u>!

Check out <u>Green Labs curated list of</u> <u>sustainable products here</u>.







What is the TechMart Green Designation:

It indicates if a vendor has said this item meets their own standards for being a sustainable product.

- Note: The Green designation flag may not always be a reliable indicator of sustainability since this designation is not verified independently. So, it is best to investigate the recyclability, energy- and water-use requirements, packaging, and consumable recyclability before purchasing.
- When searching on TechMart, be sure to select sustainable items by selecting the product flag on the right-hand menu of the search page.





What is the ACT Label?

The ACT Label indicates third-party verified information about the environmental impact of laboratory products from manufacture to disposal.

Since this information is verified by a third party, you can trust the information and values provided for an item's environmental impact scale.

Many companies are choosing to adopt ACT Labelling to indicate to consumers, so keep an eye out for this label!



Regional labels capture the differences in the Shipping and End of Life impacts for each region (US, EU, UK) in which the product is sold. The regional labels also showcase how the energy usage may vary across the markets and reports the water usage in units specific to the market (gallons per day or liters per day) for equipment

These values are graded on a scale of 1-10, with 1 indicating the lowest environmental impact and 10 indicating the highest environmental impact

These values represent actual daily consumption and apply only to equipment

A lower number indicates a lower overall environmental impact



What can I do?

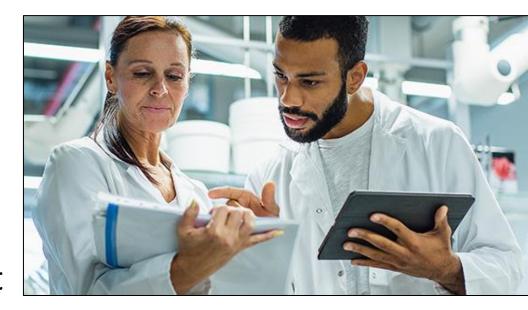
- 1. <u>CHECK</u> if your products have return programs for packaging (including Styrofoam), if products are recyclable after use, if TechMart recommends these products as "green" (indicated by a green leaf near the product), or if they have an ACT LABEL (a label that provides clear information about the environmental impact of a product).
- 2. <u>CONSIDER</u> swapping the products you commonly order to sustainable options (if needed, reach out to vendors to see if you can get price-matching discounts!)
- 3. <u>COMPARE</u> equipment choices see if: there are "eco-friendly" modes which reduce energy consumption; items have more sustainable consumable options; a longer average lifespan; fewer maintenance requirements; or if the end-of-life recyclability of an item is environmentally friendly.
- 4. <u>REDUCE</u> the number of purchases you make by minimizing the size of experiments, or collaborate with a neighbouring lab to reduce the number of orders.
- 5. <u>INVENTORY</u> supplies and equipment to ensure you are not over-ordering, and establish an easy system for labs to order common goods. Also check out the Green Labs Glassware/Equipment/Chemical share program.



Why inventory?

Keeping an inventory of <u>chemicals</u> and <u>equipment</u> is not only a way to prevent over-purchasing these items, it also allows equitable access for your entire lab, and encourages potential collaboration with neighbouring labs.

Buying wisely and in the minimum amount required for research questions ensure that chemicals are not forgotten or become unsafe with time.





What else can I do?

- Some labs have begin swapping out traditional office supplies for 100% recycled products, to great benefit, with few lab members even noticing the change!
- It is estimated that the average office worker uses roughly 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year, but <u>around 30% are never even picked up!</u> Some recycled products include 100% recycled <u>copy paper</u>, <u>post-it notes</u>, <u>writing pads</u>, or <u>reusable notebooks</u>. More information on this trend can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.





Sustainable Office and Event Supplies

- There are a lot of other eco-friendly office supplies including tape, file folders, dish soap, sponges, scrubbers, napkins, beeswax wrap or bags for leftovers, and disposable plates. And, of course, we can't forget the most necessary of all products: coffee!
- A few good eco-friendly options for this evernecessary, and life-giving substance include coffee <u>stir sticks</u>, <u>compostable K cups</u> and other <u>reusable</u> <u>capsules</u> or <u>reusable k-cup</u> coffee pods with <u>disposable filters</u>. Lastly, but certainly not least, eco-conscious and/or ethically-sourced <u>coffee</u> coffee coffee coffee.



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Any questions please email: greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu
Download the Green Labs Certification Form
For more information visit https://greenlabs.caltech.edu
For more slide decks visit our Fact Sheets website
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References and Additional Information

Visit our fact sheets website for more information! (https://greenlabs.caltech.edu/resources/fact-sheets)

- Check out the links below for ways to make your purchasing more sustainable:
- ACT Label (https://act.mygreenlab.org/)
- Harvard's Sustainable Purchasing Resources (https://sustainable.harvard.edu/resources/sustainable-purchasing/)
- <u>Univ. of Michigan Sustainable Purchasing Resources</u> (https://procurement.umich.edu/um-suppliers/sustainable-purchasing/)
- <u>Princeton's Sustainable Purchasing Resources</u> (https://sustain.princeton.edu/take-action/purchase-sustainably)
- <u>Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council</u> (https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/)
- What is Sustainable Purchasing and Why is it Important? (https://sievo.com/blog/sustainable-procurement-part1)
- How to Practice Sustainable Purchasing (https://my.wlu.edu/sustainability/sustainability-how-to/how-to-practice-sustainable-purchasing)
- Sustainable Products List and Inventories
- <u>Click HERE to see a list of sustainable products vetted by the Green Labs Group!</u> (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10jc3-lN9pq1RcXRig-Dq0q1RuPxsDnv8BRYYtYVdNHM/edit?usp=sharing)
- <u>Click HERE to see an example of a Laboratory Inventory Spreadsheet.</u>
 (https://greenlabs.caltech.edu/documents/27208/Lab_Equipment_Inventory_List.xlsx)
- <u>Click HERE to see an example of a Chemical Inventory Sheet.</u> (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q0WsYN0v46W9G_aPE8tjVvHB8-bX0vIvCLDRUeByEms/edit?usp=sharing)
- Want to suggest a product? Email us at greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu!