

Caltech
green
labs



SUSTAINABLE

PURCHASING SLIDES

Check out the [ACT Label](#)

Any questions please email: greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu

For more information visit <https://greenlabs.caltech.edu>

Did you know?

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

Sustainable products can be indicated on [TechMart with the Green Designation symbol](#), or through the [ACT Label system](#)!

Check out [Green Labs curated list of sustainable products here](#).





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.

TechMart

By Product Flag

-  Green (4)
-  Recycled (4)

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!

This category is either yes or no
Detailed scoring explanations for each category are outlined in the verification guide

The sum total of all values equals the Environmental Impact Factor
ACT labels are valid for two years from the date of issue

ACT. us <small>The Environmental Impact Factor Label</small>	
Product Name	
Product Location SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact 1 10	
Manufacturing	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
User Impact	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
End of Life	
Packaging	5
Product	1
Innovation	
Innovative Practices	-1
Environmental Impact Factor:	47.6
Label Valid Through:	January 2021
act.mygreenlab.org	

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. CHECK 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. CONSIDER 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. COMPARE 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. REDUCE 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. INVENTORY 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 [chemicals](#) and [equipment](#) 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 begun 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 [around 30% are never even picked up](#)! Some recycled products include 100% recycled [copy paper](#), [post-it notes](#), [writing pads](#), or [reusable notebooks](#). More information on this trend can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



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 ever-necessary, and life-giving substance include coffee [stir sticks](#), [compostable K cups](#) and other [reusable capsules](#) or [reusable k-cup](#) coffee pods with [disposable filters](#). Lastly, but certainly not least, eco-conscious and/or ethically-sourced [coffee](#) [coffee](#) [coffee](#).



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Download the [Green Labs Certification Form](#)

For more information visit <https://greenlabs.caltech.edu>

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References and Additional Information

[Visit our fact sheets website for more information!](https://greenlabs.caltech.edu/resources/fact-sheets) (<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/) (<https://act.mygreenlab.org/>)
- [Harvard's Sustainable Purchasing Resources](https://sustainable.harvard.edu/resources/sustainable-purchasing/) (<https://sustainable.harvard.edu/resources/sustainable-purchasing/>)
- [Univ. of Michigan Sustainable Purchasing Resources](https://procurement.umich.edu/um-suppliers/sustainable-purchasing/) (<https://procurement.umich.edu/um-suppliers/sustainable-purchasing/>)
- [Princeton's Sustainable Purchasing Resources](https://sustain.princeton.edu/take-action/purchase-sustainably) (<https://sustain.princeton.edu/take-action/purchase-sustainably>)
- [Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council](https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/) (<https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/>)
- [What is Sustainable Purchasing and Why is it Important?](https://sievo.com/blog/sustainable-procurement-part1) (<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) (<https://my.wlu.edu/sustainability/sustainability-how-to/how-to-practice-sustainable-purchasing>)
- Sustainable Products List and Inventories
- [Click HERE to see a list of sustainable products vetted by the Green Labs Group!](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ojc3-IN9pq1RcXRig-Dq0q1RuPxsDnv8BRYYtYVdNHM/edit?usp=sharing) (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ojc3-IN9pq1RcXRig-Dq0q1RuPxsDnv8BRYYtYVdNHM/edit?usp=sharing>)
- [Click HERE to see an example of a Laboratory Inventory Spreadsheet.](https://greenlabs.caltech.edu/documents/27208/Lab_Equipment_Inventory_List.xlsx) (https://greenlabs.caltech.edu/documents/27208/Lab_Equipment_Inventory_List.xlsx)
- [Click HERE to see an example of a Chemical Inventory Sheet.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q0WsYN0v46W9G_aPE8tjVvHB8-bX0vIvCLDRUeByEms/edit?usp=sharing) (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q0WsYN0v46W9G_aPE8tjVvHB8-bX0vIvCLDRUeByEms/edit?usp=sharing)
- Want to suggest a product? Email us at greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu!