

260109 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Maddy Adolph, Alyssa Player, Jaasiel Alvarez, Kate Malecek, Tasha Cammidge, Chris Kalaw, Tuyako Khristoforova, Xiaohui Li, Henry P., Vijaya Kumar, JT Tran, Max Christman, Luisa Segovia, Allen Lee, Ben Ben, David

- This month, [RSVP here](#) to order catered food from [True Food Kitchen Catering Menu!](#) (**please RSVP by Wednesday 9am!** **Please remember to bring your laptops and bring your biodegradable/compostable items for our test.** For bonus sustainability: folks can bring their own cups and/or utensils and/or plates as an alternative to our usual compostable ones!

Will update [Restaurant Guide](#) and our [Coffee, Breakfast, and Dessert Guide](#)

Introductions ...

Million Advocates for Sustainable Science Petition

- International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) along with My Green Lab are petitioning to change funding granting agency policy to promote sustainable research
- By signing the letter you can help transform how science funding organizations set expectations for efficiency, resiliency, and sustainability in the way scientific research is conducted
- Reached 1100+ signatures!

UPDATE: Green Labs Monthly Tip: The Straw Test

- Anyone have an update?
 - JA: refusing napkins
 - KM: rethinking how we eat out
- Let me know how it goes, and what else you notice you're refusing!
 - **There will be prizes**
 - A different lab will be highlighted on our website [every quarter](#)

Green Labs Monthly Tip: Freezer Challenge!

- The International Freezer Challenge is a fun, free, annual virtual competition between January and July 1 every year!
- There are great benefits for your research and the planet!
 - Last year the 2025 Freezer Challenge saved a combined 31.6 million kWh/year, avoiding about **21,214 metric tons of CO2 emissions = 53 million miles of driving a car!**
- We are hosting a popsicle party for all participants
- Register anytime between now and June 30, and help improve your lab's sample access, sample integrity, and energy efficiency
- They have LOTS of tips and tricks and you can take credit for any actions occurring from July 2025 until you submit the form
- (take before and after pics and submit them for our Spring Clean Challenge!)

Learning Opportunity

- I2SL is hosting a Community of Practice (CoP) Forum on Lab Reuse Events on **January 22 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern**. It will feature speakers from three universities who will share how they established lab reuse events at their institutions to repurpose lab equipment, chemicals, and

supplies. The forum will be structured as a panel with the speakers answering questions about their events.

- Sign up for a [free account here](#) and you can get access to their entire library of videos, white papers, a forum for questions, and much more!

Updates

- **29 Certified labs!! WHOOOOO**
 - o Please get CERTIFIED TODAY! To get certified, finish the easy, 30-minute [Green Labs Certification](#) and submit it to sustainability@caltech.edu.
 - o Certified Labs-exclusive event planned for April!
 - o We have a FREE LAB RECYCLING PROGRAM STARTING IN NOVEMBER!! – you can recycle pipette tips, conical tubes, and more!

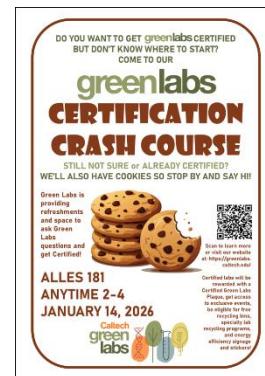
Updates on our Student Interns

- Does anyone want an energy assessment or fume hood sensor? Reach out to us!
- We built 38 working fume hood sensors in December :D Now our students have to make cases for them and debug code, then we can install them.
- Fume hood hibernation program
 - o At least 10 hoods on campus that can be hibernated (either turned way down or off!) such that they can be turned back on if ever needed.
 - o Each saves \$10k/year
 - o TC and MC created signage for this
 - KM: could add the air flow rate on the label
 - Olivia: could stress that it is an unsafe air flow rate



Updates on ReStore

- New Marketplace webpage!
 - o Chris is working on a Sustainability page linked to Green Labs Marketplace Page
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 - o We want to do a soft launch to test everything
 - o Guided tour of the website together
 - OF: what happens if I submit a form and there is an error?
 - CK: hadn't thought of that, can add it as part of the message once the thing is submitted
 - VK: also add it to the FAQ page
- Lab ReStore ReOpening!
 - o Open a few hours a week, run by student interns
 - o Winter hours:
 - o **Mondays 9am – 5pm**
 - o Newsletter
 - Quarterly newsletter with links to each item in the newsletter,
 - OF: have a section for "last chance" items that we are donating to other places



- Want to incorporate lab clean out protocol we've been developing, maybe I'll present that next time!
- Divested
 - 285 items
 - 102 kg
 - \$12,802.40 (total of \$80K since March!)
- In-Store
 - 3000+ items
 - 500+ categories
 - 2,500 kg
 - \$100k+

Plans for 2026

- Clean up event launch in (January – July)
- Freezer Challenge (January – April)
- Certification crash course – (one in Jan and one in middle of the year)
- Quarterly Challenge
- WiBBE collaboration event
- Lab Manager meeting – March?
- Glass painting event?
- Clothing swap – planning with students and CK for end of year
- Earth Week event(s) – planning with CK (more on next slide)
 - Entire day event
 - Guest speaker series to discuss sustainable research (maybe from RSI)
 - Lunch event with sustainable vendors
 - Vendor show
 - Tabling event for Caltech groups
 - Green Labs Lightning Talks
 - Swap event with ReStore
 - Other events that month
 - Movie nights
 - Clothing swaps or thrifting events
 - Food events
 - Glassware painting or something else (maybe an event with WiBBE to tie dye)
 - Feedback?
 - Olivia: - Succulent potting event, student clear outs store for the month and donate, once a month there is a swap meet at PCC, could advertise there
 - Luisa: do the reporrrint event on same day as painting
 - Maddy: blankets on the yard swap
 - Jaasiel: very hot – provide shade for folks, clothing swaps bring a lot of stuff, open up to community to take items that are donated from campus, invite a speaker from Pasadena city and how they handle Sust. (MC said they just hired a sust. Admin)
 - Kate: kids outgrow clothing quickly, advertise at the CCC daycare and the Casida – Kate can advertise for us, are RSI doing events? – MC no, could also invite someone from grounds that could talk about landscaping (JA- olive trees)

- CK: harvest and clean up the compost area
- Tuyako: smaller events, convert spent coffee grounds into body rubs, reuse egg carton to plant seedlings - this could be a booth or something
- MC: documentary movie night planned Raymo auditorium , mixed media performance with messaging around climate change
- Alyssa: could have the middle of the day set aside with the tabling, have it related to the ReStore, get a little sticker
- Jaasiel: right before the documentary shown you could have the food nearby
- Luisa: stamp cards, raffle entry
- Sustainable events
 - Sustainable event Certification?
 - SUSTAINABLE Restaurants Guide (not GL Restaurant Guide!)
 - Zero waste events
 - Chris – any updates from Dining Services?
 - Paperless events (no posters!)
 - Voting...
 - Analyzed some data from our previous meetings, and have decided the voting is not necessary, we'll start having a rotating schedule instead!
 - (most people voted for Mendo farms 100% of the time, but that would get old quick 😊)

Updates – Pilot Programs

- FUNDING IS AVAILABLE – SEE PILOT PROGRAMS WEBSITE
 - December 3– Styrofoam recycling day
 - 40 YARD BIN ALMOST FULL!
 - [Sign the petition!](#)
 - [Technical bulletin from I2SL](#)
 - [LCA of Styrofoam](#)
 - [Do you want a location added? LET US KNOW!](#)
 - [How to do LCAs](#)
- Pipette tip pilot is now a Caltech-run program
 - Now accepting all brands!
 - Over 1 dumpster full the first 2 weeks!
 - 2,775+ pounds of plastic waste diverted total!
 - 9cubic yards of waste!
 - See random bins – check if it is on the list!
 - Update from Chris?
 - [Do you want a location added? LET US KNOW!](#)
- Lomi
 - Moving to giving dirt to Catalina Compost
 - 1,374 lbs of dirt (or 6,869 lbs food waste)
- -70°C/-80°C Comparison Pilot: 5 labs involved, collaborating with NIH and UVA + Norway labs collaboration
- PolyCarbin: Initial order replaced 31 pounds of crude oil and reduced 122 pounds of CO2E via sustainable procurement

- AP: sent off another box of coloured plastic, 34 lbs of plastic recycled, 12,793 water conserved, 70 lbs carbon emissions reduced
- Fume hood sensor project
 - Around \$1,300 savings per fume hood on average!! GG writing up now for our 21 fume hoods
- **Grenova pipette tip washer:** looking into funding options!
 - [Survey](#) for pipette tip types, cost per year, etc. to gather data
 - Looking into funding options
- [**Follow us on Instagram** →](#)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update from SIMAP
 - Sustainable Purchasing Working Group has *almost* completed FY2024!
 - Supplier category data (worst!)
 - 46,743 metric tons CO2e from purchased goods & services!
 - 1 mtCO2e ≈ 1 drive from LA to the north pole! (2500 miles!)

Next meeting Feb 13