

## 260213 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Maddy Adolph, Alyssa Player, Jaasiel Alvarez, Kate Malecek, Tasha Cammidge, Chris Kalaw, Tuyako Khristoforova, Luisa Segovia, Annie Lam, Caressa Wong, Aarohi Patel, Olivia Finney

- This month, [RSVP here](#) to order catered food from [Donut Friend!](#) (**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
  - **Submit to [greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu](mailto:greenlabsinfo@caltech.edu) by April 1**

#### Green Labs Monthly Tip: Freezer Defrosts!

- If needed, you can book an extra freezer by emailing [bbereceiving@caltech.edu](mailto:bbereceiving@caltech.edu)!
- We recommend making sure your alternate freezer is at your required temperature before attempting a clean-out.
- Take a picture of your freezer so you remember where everything went before the transfer.
- Move freezer racks into the new freezer using a cart, keeping the order the same as in the original freezer if possible.
- Put any loose items (in doors, on shelves etc.) in bins and transfer those to the alternate freezer.
- Turn off your now-empty lab freezer and set out trays or bins to collect the melting ice (we like to use the autoclave bins!). Cloths can be used to direct the drips as well. Post a sign near or on the freezer to warn lab members of potential slipping hazards.
- Once all the ice is melted, wipe out the freezer with a dry cloth thoroughly and then turn on the freezer.
- Once the freezer is at the correct temperature, put all items back in, following your picture as a guide.
- Inventory your freezer to make it easier to find things, meaning your lab spend fewer minutes with the door open (and reducing the number of defrosts you have to do every year!)

- Green Labs has [digitally fillable inventory sheets](#) or [blank printable inventory sheets](#) if your lab needs (both for an entire freezer on page one or just for a shelf full of racks on page two).

### Learning Opportunity

- I2SL is hosting a Community of Practice (CoP) Forum on Lab Reuse Events on **Throughout February**. 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!
- Let TC know if you want access and I can add you for free and you can see the recordings!
  - **If you want to attend or view the session recordings, let me know and I can add you for free!**
  - Using BIM, Digital Twins, AI for Lab Design
  - Best Practices for Improving Energy Performance in Lab Systems and Equipment
  - **Sustainable Action by UK and European Research Funders**
  - **Gauging the Impact of Scientific Products and Processes**
  - Accessible and Human-Centric Labs: User and Designer Perspectives
  - Innovative Design in Vancouver Bio Building
  - Award-Wining Decarbonization Strategies

### Updates

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

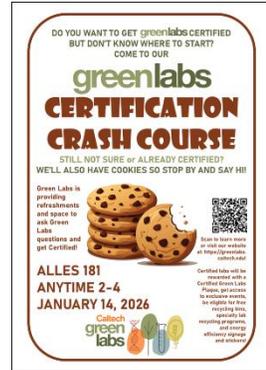
### Updates on our Student Interns

- Does anyone want an energy assessment or fume hood sensor? Reach out to us!
- Aarohi presented an update on her sensor AND shared her idea for decorating the gate that is in our ReStore with colouring pages OR plants!
  - Thanks to MA for connecting us to our plant friend 😊



## Updates on ReStore

- New Marketplace webpage!
  - o Chris is working on a Sustainability page linked to Green Labs Marketplace Page
- Divested
  - o 960 items
  - o 779 kg and \$74,299 (making a total of **\$\$144,652.69**)
- In-Store
  - o 3350+ items, worth over \$100k + \$100K worth of equipment online
- Sustainability Marketplace website launching soon
- 4 lab clean outs, rehoming at least \$10k each and diverting on average 8-10kg of recycling per room
- Donate items to other places end of Feb?
- Submitting this project for an award!
- Clean out protocol I would love feedback on?
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- Lab ReStore ReOpening!
  - o Open a few hours a week, run by student interns
  - o Winter hours:
  - o **Mondays 9am – 5pm**
  - o Newsletter
    - Quarterly Monthly newsletter with links to each item in the newsletter



## 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
- Investigating animal bedding composting... more to come on that soon!
- PolyCarbin: Initial order replaced 31 pounds of crude oil and reduced 122 pounds of CO2E via sustainable procurement

- 21 labs have bins installed!
- 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](#) →

#### Revisited the plaque sticker idea (preliminary!)

- TC showed the group what she has planned for the plaque sticker idea – an adventure track where folks can earn points for each action and fill out a sticker sheet with the goal of getting a movie night
- Group: Themes could be turtles, beavers, lorax, worms, fish, DNA, dorky/nerdy, bacteria etc
- MA: cold storage may be an issue for some labs, perhaps have alternative sheet for labs without cold storage
- OF: keep it simple
- AP: run it quarterly or run a pilot? Start small and see what people are willing to do
  - CW: that's the same amount of work as just doing it April -> April ,
  - JA: also limits time folks have to complete goals, maybe those months were just busy for them, so 1 year gives them lots of time
- CW: make it more of a competition, so have labs that get the farthest have the most prizes etc, any labs 20+ compete to choose the movie or the snacks (MA) or the building etc.
- JA: could have tiers of prizes, so those who can't complete more than 5 still get something, have that be a different circle colour or something
- AP: how to deal with ties?
  - CW: Sustainability showdown?/trivia?
- KM: whats the hardest thing on here? Hosting a zero waste event?
  - CK: explained what a zero waste event is (we would have links for each category also) that it could include waste diversion efforts
  - KM: perhaps change the language to be order from the dining guide, or have a survey and have folks sign up for sustainability goals like vegan- or vegetarian friendly stuff, have it be applied to group meeting or something to reduce waste, etc
  - TC: I'll do that
- AP: perhaps it's worth having 35 options not just 25, then you expand some of them and make it a little easier to get to 25
  - JA: maybe only the labs that get to 25 get to pick the movie etc!

#### Clean Out Standard Operating Procedure

- TC did a quick walkthrough of the clean out SoP and hurdles to getting it enacted
- Keeping conversation confidential here but TC will take the feedback given and will modify, then share with the group soon for review!

Next meeting March 13