

Green Laboratory Tips

Shut your sash! - A variable volume fume hood is 60% more energy effective when the sash is down when not in use.

Ask for energy efficient equipment in your laboratory.

Turn off ovens and incubators when not in use—most only take 30-45 minutes to heat up.

Clean your freezers—defrost them when more than 2 cm of ice builds up and remember to vacuum the dust off the coils. The freezer will have more usable volume and be more efficient.

Use natural daylight if it's a nice day outside

Use a task light if you're working alone—they're cheap and are about 95% more energy efficient than using the overhead lighting.

Learn the settings for your light switches—especially if you have occupancy sensors or timers on your lights.

Inventory your freezers—you will spend less time looking for samples and your samples will last longer. Plus, you might find samples you thought you lost!

Don't use a space heater—they are a fire risk, mess with building climate controls, and cost between \$600 and \$1000 per year to operate.

Use appropriate sized containers when dispensing ice, dry ice, and liquid nitrogen.

Eliminate vacuum aspirators - you will save over 600 liters of purified water per hour.

Use the right water quality for your tasks—don't use purified water unless you have to.

Wash glassware as efficiently as possible – don't leave the water running if you can help it.

Did you know that...

- ♦ One fume hood uses as much energy as 3 typical American homes
- ♦ Laboratories are typically supplied with 8-15 air changes of clean, conditioned, outside air per hour.
- ♦ Lighting makes up 10-20% of a typical laboratory's energy use.


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Share equipment with others—it saves money and forms a stronger campus community.

Form a department “free shelf” where small, clean surplus items can be traded.