

UWindsor GREEN LABS

10 Practical Tips to Improve Lab Sustainability

1



Shut the Sash when not in Use

Fume hoods can be significant energy consumers—comparable to residential households. Closing the sash on variable air volume (VAV) hoods helps minimize unnecessary energy loss.

2



Reduce Idle Energy Consumption

Turn off lights and unplug laboratory devices when not in use. Power strips can facilitate shutdown of multiple systems simultaneously.

3



Implement Recycling Practices

Laboratories can divert waste from landfills by recycling items such as nitrile gloves, pipette boxes, electronics, and batteries where collection programs exist.

4



Provide Accessible Recycling Stations

Making recycling containers readily available within the lab encourages proper disposal and increases participation in waste reduction initiatives.

5



Purchase Sustainable Alternatives

Choose less toxic, biodegradable products with minimal packaging and life cycle impact, while reducing printing and waste.

6



Maintain an Accurate Chemical Inventory

Regularly updating inventory records prevents unnecessary purchases and helps manage storage and disposal of unused materials more effectively.

7



Transition to Mercury-Free Alternatives

Using mercury-free instruments and devices can help reduce environmental risks associated with hazardous material disposal.

8



Select Energy-Efficient Equipment

Where available, choose laboratory equipment with energy-saving certifications to reduce electricity consumption over time.

9



Maintain Cold Storage Equipment

Routinely removing ice buildup and discarding unused or expired samples can improve freezer performance, conserve energy, and optimize storage capacity.

10



Operate Equipment at Full Capacity

Only run dishwashers, autoclaves, and similar appliances when fully loaded to improve efficiency in water and energy use.



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Learn More:

For additional resources and information on how to contribute to a greener lab environment, visit:

[Green Labs | Environmental Sustainability @ UWindsor](#)

Email: sustainability@uwindsor.ca

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