



Green Labs Certification Program Resource Guide

2/26/2021

Purpose



- This resource guide will walk you through the Green Labs Certification Program application process and provide information to assist you in completing certain checklist items.

Accessing the Application



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Visit semc.tamu.edu/green-labs-certificate-program

able to cite their achievements in grant proposals, and Colleges and Departments that promote Green Labs will have the pride of being at the forefront of green innovation at TAMU.

Certification Process

The Green Lab Certification process at TAMU is designed to ensure both leaders and members of perspective labs are on the same page of what it means to be a Green Lab. Steps of the certification process include equipment evaluation, a statement of understanding by lab members, recycling, “green” purchasing”, and the sharing of equipment and space amongst other labs. The specific requirements can be found in the TAMU Green Labs Certification Application.

In addition to standard requirements that need to be met to maintain Green Lab status, challenges will be implemented to encourage participation. One of these challenges known as, “The Freezer Challenge”, is sponsored by two green lab-oriented non-profits, and has the goal of reducing energy consumption of labs by monitoring cold storage freezers. More information about this challenge can be found by visiting, <https://vimeo.com/497743611>.

Certification Process Outline

- Submit application to EHS for review
- Schedule a lab walkthrough with EHS to confirm completion of checklist items
- Maintain current checklist items and continue to improve lab initiatives
- Resubmit certification application at least once every two years to update certification level

Point System

Points will be awarded to each lab based off how they answer the questions found on the Green Lab Certification Application. Fifty points is the maximum amount that can be achieved. There is also a tiered ranking system, where designations will be handed out to labs based on how many points they earn. Labs will be able to promote their rankings which will help instill a sense of pride and achievement.

- 15 Points: Bronze
- 25 Points: Silver
- 35 Points: Gold

Click “application”
to download the
application PDF

Basic Information



Fill in basic information about your lab

Texas A&M University Green Labs Certification Application

College or Division	
Department	
Principal Investigator	
Principal Investigator email	
Lab room number(s)	
Number of lab members	
Number of signatures obtained (list participant names)	
Green Rep Name (submitter of application)	
Green Rep Classification (Undergraduate, graduate student, etc.)	
Green Rep Email	
Green Rep years active in laboratory	
Please include a brief description of the laboratory space (number of rooms, types of rooms)	
Have the GLCP goals been discussed with PI? (Yes or No)	Yes

The room number for your lab
(BICH 112 and 113, for example)

Total lab occupants, including PI and staff

How long the Green Rep has been in the lab

Give us an idea of your lab space, you may include the number of modules, offices, storage spaces, or other areas your group occupies, no wrong answers

Completing Checklist Items



Scroll through the checklist items and see which ones your lab is interested in

Please indicate the progress your lab has made towards completing the checklist items listed below:

Checklist items (point values)	Completed (Yes, No, In Progress, or N/A, and provide a brief description if applicable)
Complete an Energy Audit with Energy Steward and/or join the EPI program (5)	
Water and Energy Conservation Efforts	
Catalog (location and/or quantity) freezer and ULT freezer contents to reduce usage time (3)	
Share freezer space with another lab (3)	
Place freezers away from areas of heat (incubators, direct sunlight) (1)	

For most items, simply indicate “yes” if a checklist item has been completed and add the point value to your total

Complete an Energy Audit



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Energy audits are completed by Energy Stewards from Utilities and Energy Services. They can provide information about ways to improve the energy efficiency and conservation of your lab.

The screenshot shows the website <https://utilities.tamu.edu/energy-stewards-for-your-building/>. The page features the Texas A&M University logo and the text "UTILITIES & ENERGY SERVICES". A navigation menu includes links for "home", "about us", "recycling services", "news and publications", "awards and recognition", and "resources". The main heading is "Energy Stewards for Your Building". Below this, there are tabs for "Keith Bornmann", "Amy Chen", "Jack Cook", and "Johnny Smith". The "Keith Bornmann" tab is selected, and the text "Your Energy Steward: Keith Bornmann" is displayed. A table lists buildings and their corresponding energy stewards:

Bldg	Bldg Name
270	Emerging Technology Building
271	Emerging Technology Building
296	MITCHELL INST. FOR FUNDAMENTAL PHYS. AND ASTRONOMY
297	MITCHELL PHYSICS BUILDING
325	CE Lab Building
353	BRIGHT BUILDING
359	ARCHITECTURE BUILDING B

Find which energy steward handles your building and contact them to schedule an audit

Participate in the Freezer Challenge



The Freezer Challenge is a globally recognized program that gives labs an opportunity to compete to see who can maximize the efficiency of their cold storage units.

<https://www.freezerchallenge.org/register.html>

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE REGISTER SPONSORS RESOURCES AWARDS

Read all instructions in the scoresheet and the questions/answer options carefully as they have changed from last year. **You must submit your scoresheet by clicking "Finish" on the final page by July 1, 2021 at midnight PDT in order for your scoresheet to be counted.**

Join the Freezer Challenge, Access Your Scoresheet

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

Subscribe

Fill out this information and you will receive a scoresheet in your email

Winners are published in *Nature* and are recognized at the annual International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories conference!

Laboratory Recycling



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Any sterile, non-hazardous paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, or electronics can be recycled. Make sure your recyclables are clean and empty before recycling.

All recycled materials **MUST NOT** have contacted any hazardous materials prior to recycling. Hazardous materials must be disposed of properly through Environmental Health and Safety disposal protocol.

Recycling Locations



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<https://utilities.tamu.edu/campus-recycling-locations/>

- Several recycling locations exist throughout campus
- Many buildings have cardboard/paper recycling within the building
- Electronics purchased by the university must be recycled through university surplus
- Battery recycling bins (electronics) are located in the TAMU libraries

Click on a recycling symbol on the map to get details

home about us recycling services news and publications awards and recognition resources

Texas A&M On-Campus Recycling Locations

Campus Maps What to Recycle

FID	3
OBJECTID	50
Nbr	51.00
LOCATION	
North	3,111,403.73
East	1,081,558.06
SvyCode	rc
TYPE	Recycling Drop Off Center
MATERIALS	Aluminum, Plastic, Trash, Cardboard, Glass
Notes	24 hr

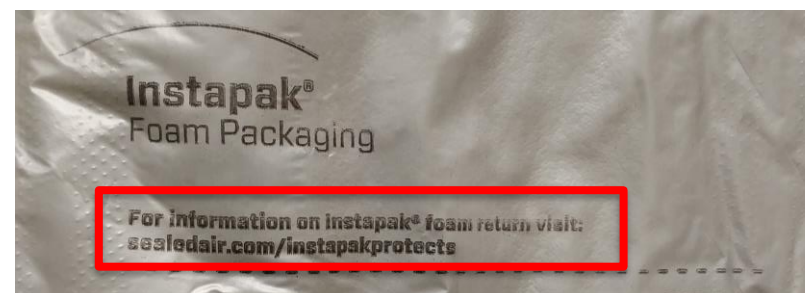
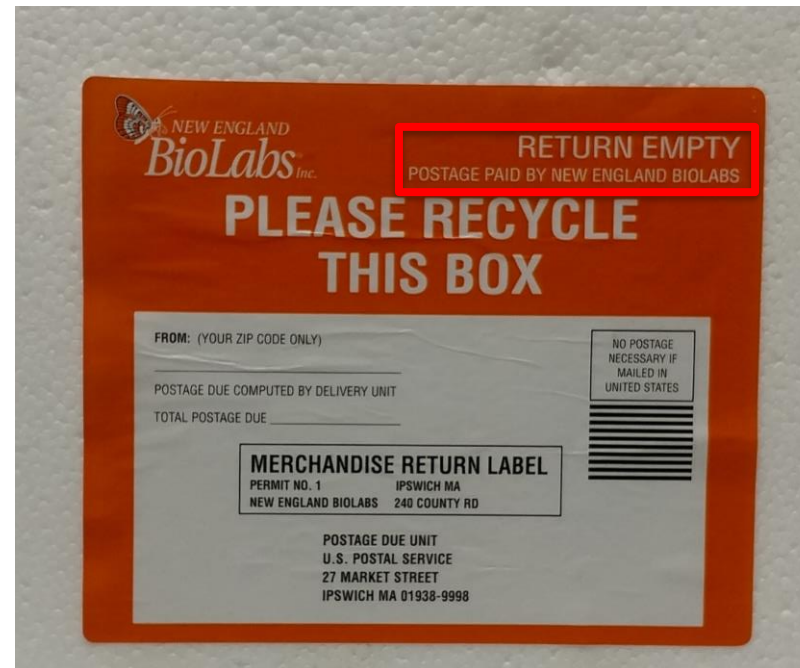
Zoom to

Return-to-vendor programs



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Return-to-vendor programs are offered by suppliers. Many times they will allow you to mail back reusable packaging, parts, reagents, etc. However, these are not always advertised on their websites. Prior to throwing something out, do a quick search to see if it can be returned or sent for specialized recycling.



Green reagents or supplies can be anything used by your lab that is specifically designed to be more sustainable.

- Examples:
 - Reusable pipette tip boxes/wafers (USA Scientific)
 - Item packaging made from recycled materials
 - Biodegradable gloves
 - Switching to non-hazardous chemicals (Sybr Green instead of Ethidium bromide)

The checklist items are not exhaustive. ANY unlisted sustainable practice your lab engages in can earn you bonus points based on the level of impact.

Finalizing the application



- Sum your accumulated points to see which certification tier your lab has reached and decide if you want to complete more checklist items:
 - Bronze = 15 points
 - Silver = 25 points
 - Gold = 35 points
- Save the completed application and email to greenlabs@tamu.edu
- We will reach out to you to schedule a lab walkthrough to confirm the completion of your checklist items.
- You must recertify your lab at least every 2 years, although you may update your application and certification status at any time.