



# My Green Lab Certification Introduction

The world's most trusted green lab certification



April 23rd, Madrid - online



## My Green Lab's Mission

My Green Lab's mission is to **build a global culture of sustainability** in science to transform the industry into a global leader on environmental sustainability. Through education, community engagement and market leading certification tools, we are inspiring the scientific community to integrate sustainability into everything they do.

## Impact Laboratories Role

**3<sup>rd</sup> party verifier** of the world's most trusted green lab certification. 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification aligns with international best practice and ensures the integrity and rigor of our program as it scales globally.



## Program Ecosystem

My Green Lab offers a suite of leading-edge programs to engage everyone from students and researchers, to laboratories, major institutions, and corporations. This is an effort to fundamentally and permanently improve the environmental performance of scientific research.

### Certification



**my green lab  
certification.**

#### **My Green Lab Certification**

International 'gold standard' for laboratory sustainability best practices.

# ACT.

#### **The ACT Label**

The world's premier eco-label for laboratory products that ensures Accountability, Consistency and Transparency in order to enable sustainable laboratory procurement.

### Advocacy & Education



**freezer  
challenge**

#### **Freezer Challenge**

International competition to encourage cold storage best practices.



#### **My Green Lab Ambassadors**

Global community of green lab enthusiasts that have been educated and empowered to bring green lab principles into their work and research.



#### **My Green Lab Accredited Professionals**

The first credential of its kind developed to offer scientists an opportunity to grow their knowledge and demonstrate their expertise in lab sustainability.

### Campaigns



#### **UN Race To Zero**

MGL is a delivery partner for the UN RtZ, working to enable the systemic transformation of the Biotech and Pharmaceutical sector. MGL Certification has been selected as a key indicator in the 2030 Breakthrough Outcomes campaign.



**million advocates for  
sustainable science**

#### **Million Advocates**

Global advocacy campaign requesting action from funding bodies to prioritize sustainability in the way research is conducted.





# Did you know?

Labs are among the most **expensive to operate & environmentally intensive** buildings of any kind.

## 10x

More energy than  
office spaces



## 4x

More water than  
office spaces



## 5.4 billion

kg of plastic  
waste each year







## A Closer Look at Energy

57% of energy consumption is impacted directly by lab users

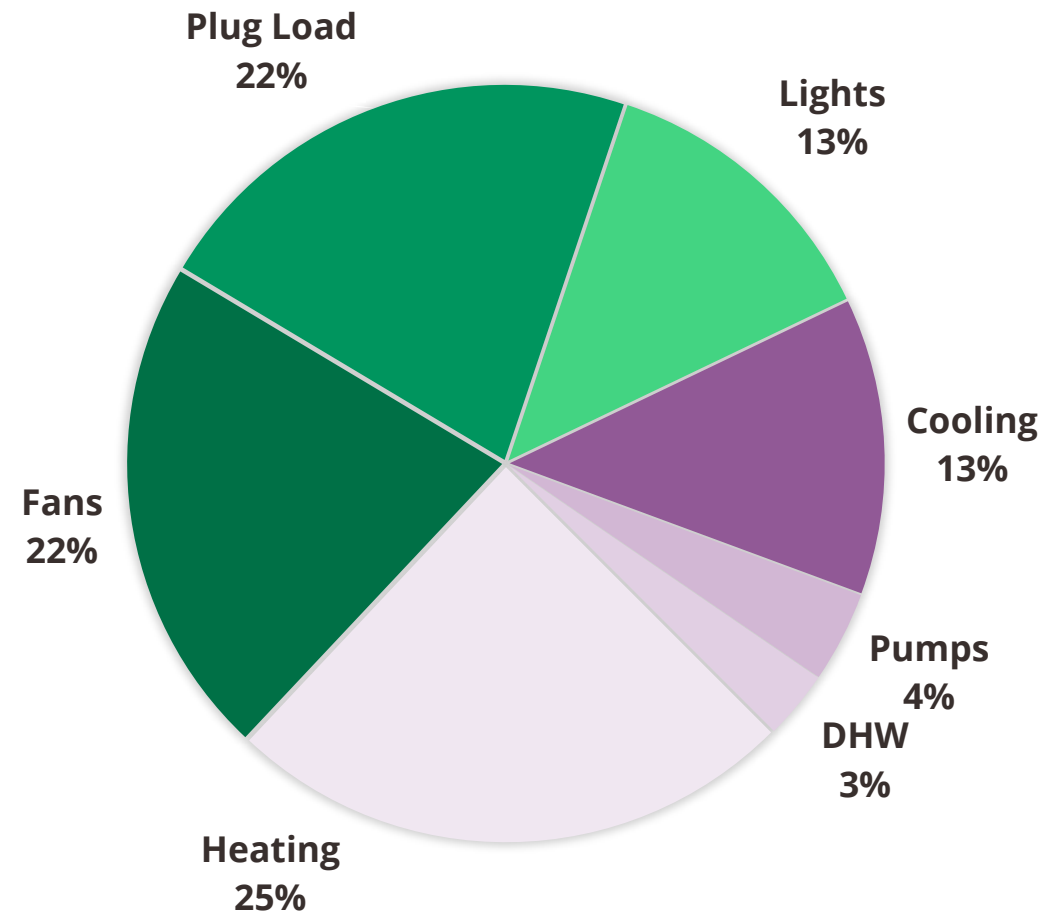


Chart from  
Alison Farmer,  
kW Engineering





Drying ovens = 🏠  
Incubators = 1  
TC hoods = 1  
Vacuum pumps = 1

## Rethinking Energy



Make sure **lights get turned off** in the lab and support rooms



Identify **equipment to turn off** when it is not in use

Use **outlet timers** to make it easy





## Cold Storage Best Practices



- **-80°C freezers** can consume **as much energy as a house**
- **Chilling up -80s to -70°C** can save around 30% of the energy consumed
- Keep cold storage operating at **maximum efficiency**:
  - Maintain door seals
  - Defrost and remove ice
  - Clean filters and vacuum coils – this can save 10%

Top Image: <https://www.dpr.com/projects/biogen-building-8-floors-4-5-lab-renovation>

Bottom Image: <https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/life-science/lab-equipment/cold-storage.html>







## Water Wisdom

- Check faucets for **low-flow aerators** – they can reduce water usage at the tap by 50% - 70%
- Use **alternatives to single-pass cooling** like recirculated water or a condenser
- Run **autoclaves and dishwashers** when full as much as possible
- Use the **right quality water** for the task – it takes 3 liters of water to make 1 liter of DI water





## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Get to know your waste and **identify your largest waste streams**
  - know what you can recycle
  - Identify what you can reduce
- Work with suppliers to **explore product alternatives** that can help you minimize waste, reduce hazards and/or decrease energy and water usage
- Use a **shared supply of common reagents** and materials to prevent over-purchasing
- **Choose** more sustainable products – look for environmental labels like ACT or ENERGY STAR



# Solution: Get My Green Lab Certified



my green lab  
certification.

The process includes:

- Two online assessments – baseline and certification
- 14 topics
- 150 questions, 30 minutes to complete
- Focus is on lab behaviors
- 8-10 month certification journey

my green lab

Plug Load 10% Save Progress

Plug load accounts for around 22% of the energy used in a lab – that's 22% that is largely within your control. Answer the questions below to see what you can do to reduce energy from equipment that is plugged in.

We have had a group discussion about which pieces of equipment must be left on all the time and which may be turned off.

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know if we have done this or not

☐ This does not apply to the lab, we don't have equipment that can be turned off

The low-flow aerators are regularly checked for proper maintenance.

☐ Yes

☐ No, I am sure ours have never been checked

☒ I don't know if our aerators have been checked or not

We promptly report leaks from the fountains, autoclaves, ice machines, and other equipment.

☒ Yes, we always report leaks promptly

☐ Usually, but not always

☐ Sometimes we report them promptly, but not very often

☐ We never report leaks

☐ I don't know if we do this or not

☐ This does not apply to the lab, we don't have taps or fountains or equipment that uses water

Vacuum Filtration

Water-vacuum filtration is a method of creating a low to moderate vacuum usually for filtration or drying. It uses continual water flow to pull air from a flask creating the vacuum.

air leaving the flask... causes suction

water from tap/fountain

Image from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m2dPw>. Credit: Patrick Chemistry

We have replaced water-vacuum aspirators with membrane/diaphragm-style pumps, or we use the house vacuum.

☒ Yes, we do not use any water aspirators any more

☐ We have replaced most, but we still use some water aspirators

☐ We have replaced some, but we still use water aspirators most of the time

☐ We only use water aspirators

☐ I don't know if we have done this or not

☐ This does not apply to the lab, we have never used vacuum aspirators

[mygreenlab.org/green-lab-certification](https://mygreenlab.org/green-lab-certification)





# Certification Process



1

## Assess Baseline

- Survey lab members to understand current practices
- 3 weeks
- 50% participation
- Make recommendations for improvement

2

## Implement Changes

- Labs discuss solutions and implement behavior change practices
- 6 – 8 months on average

3

## Get Certification

- Re-assess lab practices
- 3 weeks
- 50% participation
- Certification level given
- Make recommendations for further improvements

4

## Make More Changes

- Labs adopt additional policies and best practices

5

## Do Re-Certification

- After 2 years, re-assess lab practices and provide new certification level
- Further recommendations made

# Recognizing Success

## Green

80% score on Certification Assessment



## Platinum

70% score on Certification Assessment



## Gold

60% score on Certification Assessment



## Silver

50% score on Certification Assessment



## Bronze

40% score on Certification Assessment



My Green Lab Certification Case Study  
published on our blog, The Beaker

# How We All Work Together



## My Green Lab & Impact Laboratories

- Administering the assessment
- Analyzing results and giving feedback
- Training lab leads on communicating results with labs



## "Green Team"

- Coordinate efforts across all labs
- Manage communications
- Organize and share resources
- Share/communicate results with labs

## Lab Lead



- Coordinate efforts for lab
- Deliver results to laboratory and facilitate discussion
- Create action plan for lab activities
- Coordinate with supporting functions

## Lab Members



- Fill out the assessment
- Make recommendations on changes to make
- Implement recommendations and take action
- Re-assess after implementation phase

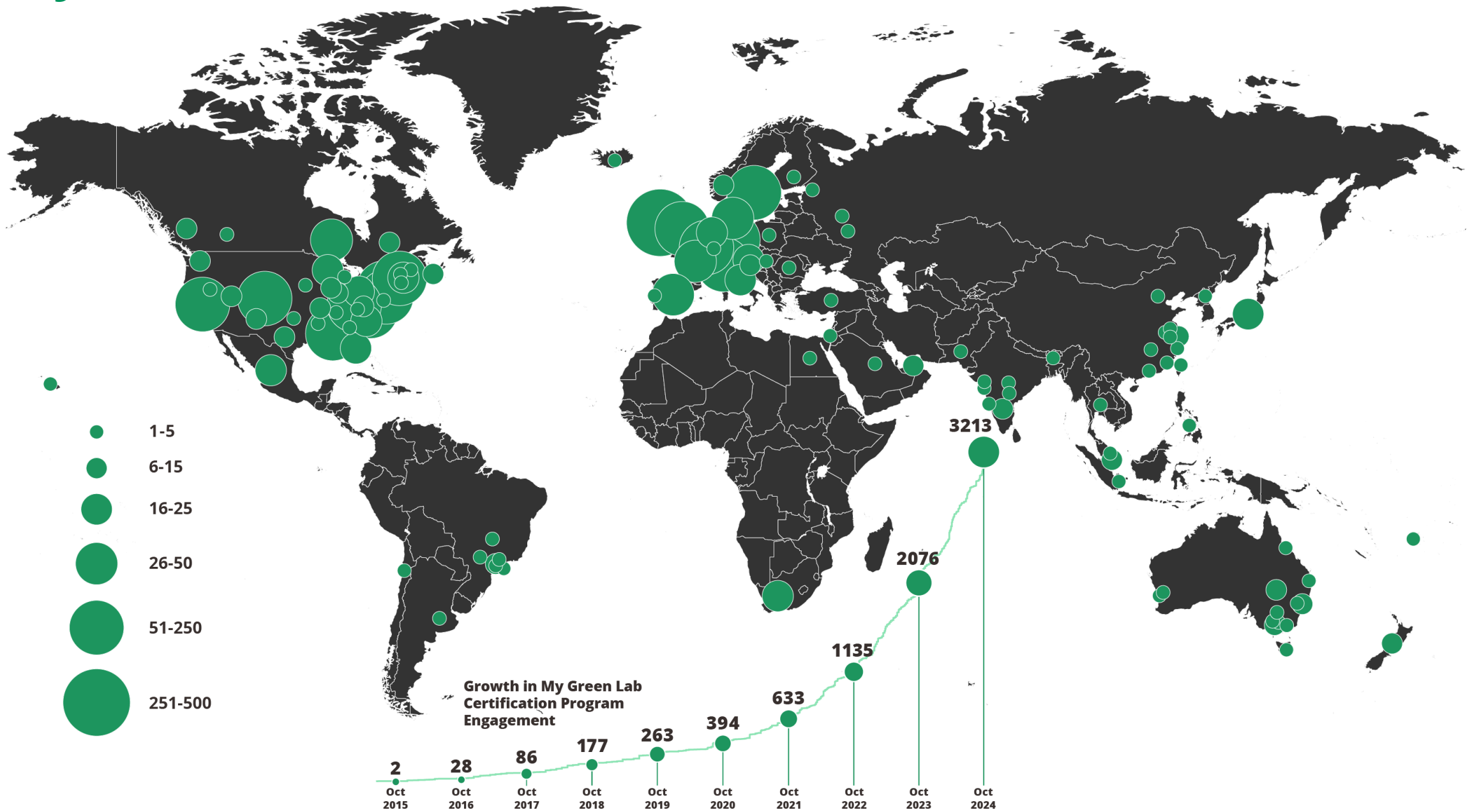
## Local Supporting Functions



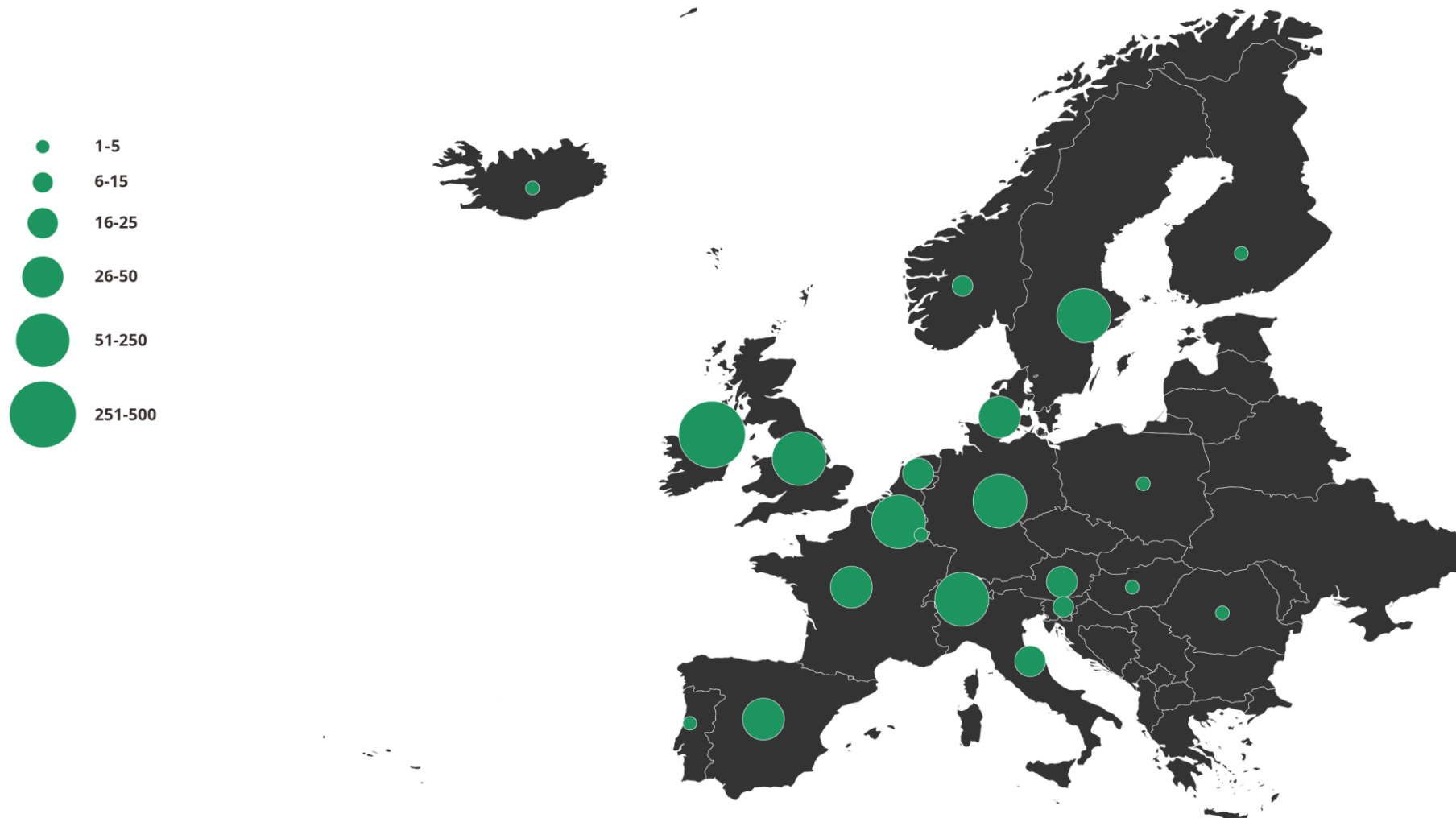
- (including EHS, Green Committee, Procurement, Facilities, IT)
- Identify and utilize local programs
  - Support local changes
  - Explore opportunities for innovation



# My Green Lab Certification



# European Leadership on Green Labs



**22 Countries**  
**1,450+ Labs**  
**36% of**  
**World Total**  
**& Growing**  
**Fast!**



## Customer Testimonial

*"So far, we've adopted My Green Lab Certification in over 65 labs around the world."*

*"This is a key way in which we are accelerating carbon reduction in healthcare R&D and instilling a culture of sustainability at AstraZeneca."*

**Penny James**

Chief Operating Officer  
Biopharmaceuticals R&D  
AstraZeneca

41 of the 50 Largest Biotech and Pharma have implemented My Green Lab Certification

Amgen

Astellas

**AstraZeneca**

Bayer

**Biogen**

BioNTech

Boehringer Ingelheim

**Bristol Myers Squibb**

**Genentech**

**Gilead**

**GSK**

Johnson and Johnson

LabCorp

Lonza

Merck & Co.

Moderna

**Novartis**

Novo Nordisk

Pfizer

**Regeneron**

Roche

**Sanofi**

**Takeda**

UCB Pharmaceuticals

Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Companies in bold have a global, top-down strategy in place for the My Green Lab Certification program.



## **My Green Lab certified laboratories in Spain**

Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia  
Integra Therapeutics  
Telum Therapeutics  
Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and  
Nanotechnology  
ALLOX  
Takeda Pharmaceutical

Organisations that have given us permission to share their involvement

# United Nations Selects My Green Lab Certification as Key Indicator of Progress for Pharma & Med Tech Sector



**2030**  
BREAKTHROUGHS

“95% of labs across major pharma and med-tech companies are My Green Lab certified at the green-level by 2030.”

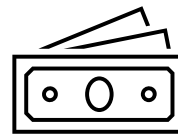
Breakthrough Outcomes report [here](#). Tracking progress found [here](#).





# My Green Lab Case Study: AstraZeneca

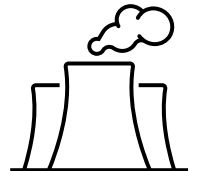
- In 2021, AstraZeneca invested \$60,000 in My Green Lab Certification for select R&D labs as part of its corporate sustainability strategy.
- AstraZeneca's end-of-year report revealed an energy savings of **1,270,185 kWh/year**, equivalent to **900 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions, and **\$317,548** in energy costs.
- AstraZeneca found a **4.3 X ROI** from energy savings using My Green Lab Certification.\*



Saved \$317,548 in  
annual energy costs



Reduced energy usage  
by 1,270,185 kWh/year



Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
by 900 tonnes/year



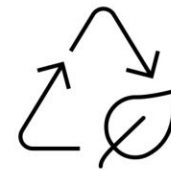
# My Green Lab Case Study

## University of Alabama – Birmingham

- UAB has the largest campus-wide My Green Lab program in the world, with 78 labs certified since 2017, and 79 certifications currently in progress in 2023.
- Through regular freezer maintenance encouraged by My Green Lab, UAB saves enough energy to power 75 US homes annually.
- UAB has found that EACH participating lab saves over 35,000 kWh annually\*, leading to an estimated \$4,382\*\* annual energy savings per campus lab.



Reduced energy use by  
35,000 kWh/year/lab



Recycled 20,000lbs of  
Pipette Tip Packaging



Reduced waste by  
75,000lbs (total)

**UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

\*As reported by University of Alabama

\*\*Cost savings estimated using EIA 2023 U.S Commercial Electricity Rate





# My Green Lab Case Study: Henkel

- Henkel Ireland has been awarded My Green Lab Certification at the highest 'Green' level. The Irish site is the first of Henkel's global labs to achieve this status.
- One of the actions that the labs implemented included installing a water circulator, which helped the team save 40,000 liters of water in one lab alone.
- Another action was to reduce the diameter on the ion chromatography instrument, which led to a 75% reduction in waste.



**40,000 liters of  
water saved**



**75% waste reduction**



**All 4 labs are My Green  
Lab Certified at the  
'Green' level**



# My Green Lab Case Study Colorado Dept. of Agriculture



- The department focused on fume hood and autoclave best practices, waste reduction, and energy management for 3 labs.
- The department's end-of-year report found energy savings of 187,000 kWh/year, 1.74 mio. litres of water/year, and a reduction of 181 kilos of waste in year one.
- **The Colorado Department of Agriculture achieved a 1,460% Annualized ROI\* on energy savings using My Green Lab Certification.**



Reduced energy use  
by 187,000 kWh/year



Reduced water use  
by 1.74 mio. litres / year



Reduced waste by  
by 181 kilos / year



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

\*Cost savings estimated using EIA 2023 U.S Commercial Electricity Rate; My Green Lab non-profit program cost



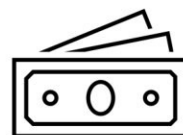


# My Green Lab Case Study Technical University Berlin

- The Department of Applied Biochemistry focused on equipment energy reduction best practices for a single lab located in Berlin, Germany.
- The lab's sustainability report found energy savings of 26,000 kWh/year, over 35% of the lab's original energy usage.
- **The Technical University Berlin achieved an estimated 30 X ROI on energy savings using My Green Lab Certification.\***



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERLIN



Saved €14,480 in  
annual energy costs



Reduced energy use  
by 26,000 kWh/year



Implemented  
equipment inventory  
program

\*As reported by Technical University Berlin to My Green Lab



## Benefits for Scientists



### Change in mindset

- Build a culture of sustainability
- Rethink how things have always done



### Collaboration

- Work with other functions
- Model best practice in your organization
- Inspire customers



### Resource savings

- Reduce energy, water, waste
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Save on costs



### Innovation

- Explore new processes, technologies, methods and ideas
- Healthier materials for colleagues





# ACT.

Accountability

Consistency



Transparency

## An eco-label for laboratory products

- Consumables
- Chemicals/reagents
- Equipment

Almost **1,900** products labelled!

- Online database is public and free
- Visit [www.act.mygreenlab.org](http://www.act.mygreenlab.org)

 <b>ACT.</b> <small>The Environmental Impact Factor Label</small> <span>US</span>	
<b>Product Name</b>	
Product Location	
SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale	
1	Decreasing Environmental Impact 10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
<b>Shipping Impact</b>	
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 50.1</b>	
Label Valid Through: January 2021	
 <a href="http://act.mygreenlab.org">act.mygreenlab.org</a>	

Simple color scale indicates environmental impact, with values on a scale of 1 to 10

Information about categories available online

Energy and water consumption data help drive sustainable lab practices

Total Impact Factor enables quick comparisons

Expiration date keeps data current and drives continuous improvement



# Act.MyGreenLab.Org



Consumables



Chemicals & Reagents



Equipment



# Maturing Market

## *US EPA*

Environmentally preferred purchasing program will require green cert to have a separate CAB



If approved: federal agencies to include in purchasing to 'maximum extent possible'

## *Market Expectations*

Growth of MGL and more mature industry increasingly concerned w/ Greenwashing



MGL needs to implement credible 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification aligned with International Best Practice

## *EU Green Claims*

Requires separate certification body and accreditation by 2026



If approved: strong regulatory push in the EU for adoption; unverified ecolabels & claims will be banned



## Goals

- Increase Rigor and Comparability
- Improve Data Collection and Reporting
- Better Align with Organizational Goals and Zero Carbon
- Approval by US EPA and EU Green Claims

## Timeline

- Technical Advisor Selected 2022
- Draft Standard Completed Q4 2023
- Pilot Complete Q2 2024
- AZ Launch October 2024
- **Full Commercial Launch Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**



## Goals

- Increase Scalability
- Support Carbon Reporting
- Align scoring with Key Impact Areas per Product Category
- Approval by US EPA and EU Green Claims

## Timeline

- Call for Technical Advisors Q1 2023
- Draft Standard Complete Q3 2024
- Pilot Kicked off in September 2024
- First Pilot Labels October 2024
- **Full Commercial Launch Planned May 2025**







Impact  
laboratories.



## Best Practice

---

We are adopting international best-practice to ensure the integrity and rigor of our certification as it grows.

## Community Support

---

This enables us to better support our community and will help the entire scientific community by accelerating the journey to lab sustainability at a global scale.

## Relationship to My Green Lab

---

As a subsidiary of the existing organization, our new certification body will provide 3rd party verification while retaining the quality, integrity and customer focus of our current programs.

## The Vision

---

All parts of our organization remain 100% committed to our Vision. This new evolution enables us to provide independent verification and enhanced resources to support our vital programs and build an ever more successful community-driven movement.

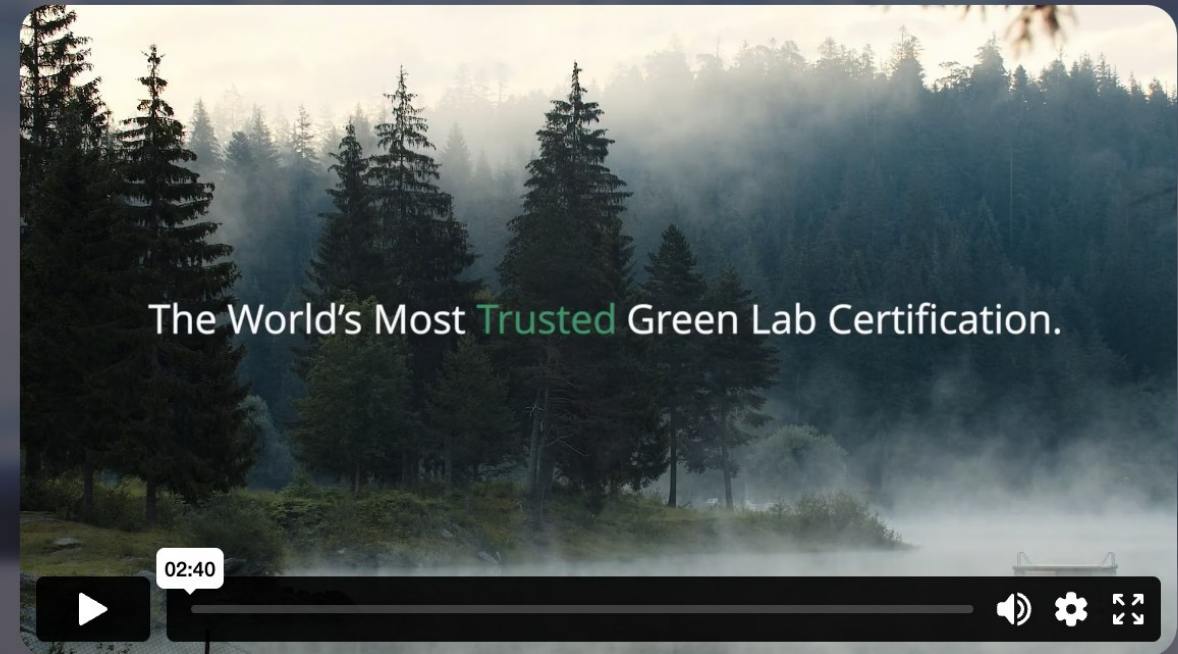




# My Green Lab Certification 2.0: Raising the Bar

Introducing My Green Lab Certification 2.0 – the world’s most trusted certification for sustainable laboratories. This updated certification enhances rigor, impact, scalability, and accessibility, empowering labs worldwide to make measurable, lasting improvements in sustainability.

START A GREEN LAB PROJECT



See What's Possible with 2.0

# ACT.

## Avandorf Scientific PowerLC 200 Series with Turbo Encabulator and 70S Pump

SKU: 9A8B7C6

HPLC

Ursa, China



Environmental  
Performance Factor

48

Certified May 2025

Extended Audit  
Information



 my green lab.  
act.mygreenlab.org

### Environmental Performance

#### Product

Recycled / Renewable Content	30%	■
Chemicals of Concern	No-Attested	■
Energy Consumed	5kWh	☑
Water Consumed	N/A	☑
Supported Lifetime	7 years	■
Recyclable Materials*	40%	■
Circularity Support	Secondary Diversion Program	■

#### Packaging

Recycled / Renewable Content	60%	■
Shipping	Ambient	■
Recyclable Materials*	80%	■

#### Manufacturing Facility

Best Practices	3/10	■
Renewable Electricity	75%	■
Renewable Energy	40%	■

#### Carbon Reporting

Scope 1/2/3 Tracking	Yes/Yes/Yes	■
Carbon Commitments	Near Term Not Net Zero	■
Carbon Framework	PCF-ISO 14067	■
Verification	Third-party	■
Product CO <sub>2</sub> e*	1445 kg	☑

#### Improvement

Increased Renewable Energy	
Increased Recycled Content-packaging	
Scope 3 Tracking	

ACT VERSION 2.0

## ACT 2.0 PILOT

- Communicate sustainability attributes clearly and directly
- Continue to drive transparency and continuous improvement
- Weight categories to reflect true environmental impact
- Facilitate portfolio-wide product certifications for manufacturers
- Standardize reporting of product sustainability attributes and carbon reporting
- US EPA & EU Green Claims Alignment
- **Program Commercial Launch May 8<sup>th</sup>!**





# New Market Drivers



## Science Funders

MGLC Endorse by  
Wellcome Trust, CRUK &  
Science Foundation  
Ireland



Researchers are  
incentivized to adopt lab  
certification

## Pharma Supply Chain

8 of the largest pharma  
companies have united to  
endorse green labs



**Thousands of pharma  
suppliers pushed to  
adopt MGL Certification**

## EU Regulations

CSRD and Green Claims  
Directive applies to any  
company with significant  
European operations



The world's science  
industry must meet EU  
regulations setting a new  
global standard



# Strategic Plan

2025-2027

# Raising the Bar: A Call to Action

---

Expand My Green Lab Certification pilot projects into organization-wide initiatives that achieve policy and cultural change.

Create value generating full-time roles for 'green lab' staff and provide them the resources needed to succeed.

Expand grantmaking policy incentives on lab sustainability from a few funders and government agencies to the global standard for the world's funders of scientific research.

Continuously improve data on green lab actions and solutions to turn rough estimates into auditable & accurate measurements

Completely replace first party claims with third-party certifications and standards.

Move the industry towards a reality where certified Green Labs are the norm, not the exception.



# International Laboratory Freezer Challenge

## Energy Saved Through Participation (in kWh)



Equivalent to

**37.5 million miles**

driven by an average  
gasoline-powered vehicle



Equivalent to

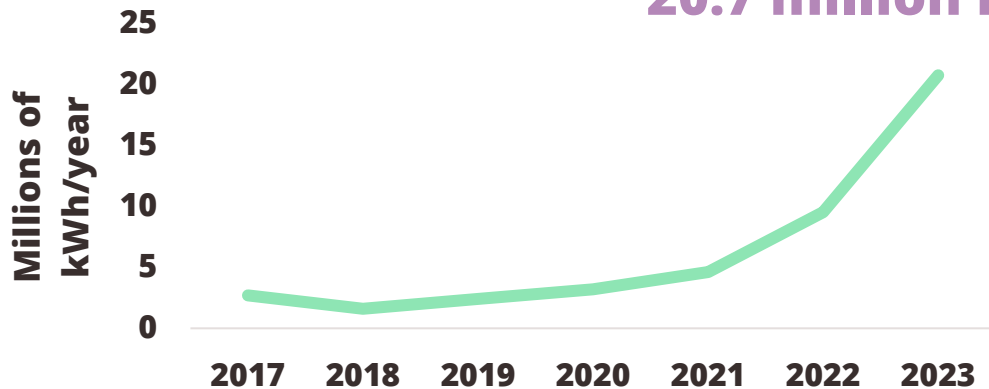
**14,663 Metric Tons**

of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided

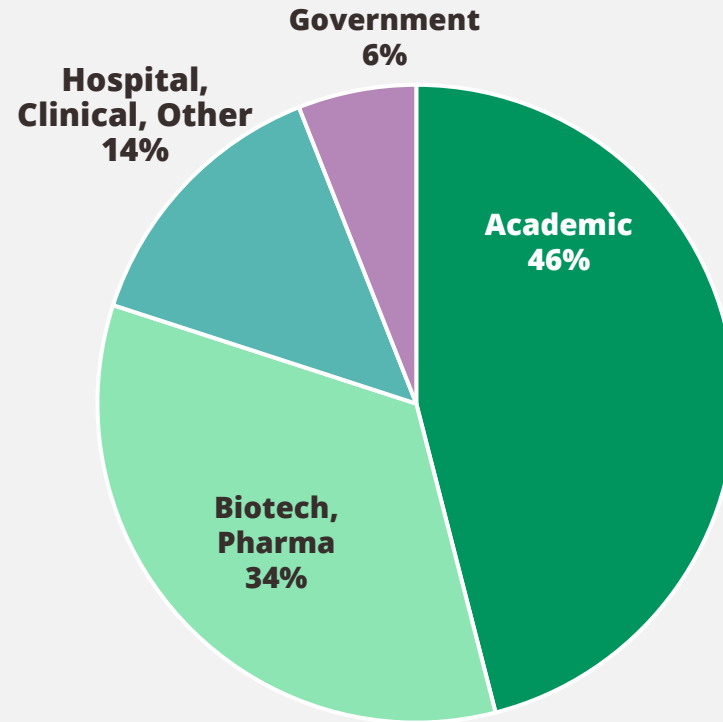


**20.7 million kWh**

Since 2017, the total amount of energy saved is  
**44.7 million kWh**



## Engagement By Sector



Participating  
Labs

**1991**



Countries  
Engaged

**27**



Participating  
Organizations

**170**



Participating  
Cold Storage Units

**26,000+**





## Designed for scientists and laboratory professionals to drive sustainable lab practices

- Free, online learning program
- Quick introduction to lab sustainability
- Provides ideas for how sustainable actions can be implemented and communicated with lab members

### What does the Ambassador Program Cover?

Four Smart Science training videos:



Energy



Waste



Water



Green Chemistry

### 5000+ Ambassadors

(as of August 2023)

- 52+ countries
- Growing Fast!





# My Green Lab Accredited Professional Program

Become a  
Green Lab Expert!

[www.mygreenlab.education](http://www.mygreenlab.education)



The first credential of its kind developed to offer scientists an opportunity to grow their knowledge and demonstrate their expertise in lab sustainability.



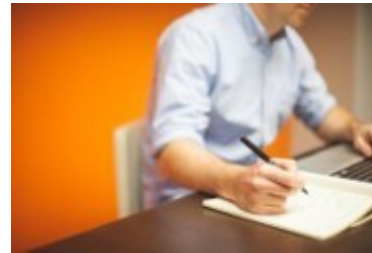
**Waste**



**Energy**



**Water**



**Procurement**



**Green  
Chemistry**



**Engagement**

\*Discounted Pricing for Students/Univ/Nonprofits/Gov





# my green lab summit 2024

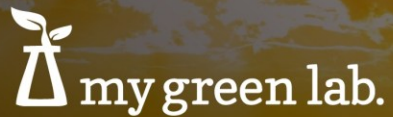
Sept 18-19 | 8 AM-11 AM PDT / 4 PM-7 PM UK

Raising  
the Bar

[mygreenlab.org/summit](https://mygreenlab.org/summit)







*in collaboration with*



**LIVING FUTURE**  
EUROPE

**My Green Lab Europe Summit 2025**

# Scalable Solutions for Wider Impact

**Thu, March 27, 2025**

**3–6 PM CET (2–5 PM UK, 10 AM–1 PM EDT)**

*Free to attend upon registration*





million advocates for  
sustainable science

**My Green Lab and the International  
Institute for Sustainable Laboratories  
issue a challenge to science funders  
around the world to encourage  
sustainability in research.**



We invite scientists and  
sustainability advocates  
around the world to join the  
Million Advocates for  
Sustainable Science.

[sustainablescienceadvocates.org](https://sustainablescienceadvocates.org)



# Next Steps to Get Started

## Decide on the number of labs

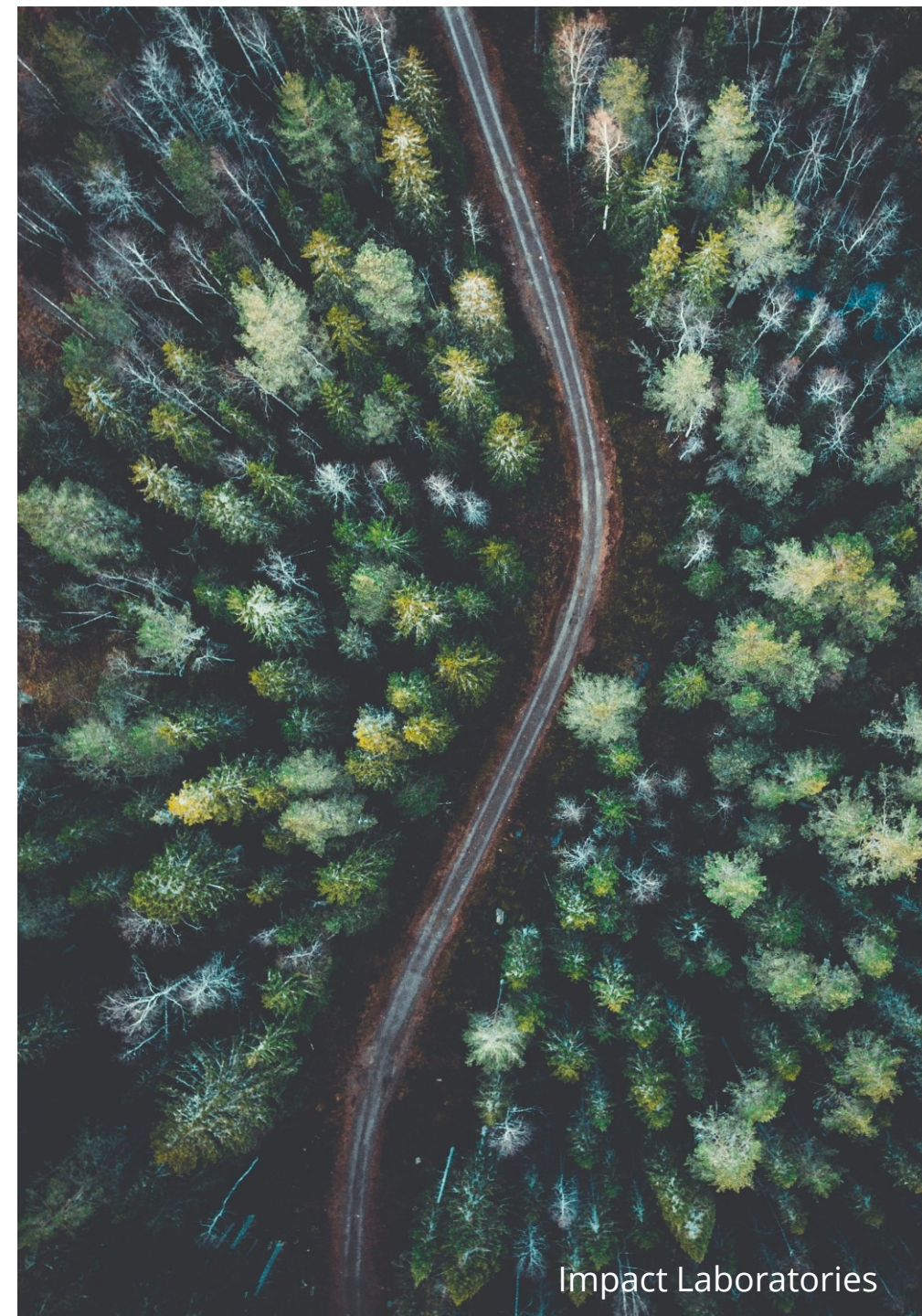
- We define a lab as a group of people who meet regularly, work on similar science, and share resources and equipment
- Typically, a lab consists of 3-30 people
- One lab cannot span beyond a single building

## Get in touch

- The cost begins at \$4,000 per lab and decreases as more labs are included in the proposal

## Begin Your Certification Journey

- We will provide resources to get the labs ready to begin on their desired start date







# Join the Movement

- Join the Million Advocates Campaign
- Become a Green Lab Ambassador
- Compete in the Freezer Challenge
- Start a My Green Lab Certification
- Support the ACT Label in Procurement



# We are grateful to all our sponsors!

## Transformative



## Breakthrough



## Discovery



## Experimental



## Investigation



## Community

- One Nucleus
- The Lab Project
- Quigley Compliance Associates





“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

**Thank you!**

Carlo Battisti, My Green Lab  
[carlo@mygreenlab.org](mailto:carlo@mygreenlab.org)

