

Green Labs Committee  
(Committee Meeting Minutes: 04/14/2014)  
(5175 COMRB)

Committee Members:

*Present:*

Bareither, Justin	French, Rachel	Sanzenbacher, Lisa	Warr, Barejie
Chabra, Samir	Grismanauskas, Julie	Seida, Lowell	Waszczak, Nik
Dodge, Carol	Holman, Karlyn	Vhong, Hanh	Zhang, Yongkang
Dudkowska, Anna	Sandoval, Raudel	Wang, Y.H.	Zhao, Haifeng

*Others Present:*

Ruginis, Tom – HappiLabs.org

Sandoval, Raudel PhD – HappiLabs.org

**Proceedings:**

- *Meeting called to order* at 12:05 p.m. by Lisa Sanzenbacher
- Overview of UIC Office of Sustainability website by Lisa Sanzenbacher:
  - Reminder to check UIC's Office of Sustainability for information regarding Green Labs meeting information.
  - Office of Sustainability lists free labware, mostly glassware, available for reuse.
  - Nitrile glove recycling program has been deployed in COMRB and MBRB. Gloves must be Kimberly-Clark brand and non-hazardous, gloves can be collected in cardboard boxes. Contact building managers for dropping off full boxes.
- *Tips to save money and reduce your lab's carbon footprint* by Tom Ruginis:
  - Tom focused on lab consumables, mostly plastics.
  - Manufacturer/distributor certificates of quality are not always informational. Most manufacturer/distributor certificates of quality fail to list the use of biocides and slip agents used during production. Eppendorf was shown to be one distributor that produces informational certificates of quality regarding its products.
  - For sensitive applications Happilabs.org recommends purchasing consumables that are not chemically laced.
  - Some research groups have demonstrated that biocides and slip agents used during plastic manufacture leach into reagents and may inhibit downstream applications. Tom posted the example of "Bioactive contaminants leach from disposable laboratory plasticware" by McDonald *et al* 2008.
  - Blue and yellow pipette tips have been shown to contain dyes that leach into certain solvent solutions.
  - Less potentially inhibitory chemicals in consumables means less failed experiments translating into reduced generation of lab waste.
  - Happilabs.org serves labs by performing audits and offering consultant services for supply purchasing. Their focus is on saving money, reducing the carbon footprint while providing labs with quality supplies.
  - Happilabs.org hosts a free product forum where users are encouraged to register so as to be able to comment or review popular lab supplies.
  - Other ways to reduce costs and carbon footprint were by buying used lab equipment, buying supplies in bulk, and purchasing from local suppliers.
  - Used lab equipment can be purchased from certified sellers such as International Equipment Trading Ltd and BioSurplus.com

-If space allows Happilabs encourages purchasing supplies in bulk as many distributors offer deeper discounts while reducing the amount of packaging waste.  
-Lisa added that this should not apply to chemicals as the University spends many resources disposing of unused hazardous chemicals.

- Next meeting date, time and location: TBA

-Members are encouraged to submit ideas for the next topic to Lisa Sanzenbacher.

*Meeting adjourned at 1:05p.m.*

Submitted by Secretary Nicholas Waszczak