

iWG Assessment

SWATeam Recommendation Ref #: ECons004

Date of iWG Assessment Started: 12/06/2016

Original SWATeam Recommendation: The ECBS SWATeam recommends funding a full-time Green Labs Coordinator position. The coordinator would implement, with the help of students, a Green Labs Program. Major components of the program would include energy conservation through analysis of fume hood usage (needs and possible consolidation), a Shut the Sash fume hood initiative, freezer and refrigerator management, space efficiency and utilization, water conservation, recycling(e.g., batteries, Styrofoam) and collaboration and education of effective energy efficiency and sustainable methods for management of lab chemicals and hazardous waste disposal.

iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):

moderate budget and/or policy impact OR major budget and/or policy implications

iWG Routing Need (*check one*):

more detailed study OR transmit recommendation OR forward to Sustainability Council

iWG Routing Direction (*department name, SWATeam, or Council*): Provost and Vice Chancellor for Research

iWG Recommendation: The iCAP Working Group strongly supports the creation of a formal and campus-wide Green Labs program, led by a full-time coordinator and assisted by a team of student interns and a faculty advisory committee. Many of our peer institutions have successfully implemented such programs. Such a program is almost certain to lead to significant cost savings: for example, if the program led to the decommissioning of just 1% of our campus's 1700 fume hoods, the recurring energy savings would pay for a full-time position. However, we anticipate that a much larger fraction (perhaps 10-20%) of hoods could be decommissioned, and there would be additional cost savings from behavior changes, freezer and refrigerator management, and other improvements. The fiscal benefit to the campus as a whole, in addition to the sustainability benefit, is clear. However, given current uncertainties about budgets and even budget models, it is not obvious which unit(s) stand to realize the cost savings over the long term. We therefore suggest that this position be supported centrally, by the Office of the Provost, as a cross-cutting cost-saving strategy. In terms of organizational placement, we suggest that the OVCR is the natural home for this program, because this office already oversees many programs related to the responsible conduct of research, including safety, compliance, and animal care. As suggested by the SWATeam, this program could also receive communications/marketing support from iSEE staff.

Individual comments are required from each iWG member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

iWG Member Name	iWG Member's Comments
Ximing Cai (iSEE)	Given that green labs are an important part of campus sustainability, I support further discussion of the program. Since labs are critical facilities of education and research, I suggest that we discuss the program in a broader context to consider not only energy saving but also opportunities for education and research by making our labs greener
Morgan Johnston (F&S)	F&S supports further discussion to develop a Green Labs program on campus, working in collaboration with existing safety and energy staff, both at DRS and F&S. The safety benefits of fume hoods should continue to be prioritized over energy reductions associated with closure of hoods, but there are certainly opportunities for fume hood consolidation or replacement with more efficient models. Additionally, this position would presumably work on promoting several sustainability aspects of research labs, in addition to fume hood efficiency.

Robyn Deterding (Student Affairs)	Oh behalf of Student Affairs, we support this proposal given the information provided from peers. This would be a strong initiative in reaching our campus sustainability goals, show good faith effort in cutting costs and provide support for those who manage labs
Matthew Tomaszewski (Provost's Office)	This is an important discussion to have.
Gary Kling (Academic Senate)	Our campus has long needed a Green Labs program. A Green Labs program would benefit the environment, help move the U. of I. closer to its sustainability goals and save money on a recurring basis with minimal downside effects.
Joseph Edwards (Student Sustainability Leadership Council)	I believe a program such as this is a much needed step toward improving the sustainability of our research programs on campus. Many of our peers have green labs programs and so it is surprising our University does not have one as well. Aside from saving money, this program will also increase the strength of our sustainability by helping us practice what we preach in one of our strongest fields: research.
Sean Reeder (OBFS)	I support a campus-wide Green Labs program, it is unclear to me if this is led by a full-time coordinator, or if an existing role could take the lead on this initiative
Rob Fritz (college-level facility manager)	I support the campus-wide Green Labs program. I believe if information was made available, campus units could assist with some of these initiatives with the purchase and use of more efficient hoods, Ultra-Low freezers, and other equipment. I'm not sure if this requires a full time position or if this will be absorbed into existing position (s).

Attach any comments from subject matter experts (with names and roles).