



Green Labs Meeting Minutes—August 28, 2015

In attendance: Amy Preble, Kristin Blank-White, Nita Eskew, Olivia Jones, Chris MacNevin, Maggie Wiener

Meeting Time and Place: The fourth floor conference room in Murray (Room 4202) is fixed! This, plus the fact that Amy didn't receive any feedback about other meeting time preferences, led the committee members in attendance to decide to continue to meet on the fourth Friday of each month from 2:00-3:00 in 4202 Murray, at least for the time being.

Best Practices Guide: Amy sent a press release to the Gazette about the Best Practices Guide. Copies were distributed at the Graduate and Professional Student Resource Fair on 8/13. Cathy Brennan is mentioning it in her safety trainings. Kristin Blank-White offered to post about it in the Sustainability newsletter, and also to create a web form to make it more convenient for people to request hard copies. Please continue to spread the word that hard copies are available via email request at greenlabs@unc.edu, and a PDF of the guide may be downloaded [here](#).

Styrofoam recycling: We recycled 520 lbs. this year—same exact amount as last year! Our recycling contractors (Shimar) said that the material was much cleaner this year.

Brown solvent bottle recycling: An outdoor site has been added to Marsico to facilitate recycling these bottles. Amy sent an email to Nita Eskew and Chris Allen about getting the word out about this. Nita suggested also notifying Randy Simmons and David Lawrence, which Amy has done. Amy also mentioned that Energy Management has Shut the Sash magnets, in case any of the VAV fume hoods need them.

Stirling freezer: No update.

Shut the Sash competition: Harvard is having an intra-university Shut the Sash competition. See [here](#) for more info. Daniel Parker and Scott Parker were not in attendance, but Kristin reported that Jessica O'Hara is amenable to doing a similar competition in the spring, probably from mid-January to mid-March. Details TBD.

Pyrex recycling: Amy emailed Bill Clark from Reflective Recycling and explained UNC's Surplus rules regarding non-broken Pyrex, as well as our difficulties broken Pyrex and glass waste. Bill agreed, and also said that he would check out The Scrap Exchange. Chris MacNevin suggested that this bears further scrutiny, because not all research labs dispose of their broken glass waste so haphazardly, and that some goof material for Reflective Recycling may be able to be recovered.

Glove recycling: Nita reported that Chemistry is almost ready to ship a pallet of gloves to Kimberly-Clark. K-C still refuses to pay for shipment, but they have agreed to send Nita products of an equivalent value in exchange. They are also coming out with a new (green-colored) version of their nitrile glove, which is supposed to use less material.

Glass waste: Amy looked into how other universities handle their glass waste, and found [this](#) information on the UC Davis EHS page.

Water aspirators: New committee member Olivia Jones mentioned how much water goes to waste in the chemistry labs she uses. Follow up at future meetings on how many water aspirators there are, and how feasible it might be to replace some with vacuum pumps.

Next meeting will be on Friday, September 25th from 2:00-3:00 PM in 4202 Murray.