



Green Labs Meeting Minutes—February 20th, 2015

In Attendance: Amy Preble, Maggie Wiener, Nita Eskew, Sarah Lowder, Chris MacNevin, David Choi

1. **Introduction of Maggie Wiener-** The new Green Labs intern, Maggie Wiener, was introduced. She will be working on the UNC Freezer Challenge and recruiting Eco Champions.
2. **Stirling freezer purchase-** Chris Martin, before he left Energy Management, was able to obtain \$15,000 in discretionary funds for the purchase of a Stirling freezer to use as a test/replacement freezer by the HVAC Refrigeration Shop. This will give HVAC the opportunity to use the Stirling in a variety of settings, and gather as much data on it as possible, both how it performs, and how customers like it. This accumulated data will help justify the additional expense of a Stirling freezer, if the University were to advocate for purchasing them in the future. Other labs seem interested in Stirling freezer purchase, but have to clarify that this is to help and raise awareness on keeping labs green, not simply a competition to win a Stirling freezer. While a new Stirling fridge may be more expensive than other fridges, over the course of 5-7 years, savings are significant.
Chris MacNevin asked how frequently loaner freezers are used—is there a way to get the word out better to labs about loaner freezers so that labs will take advantage of them for defrostings? Amy/Maggie have content in their PowerPoint, but discussion was held about better ways to get the word out. (Possible website housed on HVAC site? Who would maintain?)
3. **Freezer challenge/eco champions update-**It was discussed that attention should be redirected more generally towards recruiting eco champions and general practices to make UNC labs greener. While there will still be focus on the Freezer Challenge, attention will be broadened to include general information on green labs so labs without freezer will also be included. Sarah Lowder is going to come to OWRR to meet with Maggie and give her any info that might be helpful from her time as intern.
4. **Nitrile Glove Recycling-** We discussed how Kimberly Clark is still not providing us shipping costs but in the meantime Nita will continue to collect Nitrile gloves. New Kimberly-Clark rep hasn't returned Nita's emails. Nita would like Green Labs committee to explore whether Purchasing has contacts with Kimberly Clark who can help facilitate K-C paying for shipping costs.
5. **Best practices guide update-** The Best Practices Guide has been through several edits and is still being edited for final touches and grammatical errors. The goal is to send the final draft to UNC Creative for printing by next week.
6. **Posters/other Outreach-** Other ways to reach out to people was talked about. RESPC has leftover money from funding and we discussed potential uses for it. Possibly making magnets for fridges or stickers on fume hoods in labs are options for raising awareness. Also web design for HVAC, as mentioned above.
7. **New Business-**
 - a. Getting the word out about a change in policy about recycling brown reagent bottles—they are now recyclable at outdoor sites on campus. This should be a priority for both OWRR and EHS, since it is new, and almost no one knows about it yet.

- b. Nita Eskew is talking with vendors and EHS about buying a distiller for recycling solvents. She will keep the committee updated on any developments.

8. Old Business

- a. **Styrofoam recycling-** Talked about Styrofoam recycling and difficulties associated with it. It is bulky and light and hard to keep for a long period of time, therefore people feel less inclined to hold on it and eventually recycle it. During move in week, students are encouraged to recycle their Styrofoam. Group still brainstorming logistical issues around this.
- b. **5 gallon drums-**EHS is adding one more cart at Marsico Hall