



Green Labs Meeting Minutes—July 24, 2015

In attendance: Amy Preble, Kristen Blank-White, Cathy Brennan, Christina Lebonville, Daniel Parker, Scott Parker

Best Practices Guide- The Green Labs Best Practices Guide is printed and looks wonderful! Many thanks to everyone who helped make it a reality. The committee brainstormed briefly the best ways to get the word out about the guide. Cathy Brennan offered to mention it in her monthly meeting minutes, which go out to PIs and lab safety supervisors. Once the guide is up on the OWRR website (should be by the end of this week), Amy will send out a link to the Green Labs listserv, and to Cathy, who will send it out to her list. The committee also discussed sending a press release to the Gazette about it.

Cathy also mentioned the tabling at the Graduate Student Resource Fair on August 13th, which would be a great opportunity to distribute hard copies of the Best Practices Guide, but also an opportunity for Green Labs, the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling, and the Sustainability Office to table and reach out to graduate students in general. Kristin Blank-White reached out on behalf of Sustainability and OWRR, but unfortunately, it was already full for this year.

Styrofoam recycling—trailer staged at Odum Village basketball court August 10-17 - Information available [here](#) on the OWRR website. The committee members present at the meeting took flyers to distribute in buildings on campus. This year, the Styrofoam recycling drive is being promoted campus-wide, rather than just in labs. A campus-wide informational email was sent out last week. Christina Lebonville offered to help others get their Styrofoam to the trailer. If you need assistance with that, please contact her at: littencm@email.unc.edu

Brown solvent bottle recycling- The committee discussed the best way to get the word out to labs that a) these bottles are recyclable, and b) it's best to put them in the outdoor carts on the loading dock, rather than the indoor bins. Cathy Brennan said that most of these bottles come out of Gen Med, Marsico, and Chemistry, so that Nita Eskew and Chris Allen would be the best contacts for spreading the word. Also, Marsico doesn't currently have an outdoor site (though MBRB/Taylor does, which is nearby), so OWRR may want to look into adding one.

Stirling freezer- Britt Carter is testing the Stirling ultralow alongside a Thermo freezer this week. He should have a writeup about the results soon.

Shut the Sash competition – Harvard is having an intra-university Shut the Sash competition. See [here](#) for more info. Daniel Parker and Scott Parker said that they would investigate and see what would be possible at UNC in terms of data gathering for a competition.

Other?

Pyrex recycling- Bill Clark from Reflective Recycling contacted Amy after being referred to her from DENR. He is interested in clean Pyrex, a material which has previously been considered non-recyclable. In the committee, it was determined that UNC was probably not a good source for Reflective Recycling, because all non-broken lab Pyrex that is unwanted is considered State property, and must be sent to Surplus. If it is broken, it is very often difficult to clean safely to the standards that Reflective Recycling, or any other recycler, would want. Cathy suggested that the Scrap Exchange might be a good source for clean Pyrex.

This spurred a discussion about the way that UNC labs handle their mixed glass waste, which is often overflowing, dangerous, and contaminated with hazardous waste. Amy and Kristin are going to look into how other universities handle their glass waste and report back.

Shut the Sash magnets – Daniel Parker and Scott Parker reported that they have 200 Shut the Sash magnets available.

Next meeting will be on Friday, August 28th from 2:00-3:00 PM on 4th floor of Murray. We will decide at that meeting if it is a good meeting time and place for the upcoming semester.