



Green Labs Meeting Minutes—March 27th, 2015

In Attendance: Cathy Brennan, Maggie Wiener, Nita Eskew, Christina Lebonville, Sarah Lowder

1. **Update on Stirling freezer purchase**—The Stirling freezer, which will be used as a replacement and test for the HVAC refrigeration shop, was purchased for around \$15,000. The freezer has been ordered, but has not yet arrived. Sarah, who had talked to Britt Carter (a refrigeration technician), said that the order went through. While Stirling freezers are initially more expensive than other fridges, purchasing them is encouraged since savings are significant over the course of 5-7 years.
2. **Update on Freezer Challenge/Eco Champions**—An email has been sent to department heads asking when would be a good time to potentially meet up and present the eco champions and freezer challenge presentations. The link to the eco champions presentation was included in the email as well. The manager of the Clinical Trials Unit Lab emailed back as well as the Director of the UNC Cytokine and Biomarker Analysis Facility. He was interested in meeting up and presenting his UNC Sponsored invention called CrUNCCH tubes. Times have yet to be established as to when to present to these department heads.
3. **Update on Nitrile glove recycling (Nita)**—Nita Eskew has said that they have collected around 9 full boxes of Nitrile gloves and that they are ready to be shipped, but getting a hold of a purchasing contact has been difficult. Kimberly Clark has not provided shipping costs, and so it may be easier to go straight to TerraCycle for funding. It costs around \$300 to ship a palette to TerraCycle. We have tried calling TerraCycle, but we have yet to hear back from them. It was also mentioned at the meeting to potentially start recycling lab coats through Kimberly Clark as well.
4. **Posters/other outreach?**—Ways to spread the word on recycling brown reagent bottles? Flyers began to be worked on, but they should also somehow include the addition of loading docks/compactors. Stickers and/or magnets could also be made.
5. **New Business**—
 - a. Brown reagent bottles can now be recycled to outdoor sites on campus. How to get the word out about recycling brown reagent bottles? Possibly making flyers, or stickers to put on bins, or featuring it in the monthly newsletter “Trash Talk.”
 - b. Nita is still collecting data on solvent recycling and dealing with the distillation process. Costs have not yet been thoroughly looked at though.
6. **Old Business**—
 - a. **Styrofoam recycling**—Christina Lebonville is collecting Styrofoam and is waiting for the truck to collect it. It is difficult to find room to store Styrofoam, however. It was mentioned that Styrofoam could possibly be stored in Ram’s Head basement, where there is plenty of room, but we must contact RHA first. Main problem with recycling Styrofoam is the lack of room for it to be stored around campus since it builds up so quickly.

- b. **5-gallon drums**—EHS tracks weight of drums, which are crushed and the university gets money from it.
- c. **Becoming an officially recognized committee**—Mentioned if we need a sponsor or if we could possibly be a committee under sustainability?
- d. **Other**—
 - Organizing and having battery recycling bins
 - Participation in Earth Day?
 - Katherine Tech, a graduate student from UNC-CH, is interested in partnering with Green Labs to start a campus initiative on reusing cold ice packs. She has already contacted Meals on Wheels (which would use the ice packs to deliver food) and says that they are interested in the initiative. She hopes to set up a network, garner participation, and possibly put bins in buildings.