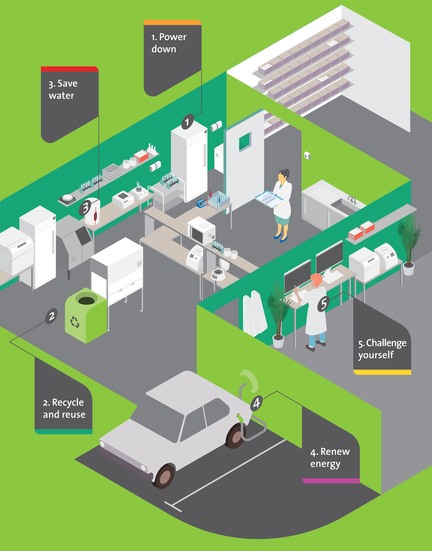
Become the green lab of tomorrow

Sustainability is about you, your team, and your lab suppliers working together to reduce the carbon footprint of every aspect of your lab's operation. **Here are 5 ways you can create the green lab of tomorrow.** Some you will already be doing. Can you tick all 5?



1 Power down

Change today
Switch off lights and equipment. Rationalise fridges and freezers so open doors and digging around are kept to a minimum, while freeing up space.

Change tomorrow
Install smart plugs to enable experiments, devices and lighting to be powered down (or up) from anywhere, at any time.

The future
Sensors will automate power saving and manage your lab space remotely so you can get back to uninterrupted discovery.

FACT
Turning 10 lights off in the lab, every night for a year you would save the co, equivalent of a **car trip from London to Moscow.**[1]

FACT
Some fume hoods cost a staggering **$4,500 in energy costs per year.** Closing them at the end of each day could save 10% of this.[2]

2 Recycle and re-use

Change today
Have a policy, train it and lead by example. Make best practice fun. Reward it. Provide well-positioned, labelled bins.

Change tomorrow
Save on plastic by switching to a water system and using glassware where possible, compared with using bottled water and disposable plastics.

The future
Investigate emerging methods of recycling on site or as part of a micro-grid. E.g. ctecenergy.co.uk

3 Save water

Change today
ELGA Labwater products are SMART and ensure efficiency, quality and just in time supply of replacement consumables.

Change tomorrow
Check out environmental management leaders such as Veolia Water Technologies for help implementing energy-positive water treatment strategies.

The future
All labs, and suppliers, reduce their carbon impact, following ELGA's lead in providing carbon values and lifetime cost analyses for all orders, products and operations.

4 Renew your energy

Change today
Connect to a sustainable-only energy supplier. Switch if not offered. Consolidate consumables orders to reduce carbon footprint.

Change tomorrow
Integrate charging points for vehicles. You'll encourage colleagues to buy electric and the vehicles themselves can be used to feed your emerging micro-grid.

The future
Join or create a micro-grid with complementary buildings. Supply energy to it with your own sources of energy generation as they emerge.

FACT
Leaving lab equipment on uses water as well as electricity. A continuous 1.5 gpm trickle flow through a small cooling unit uses **up to 788,400 gallons in a year.**[3]

FACT
Life sciences labs are responsible each year for 1.8% of the total global plastic waste. **This weighs the same as 67 cruise ships.**[4]

5 Challenge yourself

Change today
Set and share sustainability aims up the supply chain. Insist on recyclable packaging, and switch to environmentally friendly reagents, using resources like MIT's Green Alternatives Wizard database.

Change tomorrow
Evolve your lab office environment to meet sustainable aims. Standing desks and air-cleaning plant pots are two quick wins for a healthy office. Flexible hours and remote working practices support space efficiency, and wellbeing.

The future
Aim for industry standard sustainability with a programme such as WELL Building to prove that your lab, your people and your environment are sustainable.

Find out more...

ELGA already has sustainability at its core. Read here about other ways you can help your lab become the best version of itself: elgalabwater.com/guides-and-white-papers

"We have a responsibility as a leader in the water purification industry to innovate using environmentally sustainable technologies and product designs and to ensure our operations have the minimum climate impact."

NORA IKENE, MANAGING DIRECTOR ELGA

References:
1. https://www.carbonfootprintengg.com/blog/posts/how-much-are-your-bad-habits-costing-you
2. http://sustainability.yale.edu/news/high-efficiency-fume-hoods-installed-kline-chemistry-laboratory-yale
3. http://www.QG.org/documents/Toolkit/Tip_water_508.pdf
4. http://www.environment-admin.com.ac.uk/resource-bank/facts-figures/electrical-devices

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