



## Lab Sustainability

Through Boston University's sustainability initiative we have made great strides in energy efficiency, carbon reduction and recycling. Additional efforts in recycling and energy consumption can be made by selecting equipment and increasing user knowledge to enable behavioral changes. Take a look around your lab space for items that can be turned off or reduced at the end of the day. This can help increase both the safety and sustainability for your lab and office.

- ▶ **Create a Lab/Office Shut Down list:** Many items can be turned off at the end of the day:
  - ▶ Water baths, hotplates, heating blocks, solder iron and heat guns unplugged. Ensure refrigerators are closed tightly and at the right temperature

Always shut off the lights, and turn off computers when possible.

- ▶ Close variable air volume (VAV) fume hood sashes to reduce energy consumption. Please contact Environmental Health and Safety for an evaluation of your fume hood and process.

### ▶ **It's what you do.**

- ▶ **Think before you print:** Does an item need to be printed? Can it be printed on two sides of the document?

- ▶ **Lab recycling:** Can your waste (non-biologically, non-chemically contaminated items) be recycled instead of placed in the trash? Does your building have single stream recycling available? Are you aware of your universal waste areas on campus for batteries, light bulbs and toner?

- ▶ **Biological Waste** boxes are not a substitute for your trash can: These boxes are made from non-recycled cardboard, must travel a great distance to their disposal endpoint, and undergo an energy-intensive disposal process. Biological waste collection is the safe way to manage infectious, regulated wastes but is an inefficient way to manage everything else.

- ▶ **Purchasing:** Check with manufacturers if a chemical substitute can be made for something that may be less harmful. Consult with [www.bu.edu/sustainability](http://www.bu.edu/sustainability) regarding equipment and energy star ratings.

- ▶ **Encouragement:** Everyone is responsible for working sustainably in the laboratory and sharing knowledge. Contact [GreenOffice@bu.edu](mailto:GreenOffice@bu.edu) for Green Office Certification. If you or someone in your lab is interested in becoming a Sustainability Liaison, with [sustainability@BU](mailto:sustainability@BU), or would like more information on new initiatives and ideas contact: [sustainability@bu.edu](mailto:sustainability@bu.edu)