

SBS GREEN LAB CHAMPIONS

PRIMARY AIM

With more people coming back to the labs and the need to focus on environment sustainability greater than ever, we need to get back on track with getting our labs sustainable! A lot of you will already be doing this; being part of the FBMH sustainable labs network or continuing your Green Impact actions.

In 2020, we have been busy and adopted two new schemes to help sustainability and assess our impact.

The **6R protocol** was created in SBS to reduce plastics in practical classes and is now being adapted for research labs. It is integrated in the new UK accreditation system – the **LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework)**, which will replace the Green Impact scheme.

We now aim to recruit one or more Green Champion per lab to roll out these schemes and develop them further to our bespoke needs.

Becoming a SBS Green Lab Champion means to be involved in one or more of the initiatives below and also feeding back to the rest of the group. To start, you may choose to be a reference point of information in the lab and pass on info/publish posters to drive change (**light**). The next level would be to engage with being a 6R and/or LEAF Champion (**plus**).

We aim to be a network for the sharing of support, advice and resources. All champions should request to be added to the LISTSERV for FBMH Sustainable labs network and get on the Teams site. As such, they will access resources, receive emails with newsletters and we hope to have monthly meetings. If you choose to become a Champion you may also choose to attend further meetings in small teams to work with stores, procurement, health and safety, divisional and technical operations, if you wish. Please see below for additional info and ways to be involved as SBS Green Lab Champions, and of course, we are open to new ideas and initiatives!

If you wish to be an SBS Green Lab Champion, please email me at nisha.nair@manchester.ac.uk




6R CHAMPIONS


Would you like to reduce plastic waste, and maximise recycling in your lab group? Make a difference and join the 6R team to become one of our 6R Champions!





For more information or to join the team

lydia.wunderley@manchester.ac.uk



Tips to Reduce plastic in the lab



 <h3>Rethink</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement. Use sustainable products or suppliers, negotiate the purchase of kit, components separately and packaging options.• Take stock and share: only order what is needed.• Protocol. Are all steps needed? Could a new protocol be more sustainable?• Layout. Optimise sharing of material and reduce waste opportunities.	 <h3>Reduce Replace</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you create reagents/kits in house?• Can you use products or equipment that reduce plastic?• Can you downsize plastic containers?• Do you need all these samples, dilutions, gloves?• Could more be shared in classes?• Consider replacing with alternatives (paper, wood, glass), but check sustainability.
 <h3>Reuse Refill</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider reusing gloves, tips, tubes, cuvettes, pipettes, weighing boats and refilling containers.• Can you rinse or wash between uses? Could someone else reuse it?• Consider in house protocol/equipment to decontaminate, wash, sterilise.• Could you repurpose it?	 <h3>Recycle</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Packaging: Do we recycle it? If not, can it be sent back? Benefits from bulk buying?• Are you following the guidelines for management of contaminated/non contaminated plastic?• Could you recycle more with more organisation?



LEAF CHAMPIONS

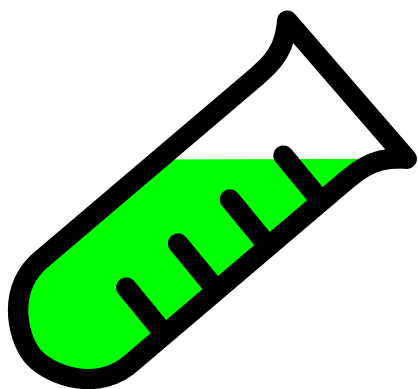
Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) is a sector-wide framework containing a set of criteria aimed to improve sustainability and efficiency of research and teaching laboratory spaces. Teams can be set up on the LEAF website which then allows access to easily implementable actions to improve environmental performance in the lab. A champion will be responsible for using LEAF to implement these changes and use our SBS Green Champions group to feedback suggests or ask for help and advice. Contact nisha.nair@manchester.ac.uk or helen.cutts@manchester.ac.uk or es@manchester.ac.uk for more info



SUSTAINABLE LABS

The Sustainable Labs SharePoint is a repository of resources from other teams useful for inspiration, as well as Sustainable Labs meetings that you may choose to attend. Access to this information can help with general engagement with other lab members to promote sustainability and green impact in the lab before choosing to be a LEAF/6R champion, if you prefer.

Request access to the Sustainable Labs SharePoint by emailing es@manchester.ac.uk or helen.cutts@manchester.ac.uk



ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

To implement big changes, we need to consult a wider group. We aim to have group meetings with Estates, technical and divisional operation managers, Health & Safety, procurement/stores, all together with our Green Lab Champions so that we can put forward our queries and any changes that we want to propose we can ensure that it can be feasible and safe. We understand there already so many meetings to attend, so this is not a key action of being champion, but if you choose to attend that will be great, if not, feedback any concerns or ideas within our network and we will ensure these are raised.

