The Green Labs Program at WashU

- Launched in January 2020
- Voluntary program to reduce environmental impacts of research
- More information & resources: GreenLabs.wustl.edu
Why focus on labs?

• Over **1,000 Principle Investigators** across the university
• Labs account for **1.6 million** square feet of space at Washington University
• Labs can use up to **5x** the amount of energy as office spaces.*

*Laboratories for the 21st Century: Energy Analysis, EPA & USDOE
Energy Reduction

- Shut the sash on the fume hoods
- Turn off equipment
- Unplug infrequently used equipment
- Keep doors on temperature-sensitive equipment closed
- Set computers and electronics to automatically sleep or power down
- Turn off the lights!

New Policy & Incentive: All new Ultra Low Temperature (ULT) freezers must be highly efficient (50% + more) and use natural refrigerants with little-to-no global warming potential. $2,500 incentive to retire an old unit through EH&S; $500 for purchase of compliant UTL.

WashU owns over 1,000 ULT Freezers – each uses more energy than an entire house.
Water Use & Conservation

- Use the appropriate purity water based on your task and experimental needs.
- Single-pass cooling systems use exorbitant amounts of water (ice machines, autoclaves, water aspirators, etc.)
- Autoclaves can be retrofitted to reduce single-pass cooling.
- Report leaks to facilities for immediate repair.
- Waterless bead bath – in place of ice and hot water
Purchasing & Disposal

- **Chemical Use Reduction**
  - Buy smallest amount needed
  - Use, store, & dispose properly

- **Sustainable Purchasing**
  - Reduce order frequency
  - Shop local (on-campus stock rooms 1st)

- **Surplus property exchange** platform facilitates sharing and repurposing; saves money

- **Eliminate plastic liners** from lab recycling containers, saving thousands of bags per year

- **Recycling Poster** available

- Consult **online guide** for reuse and proper disposal