



Laboratory Research And Technical Support (LabRATS)

The LabRATS program at UCSB assists lab managers and researchers to optimize resource conservation and research quality while using sustainable practices that leave the smallest environmental footprint. We bridge between academics and operations for optimal learning and efficiency. We include laboratory researchers in the UCSB campaign to make our campus sustainable. There is no other program like it. See Our Site!

Who we are: Staff and Students <http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/LARS/people.php>

Our Programs: (cooperating departments or links)

- Laboratory Assessments: Comprehensive; Behavior & Technology
- Surplus Equipment Exchange (Purchasing, Office of Research)
- Surplus Chemical Exchange (EH&S)
- Mercury Thermometer Exchange (EH&S)
- Campus Network (http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/LabRATS_UCSB/)
- Hoods Off (EH&S, Facilities Management)
- Efficient Appliances (EPA, LBNL, UCOP, Stanford, UNC, Harvard, etc.)
- Freezer Rebates (Southern California Edison)
- Bulb Free (Facilities Management)

Best Practices in your lab:

- Energy
- Water
- Solid Waste
- Electronics and Equipment
- Transportation
- Communications
- Chemicals

LabRATS Support comes from ... you!

Volunteers (Staff and Students)
Paid interns
Geography Department
Office of Research—workshop exchange
TGIF grants (Three successful in 2007)
Foundation grants
California Green Campus

LabRATS Outreach

UC Davis Laboratory Management Institute
UC Berkeley Chemistry Department
UC Sustainability conferences
Labs21 conference: San Antonio, TX; Charlotte, SC
Nationwide conference calls
Science feature article, October 5, 2007
Departmental Campaigns
Engineers Without Borders
Campuses across the United States (GRNSCH-L@listserv.brown.edu)



LARS

Laboratory Assessments for Research Sustainability (LARS) evaluates lab procedures and assists researchers in conservation. Through voluntary enrollment, LARS goals are to 1) find out what conservation steps you already take, 2) brainstorm to find additional conservation measures 3) provide your lab with a product, service or information that will make your operation more efficient, 4) create a culture of collaboration and conservation in the research setting.

Assessment Process

The LARS assessment takes place in five simple steps.

Step 1: Informational Meeting

LARS representatives will walk through the laboratory with a lab member and gather basic information in areas of equipment, maintenance, lab safety, and experimental precautions.

Approximate Time Commitment: -*Lab Staff: 30 minutes-1 hour*
 -*LARS Representatives: 30 minutes-1 hour*

Step 2: Data Collection

With permission from the lab manager, LARS representatives will collect data on equipment energy use, and general observations. While the lab manager's presence is encouraged, he/she does not have to be present for this step.

This step can be split up over multiple days if necessary.
Approximate Time Commitment: -*Lab Staff: 0-3 hours*
 -*LARS Representatives: 2-3 hours*

Step 3: Interview

LARS representatives will have a sit-down interview with the lab manager. Information will be gathered on equipment, materials, water, training and awareness, communication, travel and commuting, fieldwork and innovation.

Approximate Time Commitment: -*Lab Staff: 30 minutes-1 hour*
 -*LARS Representatives: 30 minutes-1 hour*

Step 4: Analysis

LARS representatives will compile and analyze the data gathered in Steps 1-3, recognize achievements, and evaluate opportunities for sustainable practices.

Approximate Time Commitment: -*Lab Staff: 0 hours*
 -*LARS Representatives: 4 days*

Step 5: Certification and Next Steps

LARS representatives will schedule a meeting with all members of the laboratory to discuss findings and next steps. Full participation of PIs, staff, and student researchers is recommended and will bring remarkable results!

Lab personnel will have the opportunity to ask questions, offer feedback, and set their own goals for implementing sustainable practices. The lab will receive a certificate to acknowledge its participation in the program.

Approximate Time Commitment: -*Lab Staff: ½-1 hour*
 -*LARS Representatives: 1-2 hours*