

# Creating a Green Labs Program at MSU

**Kristin Blackler**

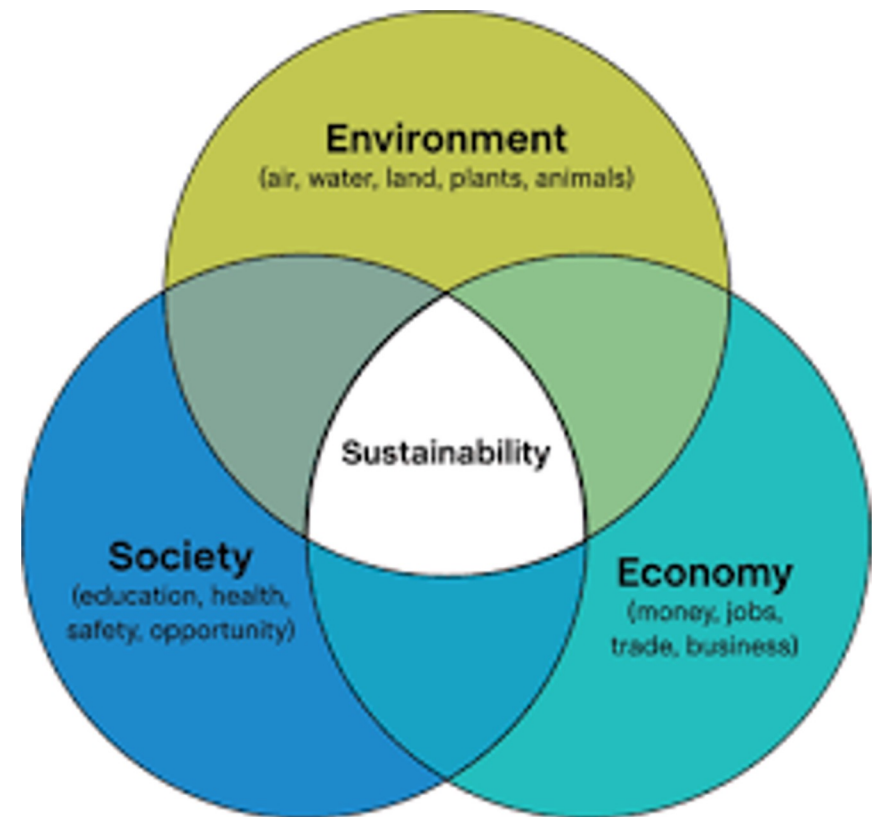
Director, Office of Sustainability

**Kirk Lubick**

Associate Vice President  
Office of Research Compliance

# What is Sustainability

A balance between what's best for society, the economy, and the environment.



# MSU Sustainability Framework



Using the sustainability rating system provided by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Montana State University aims to attain the highest level: Platinum.



Montana State University's zero-waste target is a diversion rate of 90%. This percentage is based off the internationally recognized standard that zero-waste means achieving a diversion rate of 90% or higher.



Carbon neutrality is achieved when the amount of greenhouse gases released is equivalent to the amount sequestered or offset. Montana State University aims to achieve this target by 2040.

# Many Reasons Why



Labs are ~20% of building space at research universities,

Labs consume approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of **total** campus energy

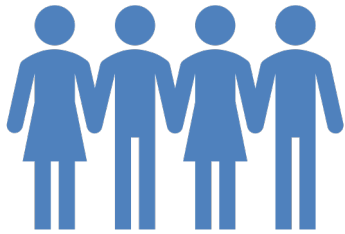


Laboratory spaces have great potential to reduce energy consumption, conserve water, and minimize waste



By practicing and developing a better understanding of sustainability, labs can be at the forefront in helping MSU achieve carbon neutrality by 2040

# Sustainable Research ~ Sustainable Operations



Nearly every department at MSU is engaged in sustainability related research



Green Labs aligns with faculty values in support of sustainability research and operations

# Strong Financial Incentive

- ~40% of F&A funds allocated to “Building Expenses”
  - Leases
  - Campus O&M
  - Overhead Costs
  - Off-Campus Leases
  - Off-Campus O&M
  - Renovations
  - Equipment



# Stakeholders



LABS AND LAB  
DEPARTMENTS



OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



SAFETY AND RISK  
MANAGEMENT



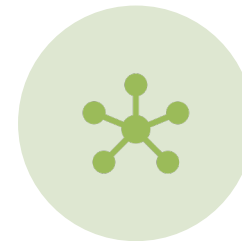
OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY



PROCUREMENT



FACILITIES SERVICES  
(RECYCLING)



NATIONAL  
NETWORKS

# Green Lab Assessment Categories

- Fume Hoods
- Freezers
- Lighting
- Computers & Other Electronics
- Climate Control
- Water Conservation & Efficiency
- Materials Management
- Chemical Use and Disposal
- Green Purchasing



# Green Lab Certification

## The Certification Process

1. The Office of Sustainability will hold an introductory meeting to review the certification benefits and process.
2. Get approval from laboratory leadership
3. Schedule a walkthrough of the lab space to identify opportunities through the Green Labs Assessment Form.
4. Assign a Green Labs Leader and/or team The lab must have an active Green Labs leader and, if possible, a team of 2+ members who communicate and lead green initiatives with your lab

# Certification continued

5. Host a staff presentation
6. Complete at least 75% of applicable sustainability practices in the Green Labs Certification Guide.
7. Receive Certification Plan a Green Labs celebration and presentation of your certification materials.
8. Ongoing: Maintain an active green leader and/or team and continue the sustainability practices implemented through this program.

# Additional programs

- Freezer rebate programs
- Water rebates
- Streamlined purchasing
- Recycling programs
- Coordination with campus Energy Performance Contract / Building Energy Efficiency
- Vendor discounts

# Thank you!

The Green Labs Program is adaptable and the Green Labs team is here to work with labs to ensure the process is effective and relevant for a variety of lab environments on campus.

Have a question?

Reach out to us at [sustainability@montana.edu](mailto:sustainability@montana.edu)