Edition #1

April 2024

LSA CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Chemistry Department | University of Michigan

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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Get involved in some friendly competition between labs in the department. Your lab could have a chance at winning a sustainability challenge. Award includes Blank Slate Ice Cream!

WIN BLANK SLATE ICE CREAM

CHEMISTRY SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

WHO ARE WE?

Graduate students, postdocs, and faculty in the department are piloting a Chemistry Sustainability Team, in collaboration with LSA's Year of Sustainability and the Office of Campus Sustainability. There are multiple opportunities to get involved and to take part in professional development and certification through Planet Blue and My Green Lab. Please contact chem.sus.info@umich.edu if you would like to get involved or have any questions.

THE FREEZER CHALLENGE

Participating labs have the chance of ***winning*** a Blank Slate Ice Cream Party. To get started, each lab will need to nominate one representative and fill out this form. The whole process should take no more than 30 min and can be integrated into your group's regular cleanup! If you're interested, you can read more about this initiative here: My Green Lab freezer challenge

DID YOU KNOW?

Participants in the 2023 Freezer Challenge saved a combined **20.7 million kWh/year!**

20.7 million kWh

energy avoided is equivalent to:

37.5 million miles

driven by an average gasoline-powered vehicle

4663 metric tons of CO2 equiv.

Source: UESPA Greenhouse Gas Calculator; My Green Lab

CHEMISTRY TURNS OFF ICE MACHINES TO SAVE ENERGY

The Chemistry Sustainability Team partnered with LSA to monitor energy and usage in several of the department's 20 ice machines. Using this data, the Department has turned off 6 ice machines (3 on research floors and 3 in atrium teaching labs). The energy savings per year will be equivalent to saving >160 gallons of gasoline.

CHEMISTRY WINS $25K GRANT FOR FINDENSERS!

Led by graduate student Dylan Vitt (Maldonado group), the Chemistry Sustainability Team has been **awarded $25k** from the LSA Sustainability Innovations and Incentives Fund towards purchasing 121 Heidolph Radleys Findenser Super Air Condensers for research and teaching labs. These will replace single-pass water-cooled condensers to reduce water usage and increase safety across the Chemistry Department. This project is estimated to save between **1 and 4 million liters** of water per year! Stay tuned for the delivery in early June!

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Gravimetric and Thermal-Imaging Characterization of Water-Free Reflux Condensers for Laboratory Applications

Kevin Lam, Brittany Armstrong, and Eric L. Margelefsky*

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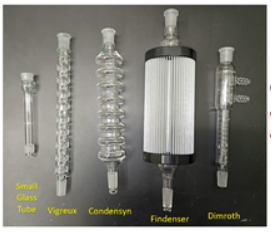


HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

TURN OFF LAB AND OFFICE LIGHTS

An easy step to take individually is through turning off lab and hood lights whenever possible. Students are encouraged to promote best practices by posting stickers in and around labs.

GET RID OF YOUR SMALL TRASH BINS

A recent audit of waste from Chemistry revealed that ~10% of the waste was plastic liners from bins. One way to reduce this waste stream is to have fewer waste bins. You can bring your small waste bins to the loading dock (or Tracy's office) to donate it.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

If you would like to get certified or become a lab ambassador, there are several ways to get involved. These look great on a CV or resume!

Planet Blue Ambassador
OCS Sustainable Lab Certification
My Green Labs Ambassador Training

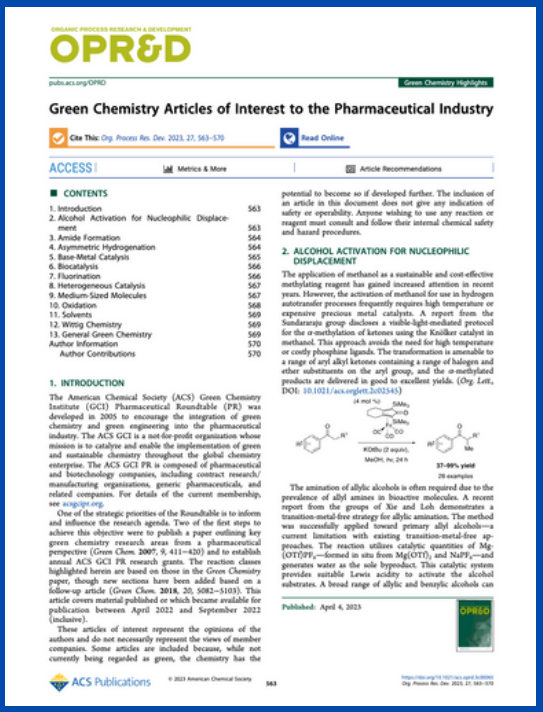
STAY TUNED

Stay tuned for other initiatives, including "shut the sash", waste reduction, composting, recycling & procurement.

ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP!

Email sustainable-labs@umich.edu to sign up for sustainability-related ideas for research labs on campus.

GREEN CHEMISTRY LITERATURE


OPR&D

Green Chemistry Articles of Interest to the Pharmaceutical Industry

If you are an organic chemist and unfamiliar with Green Chemistry principles, a great place to start is this article published in OPRD last year. While we may be more familiar with traditional methodology reactions, this work focuses on how optimization may look through a sustainability lens. Several different strategies are introduced in reactions, included, but not limited to, lowering reaction temperature, base-metal catalysis, and biocatalysis.

Org. Process Res. Dev. **2023**, *27*, 563−570