ANNOUNCING GREEN LABS PROGRAM EXPANSION

APPOINT SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATORS FOR LABS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY

Dear Department Head,

As a research-intensive university with some 400 labs on campus, UBC consumes a significant amount of energy, water and materials for conducting world-class research. UBC lab buildings account for approximately 49 per cent of campus energy use, 24 per cent of campus water use, and 96 per cent of total hazardous waste generated. To minimize the environmental impact of the University’s research activities, UBC is expanding its effort to adopt innovative solutions to reduce energy, water, solid and hazardous waste.

GREEN LABS PROGRAM

Launched as a voluntary program in 2008, the Green Labs Program (formerly Green Research Program) provides researchers with tools, education and processes to reduce the environmental impact of research activities. The program also implements solutions to optimize building and lab systems to run more efficiently and to use less resources, where appropriate. The Green Labs Program is a cooperative effort between Risk Management Services, Payment & Procurement Services, Campus + Community Planning, and committed members of the University’s research community.

LAUNCHING SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM FOR LABS

UBC is expanding the award-winning Sustainability Coordinator Program (established in 1999) for offices into labs to provide additional tools, resources, training, capacity building, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for researchers working in laboratory environments. The role of Sustainability Coordinators is to champion sustainable approaches, procedures and policies related to reducing the environmental impact of research activities. Dedicating approximately 2-4 work hours per month, Sustainability Coordinators promote best practices and provide tools and incentives to engage their department, principle investigators and fellow researchers in practices and processes that reduce the environmental impact of their research.

CALL TO ACTION

We endorse the expansion of the Green Labs Program and use of graduate students and staff work time to further UBC’s sustainability goals.

We request that you facilitate the appointment of Sustainability Coordinators for labs with the principle investigators in your department. Program and position descriptions are attached for your reference.

Please send contact information for the nominated Sustainability Coordinators by April 30, 2014 along with any questions or requests for additional information to green.labs@ubc.ca.

With your support, we can achieve UBC’s sustainability goals and collectively reduce the environmental impact of UBC research activities.

Sincerely,

John Hepburn, VP Research and International

John Robinson, Associate Provost, Sustainability

Date