SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM FOR LABS

Sustainability Coordinators help UBC foster a culture of sustainability in labs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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.

UBC’s Green Labs Program aims to minimize the environmental impact of the University’s research footprint by promoting the adoption of innovative solutions that reduce energy, water, solid and hazardous waste. Launched as a voluntary program in 2008, the Green Labs Program provides the UBC research community with tools, education and processes to help reduce the environmental impact of research activities.

Building on the success of the award-winning Sustainability Coordinator Program (established in 1999) for offices, UBC has expanded programming into labs to provide members of the UBC research community with further opportunities and resources to promote and implement sustainable practices in labs and reduce the environmental impact of research activities.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR ROLE

The Sustainability Coordinator Program for labs is open to all staff, faculty, and students working in laboratory-based settings. Sustainability Coordinators dedicate approximately 2-4 work hours per month to inform their departments about sustainable approaches, procedures and policies to minimize their environmental footprint.

As Sustainability Coordinators, members of the UBC research community will:

- Engage others in their department and laboratories to minimize hazardous and solid waste, recycle, conserve resources, and purchase green products
- Communicate environmental policies, practices and programs and share information about the ecological impact of daily workplace and research activities with peers
- Identify laboratory sustainability initiatives and opportunities for their departments
- Gain access to training, peer-to-peer learning, information sharing and professional development opportunities

HOW TO APPLY

1. Review the SC Position Description (see below) to gain a deeper understanding of the SC role and responsibilities, the types of initiatives SCs are expected to promote and implement in their departments—and of course, the perks of participating.

2. Discuss this opportunity with your supervisor. Prospective SCs must have the permission of their supervisor or director to participate in the program.

3. Complete the SC Program Application, along with your supervisor’s signature, and submit to green.labs@ubc.ca.

Once your application is accepted, you will receive further information regarding training, resources and next steps. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at green.labs@ubc.ca.
**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

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<tr>
<th>POSITION TITLE</th>
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| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | • Encourage staff/faculty/students to:  
  o prevent pollution and minimize hazardous waste generation  
  o substitute current materials for those less hazardous  
  o be mindful of materials disposed down the drain  
  o increase participation in UBC lab-specific recycling programs (including Styrofoam, hard and soft plastic, solvent recycling)  
  o enhance waste diversion and the use of all UBC’s recycling programs  
  o reduce energy use  
  o conserve water  
  o purchase more sustainable products, equipment and services  
  o use available best management practices and tools to achieve goals above  
  o host green meetings and events  
  o support UBC’s commitment to reduce the environmental impact of its research activities  
  
  • Disseminate and promote green labs related updates, events and information to other department members  
  • Engage colleagues in green labs activities (ie: Quarterly themed activities)  
  • Orient new staff, faculty and students to UBC’s sustainability/green labs/environmental policies, practices and programs  
  • Attend scheduled lunch and learn and networking events whenever possible  
  • Bring suggestions and ideas for improvement to the attention of the Green Labs Committee  
  • Notify the Green Labs Committee if unable to continue in the position for any reason or upon any changes to your role |
| **TIME COMMITMENT** | • An average of two to four hours per month of work time (with supervisor permission) |
| **QUALIFICATIONS** | • Passion for the environment/sustainability and a desire to create positive change in the workplace  
  • Excellent communication, listening and interpersonal skills  
  • Confidence to introduce and model sustainable green labs work practices and to engage peers  
  • Willingness to learn and have fun! |
| **BENEFITS** | • Learn about and work toward an environmentally conscious and sustainable community  
  • Join a network of like-minded coordinators across campus  
  • Access specific resources and tools, including the Green Labs Fund  
  • Develop skills through related training sessions, educational events, networking sessions, and professional development opportunities  
  • Attend Annual Sustainability Appreciation Luncheon recognition event  
  • Make a difference in your workplace |
| **LIAISES WITH** | • Green Labs Committee ([green.labs@ubc.ca](mailto:green.labs@ubc.ca)) |