

Overview:

Laboratory Assessments of Research Sustainability (LARS) representatives will first collect as much data about the laboratory's practices as possible and then will verify their findings and learn about the internal practices and culture of the laboratory through interview.

The questions will be divided into the following categories:

1. Innovation
2. Energy
3. Equipment
4. Materials
5. Water
6. Training and Awareness
7. Communication
8. Commuting and Travel
9. Fieldwork

1. Innovation

1. *(This question will be asked at the beginning and then end of the interview. If you can't think of anything right now, keep it in the back of your mind and we will get back to this question at the end of the interview.)*

Please cite 3-5 things you have done in attempt to increase research efficiency or conserve energy and resources. These can be technical innovations or expertise your lab has developed that might help other UCSB researchers.

2. How does this innovation add to the efficiency of your lab?
(Please list quantifiable results such as energy savings, water reduction, etc.)

2. Energy

1. What is your policy for turning off lights?

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2. What are your lab's occupancy hours? _____

3. Are occupancy sensors used for lighting? Yes ___ No ___

What are the settings? _____

4. How often do you defrost your freezers? _____

5. What places do you see for improvement in the energy efficiency of your laboratory?

6. What has prevented you from making these changes in the past?

7. Are there any resources we could provide you with that would help you reduce your energy consumption?

Heating

Describe thermostat including company name	Who controls your thermostat?	What is your thermostat setting?

Computers

1. Do you maintain your computers or do you have an IT department responsible for this?

2. Are your computers and printers using Energy Star settings? Are your monitors set to hibernate or use screen savers? (Screen savers defeat energy saving mode).

3. Equipment

1. Is there any equipment that you need or wish you had?

2. Do you have any equipment you rarely or never use?

3. Do you want to share, sell, or dispose of any equipment?
What would help you share, sell, or dispose of it?

4. If it was offered, would you be interested in an E-Bay like resale program?

5. If an E-Bay program was available, how much do you think you would have made over the past five years? (\$0-100, 100-499, 500-999, 1000-5000, Greater than \$5,000),

4. Materials

What would you list as the top 5-10 materials purchased in bulk that are either *laboratory staples* or *materials used for experiment*?

-Make sure to include disposable materials your lab uses.

(Sections of this table can be completed via e-mail at a later date)

Material	Quantity	Frequency of Use	Cost	Assistance or More Information Needed?	Notes

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1. Do you use any metallic lead? (For example in doorstop?) If so, where/how?
2. Do you have any mercury thermometers or reagents you would like to trade in for alternative products?

Chemicals

Chemical	Quantity	Frequency of Use	Conservation techniques used?	Are you interested in alternative chemicals proposed by MIT?	Notes

Adopt a Chemical Program

1. Would you be interested in free chemicals from EH&S adopt-a-chemical program?
Yes_____ No_____

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2. If you could talk to the chemical's donor to ascertain quality, would you be interested?

3. May we bring by some information next time we visit? Yes_____ No_____

Furniture

1. Are the cabinetry, chairs, and tables adequate quality for your work?

2. What would make them better?

3. Is any of your furniture used? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, please explain.

4. Was any of it purchased from Environmentally Preferred or "green" manufacturers? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, please explain.

5. Has anyone used an ergonomic specialist in EH&S to help with desk posture and repetitive motion issues?

Conservation

3. How often do you print double-sided?
Always_____ Sometimes _____ Never_____

4. How often do you reuse paper that has printing/writing on only one-side?
Always_____ Sometimes _____ Never_____

5. Do you generate a lot of single sided paper that you would be willing to share?
Always_____ Sometimes _____ Never_____

6. What are current barriers to paper conservation?

Recycling

5. What is your building's recycling program? Please describe.

6. What is the location of the nearest recycling clusters?

7. Does your laboratory have a recycling program that is different from your building's?

8. Where do you recycle your batteries?

9. Where do you recycle your printer or toner ink cartridges?

10. Would you like more information on recycling or recycling programs? Yes___ No___

5. Water

1. Do you use water for cooling, vacuum aspirators, or any continuous flow process?

2. How do you wash glassware or plastic items?

3. Do you think there are opportunities for conserving water in your lab?

6. Training and Awareness

Lab Staff or Lab Manager trained on...

1. When equipment needs to be on and when it can be turned off
Lab Staff yes___ no___ Lab Manager yes___ no___

2. Ground Fault Interrupt, circuit breakers location and operation
Lab Staff yes___ no___ Lab Manager yes___ no___

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3. Energy star settings

Lab Staff yes___ no___ Lab Manager yes___ no___

4. Thermostat settings and location

Lab Staff yes___ no___ Lab Manager yes___ no___

5. Appropriate fume hood sash height

Lab Staff yes___ no___ Lab Manager yes___ no___

6. Would you like assistance in training your lab staff in any of the areas mentioned?

7. Communication

1. What are your areas of research or maintenance expertise?

2. Would you like to share your research or maintenance expertise with others?

Yes___ No___

3. Do you know how to contact the resource person for maintenance of the following equipment/issues? (These could include, electronics, biological, mechanical, chemical) (Include the Lab Expertise of the lab manager & Staff)

Communication Table

Maintenance or Research issues Lab Expertise	Contact Person	Contact Information	Would you like to share this contact with other labs?

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4. Would you like to share this contact information with other labs?
(Check off in table).

5. Name 3 Labs and/or PIs do you know with similar laboratory equipment to yours?

6. Would you like to join the network of Laboratory Research and Technical Staff (LabRATS) to stay in touch with others' needs and to get answers to your needs?
Yes____ No_____

8. Commuting and Travel

Lab Staff (please list the number of individuals in each group using the laboratory)

Career Technician (Lab Manager)	Under Graduate	Faculty	Graduate/Post Doc	Total Lab Staff

Workday Commuting

(please list number and group individuals belong to—determined by previous table)

1. How many staff and faculty in your lab bike or take the bus to work?
2. How many staff and faculty in your lab carpool or vanpool?
2. How many staff and faculty in your lab participate in UCSB's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)?

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3. What would make the bus system or your schedule easier to use mass transit or bicycles?

3. Would you suggest bus use to your lab staff if we offered you bus passes or schedules?

4. Would you like more information on advances in travel and commuting around campus? Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), rideshare, loaner cars...

Yes_____ No_____ On what topics? _____

Conference Travel

1. How many plane trips are made annually by the group for business?

Individual_____ Business_____

2. Does anyone buy carbon offsets for their plane or car travel?

3. How often do you use teleconferencing when communicating with a researcher or faculty member at another university?

Always_____ Sometimes _____ Never_____

What are current barriers to this?

9. Fieldwork

10. 1. Do you collect samples or perform experiments in remote sites? Yes_____

No_____

2. Do you practice special methods to maintain the site? Yes_____ No_____

3. Would you like examples about sustainable field work? Yes_____ No_____

Sustainable Laboratories Interview Questions



* *Return to Innovations*

1. Can you think of any other things you have done in attempt to increase research efficiency or conserve energy and resources. These can be technical innovations or expertise your lab has developed that might help other UCSB researchers.

2. How does the innovation add to the efficiency of your lab?
(Please list quantifiable results such as energy savings, water reduction, etc.)
