Fact Sheet: Safe and Sustainable Labs (S2L) Program Overview

The Safe and Sustainable Labs (S2L) Program is an initiative to promote a safe and sustainable research environment to align with MIT’s Climate Action Plan. This program is a partnership between the Environment, Health & Safety Office, the Department of Facilities (DOF), the MIT Office of Sustainability (MITOS), the Office of the Vice President for Finance (VPF), and departments, labs, and centers (DLCs).

Figure 1: Overview of Safe and Sustainable Labs (S2L) Program

- Purchasing
- Lab Recycling
- Rheaply

- Chemical Inventory
- Chemical Sharing/Exchange
- Green Chemistry
- Pollution Prevention
- Hazardous Waste Management

- Certification
- Communication
- Training

- Ventilation
- Cold Storage
- Plug Load
- Lab Design
15 Everyday Actions to Becoming a More Sustainable Lab

**Purchasing**
- Look for equipment and consumables posted in Rheaply before purchasing new.
- When purchasing new reagents, purchase the minimum quantities needed.
- Consider buying eco-friendly lab products (equipment, consumable and reagents, and/or energy efficient equipment might be eligible for Eversource incentives).
- Consolidate orders/shipments to reduce waste from packaging/shipping.

**Recycling**
- Post functional equipment and consumables in Rheaply instead of disposing of them.
- Recycle pipette tip boxes and plastic conical tube racks.
- Recycle Styrofoam, cardboards, and papers.

**Chemicals**
- Search the inventory system before purchasing new chemicals (in your lab or within DLCs for shared chemicals).
- Consider using greener chemical alternatives.

**Energy**
- Shut fume hood sash when not in use.
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Use timers for automated on/off scheduling.
- Defrost freezers and clean up coils regularly – good housekeeping preserves energy.
- Consider temperature tuning (increasing ultralow temperature freezers to -70°C).

**Training**
- Attend Safe & Sustainable Labs training and workshops.

For more information about the S2L Program, contact EHS by emailing environment@mit.edu or by visiting https://ehs.mit.edu/safe-sustainable-labs/.