

Environmental sustainability of scientific research



Kamil Vlček




IPHYS Retreat, 20th May 2025, Špindlerův Mlýn

Scientific laboratory: input and output

Trends in Biochemical Sciences

Scientific Life

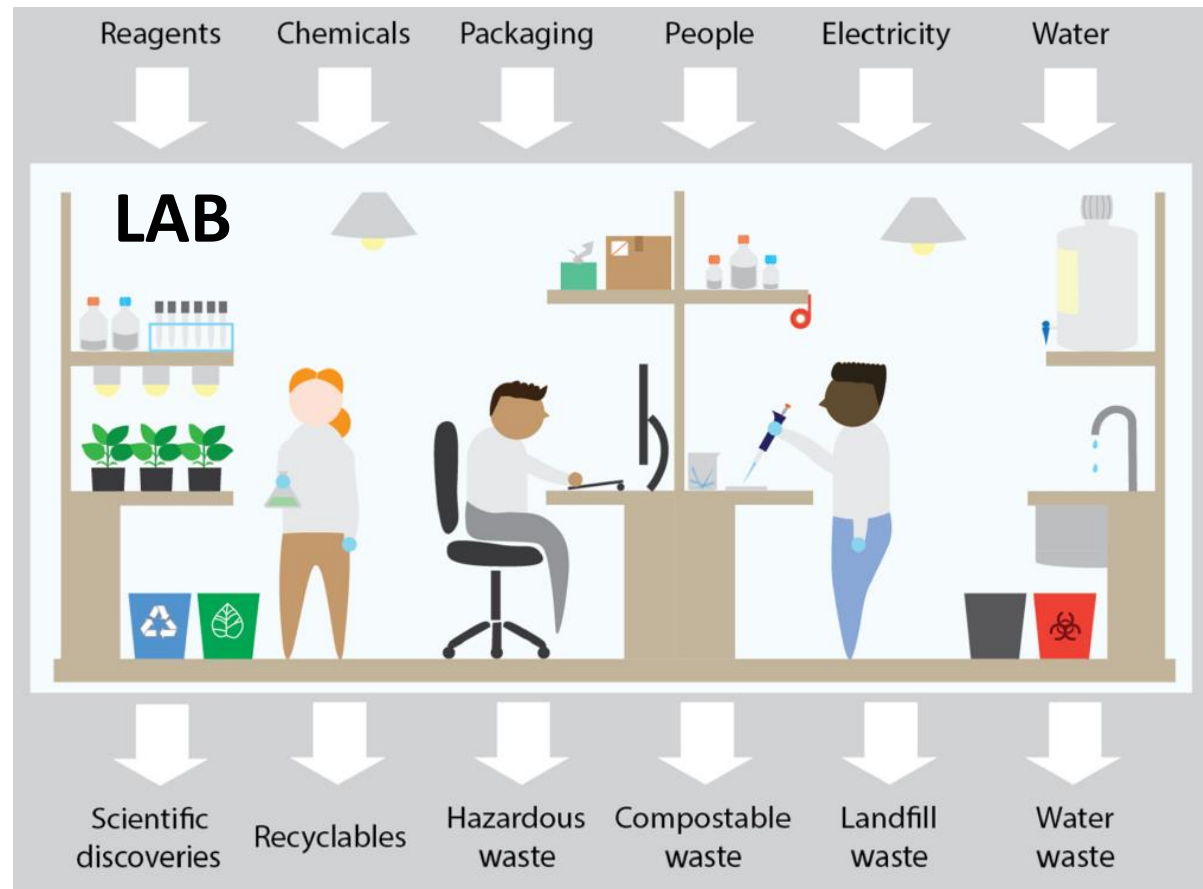
Forging a path toward a more sustainable laboratory

Logan B. Leak ^{1,4,6,@},
Janina Tamborski ^{2,6},
Antony Commissaris^{3,5} and
Jennifer A.N. Brophy ^{2,*,@}



Scientific discovery has advanced human society in countless ways, but research requires the expenditure of energy and resources. This Scientific Life article details one laboratory's efforts to reduce the environmental impact of wet-lab research and provides a series of resources to improve lab sustainability.

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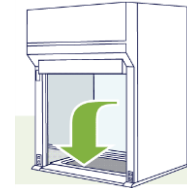


Trends in Biochemical Sciences

Health, technology, life quality

THE UNSUSTAINABLE LAB

Research laboratories have a huge impact on the environment in terms of resource requirements, energy use and waste production. With the public eye increasingly focused on sustainability, this feature looks at how laboratories more



DIY APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE

Research labs are huge producers of plastic waste, but scientists are becoming increasingly aware of their environmental footprint. **By Jyoti Madhusoodanan**

228 | Nature | Vol 581 | 14 May 2020 | Corrected 22 May 2020

motion
and sash
height
(MASH)
alarm



A GREEN LAB IN THE MAKING

Leading a drive to lower our carbon footprint
Celebrating small successes is important

Nature | Vol 621 | 7 September 2020

THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE

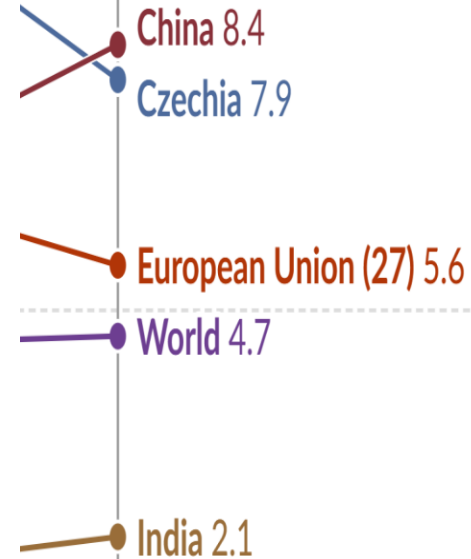
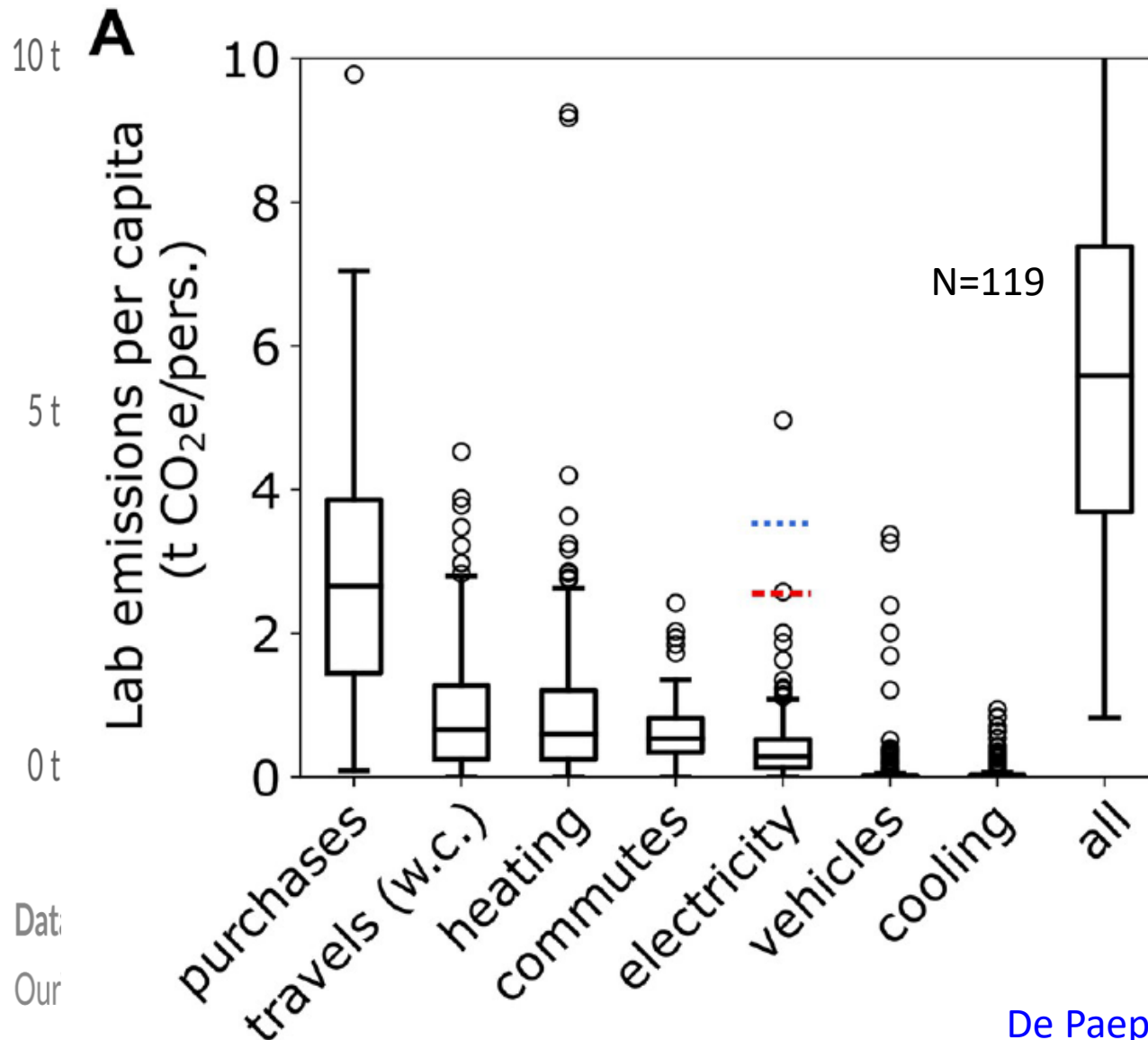
With efforts to promote sustainability on the rise, researchers are making gains – but doing science in a green way isn't always easy. **By Chris Woolston**

Nature | Vol 633 | 26 September 2024 | **S69**

Laboratory emissions per capita per emission source

United States 14.3

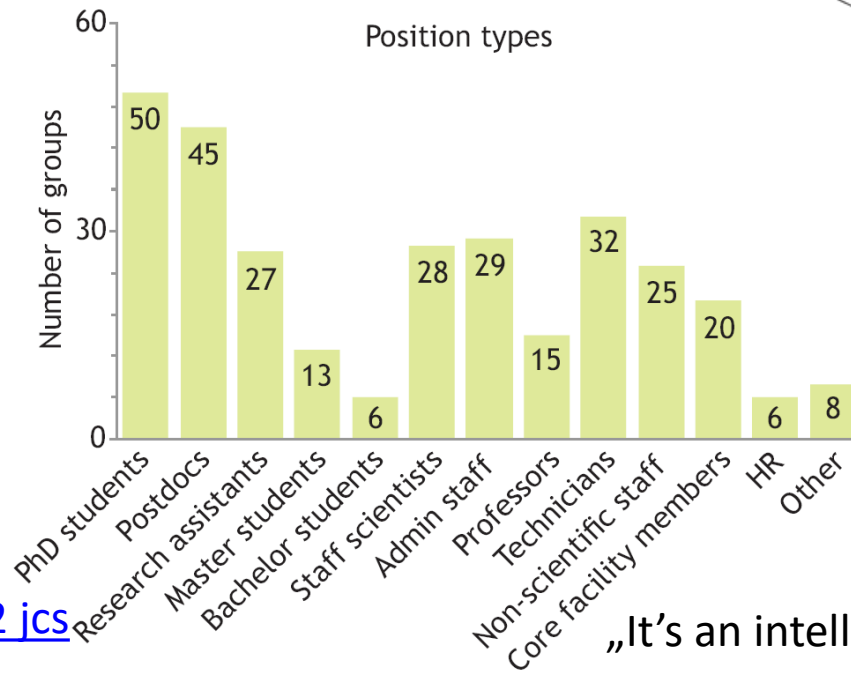
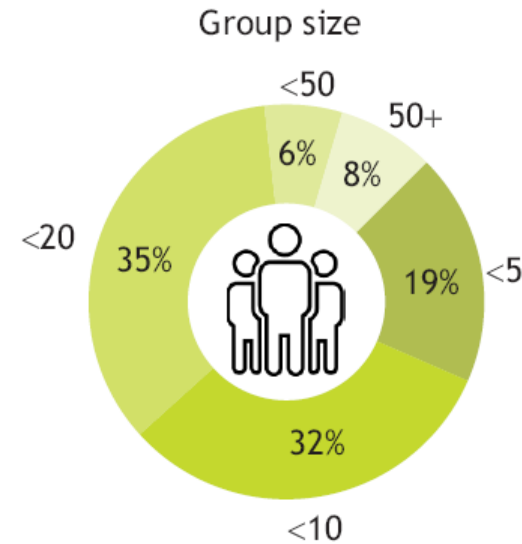
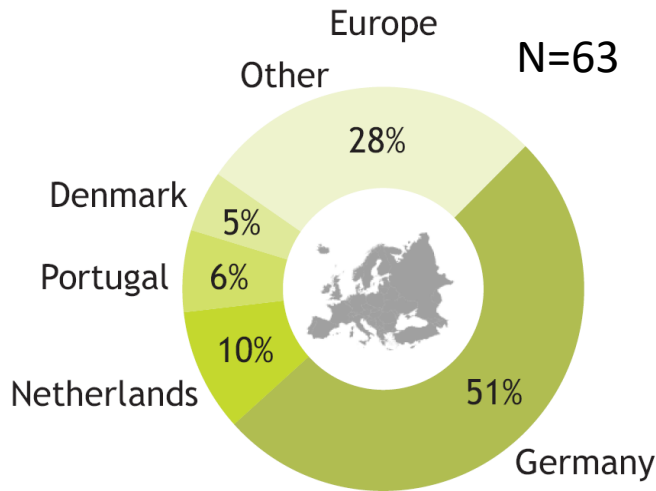
Our World in Data



2023



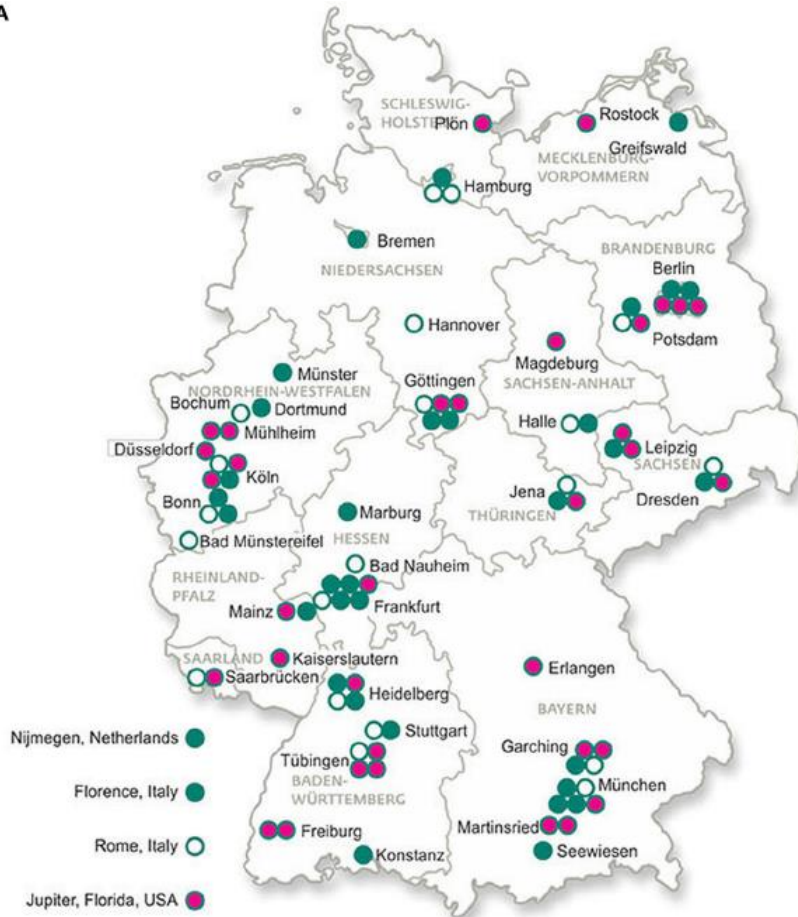
Sustainability grassroots groups



Grassroot networks



A

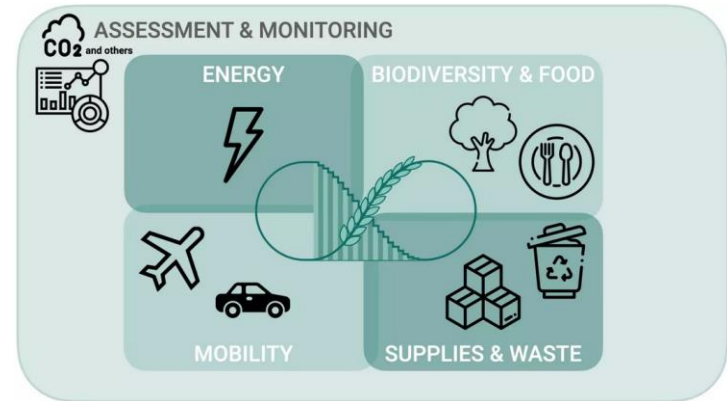


- [MPSN Germany](#)
 - more than 60 grassroot groups from the Max Planck Society, ~370 members
- [LEAN – Laboratory Efficiency Action Network](#)
- [Sustainable European Laboratories network \(SELs\)](#)
 - FENS Kavli Network of Excellence + Green Labs Netherlands + Laboratory Efficiency Action Network (LEAN)



How to decrease our carbon footprint?

- Energy
 - Shut the sash of fume cupboard
 - Increase freezer temperatures from -80 to -70 °C
 - Turn off shaking incubators
 - Turn off the computers, use efficient computing
 - Replace overhead lights with LED bulbs
- Supplies & Waste
 - Reduce single-use plastic
 - Share chemicals, reuse and repair instruments
 - Recycle
- Mobility
 - Switch to virtual attendance, bus or train whenever possible
- Biodiversity & Food
 - Reduce meat and dairy in your food
- Engagement
 - Share knowledge



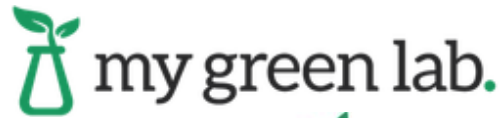
[CaRe 2021](#)

- Catalogue of Recommendations for Sustainability in the Max Planck Society

Tools and programmes

- [My Green Lab](#)

- Certification programm
- Competitions and Challenges
- Database of environmental-impact scores fo lab supplies



- [Labos 1point5](#)

- Collective of French Academics
- GES 1point5 an open-source web application designed to estimate the carbon footprint of a research lab



- [LEAF - Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework](#)

- A programm and online tool that guides users through sustainability actions to save plastics, water, energy and other resources in their laboratory.



CAS ČR

- CzechGlobe Institute
- Commission for the Environment
- Sustainability working group
 - Just being established by doc. Pivokonský, PhD.
- IOCB – GreenClub grassroots team from 2023
- IEM – Solar power plant



expert opinion



Sustainable biomed



**DO PRÁCE
NA KOLE**
pěšky či poklusem

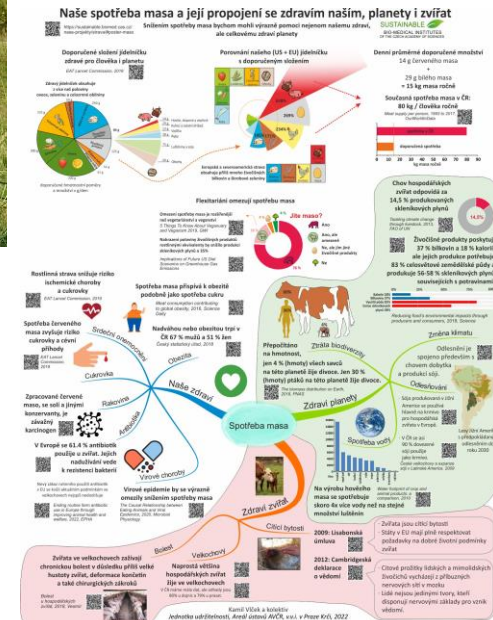


Instrument Builders Club

IMG/IPHYS/IEM

areal-diy@biomed.cas.cz

<https://sustainable.biomed.cas.cz/>



Thank you



- Join us !



Kamil Vlček
Adam Eckhardt
Jakub Slepíčka
Marta Vandrovcová

SUSTAINABLE 
BIO-MEDICAL INSTITUTES
OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MBU

Jana Vojtová
Zdenka Škrob



Veronika
Niederlová

