



International Fume Hood Challenge

What Is the Fume Hood Challenge?

The International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) is excited to announce the development of its first-ever Fume Hood Challenge. Designed to encourage behavior change, technologies, and strategies to monitor and enhance fume hood performance, the challenge will join green labs professionals, researchers, facility managers, safety officers, manufacturers, and service providers with a goal of saving energy and ensuring the safe and effective operation of fume hoods in labs.

How Is It Being Developed?

Building off a 2024 pilot program of academic laboratories to determine qualities of a successful “shut the sash” competition for fume hoods, I2SL is creating a Fume Hood Challenge that will encompass both shutting hood sashes and encouraging behaviors and technologies to monitor and improve hood performance. Much like the International Freezer Challenge that I2SL co-hosts with My Green Lab, this challenge will encourage a variety of actions and strategies to improve both the safety and energy efficiency of lab fume hoods, as well as the building systems that support them.

Technical Advisory Groups of I2SL volunteers are developing testing criteria, writing best practice guides, and determining data collection and scoring procedures to support evaluation of challenge participants. To join a Technical Advisory Group to provide input on various aspects of the program, visit www.i2sl.org/fume-hood-challenge and fill out the form or use the QR code here to access it.

Support the Challenge

To complete additional tasks requiring software programming, administration, and promotion, I2SL is seeking sponsorship from a variety of companies. Fume hood manufacturers; building management system (BMS) and lab controls companies; lab safety and engineering consultants; and organizations and companies that use fume hoods in their research efforts could benefit directly from improved fume hood operations, key data about researchers' hood operation, and cooperation with scientific institutions. Email president@i2sl.org for more information on sponsoring.

