



Labs2Zero Grows to Meet Industry Needs

Accomplishments
Report 2026



International Institute for
Sustainable Laboratories





Alison Farmer

Program Director, Labs2Zero
Vice President, International
Institute for Sustainable
Laboratories

As we enter the Labs2Zero program's fifth year, the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) is pleased to share some significant progress towards creating the tools our industry needs to reduce energy use, emissions, and operational costs in laboratory buildings. In just the past 12 months, Labs2Zero has launched AIM, a first-of-its-kind, automated, customizable energy audit software tool specific to lab buildings; upgraded our groundbreaking performance assessment scores; and initiated a new training and accreditation program for professionals. Some significant milestones include:

- The Lab Benchmarking Tool's (LBT's) searchable peer-group database now contains more than **1,500** lab facilities, an increase of **33 percent** in the last two years!
- Graduating from our pilot accreditation program in April 2026, **23 Labs2Zero Champions** have demonstrated their knowledge of lab energy efficiency and the Labs2Zero tools and started sharing that knowledge with others.
- **75 expert volunteers** across **six** Technical Advisory Councils helped I2SL design, test, and internationalize the AIM software in 2025 and update the Labs2Zero Energy and Operational Emissions Scores in early 2026.

As we know, lab buildings can be extremely energy-intensive by their nature. However, the potential for savings is great, and the Labs2Zero tools are designed to help lab facilities make meaningful change to accomplish their efficiency goals. Together, we can create a more sustainable future for our industry.

Community Participation

LBT users
entered
data from

537

lab
buildings

320

new
LBT users

5
in-person
training
workshops

on
3
continents

educating
56
pros

Presentations
reached

1,200
people

More
than

150
users

signed up for
the demo or full
AIM Report software

47
LinkedIn
posts

more than
1,800
engagements

more than
300,000
impressions

New 10-part
Labs2Zero
video series

viewed
1,528
times

from **January**
through **May**
2026 alone!



Five Years of Improving Laboratory Building Performance

I2SL launched Labs2Zero in 2022 to provide tools and resources to help the world's laboratories reduce energy use and associated costs. Labs2Zero addresses the complexity and diversity of laboratory facilities and was built with the expert input and support of the lab industry itself. Experienced professionals from across the industry volunteer their time and expertise on Technical Advisory Councils (TACs), and contributions from sponsors help fund the development of the program's tools and services.

As I2SL's most significant initiative to date, Labs2Zero provides myriad benefits to labs around the globe:

- Helps research institutions better understand their energy use and carbon footprint by providing **lab building performance ratings and comparisons to similar facilities**.
- Provides an **automated audit report of customized and lab-specific energy efficiency measures** to help lab buildings reduce energy use and operational costs, while prioritizing projects that achieve lasting savings.
- Aids organizational environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals and climate risk analysis efforts with needed **metrics, building performance analyses, training, accreditation, and recognition**.
- Allows designers and engineers to **set performance targets and associated energy use requirements** based on planned design characteristics.

Labs2Zero Program Highlights and Future Plans

2022

- Labs2Zero program launches

2023

- Energy Score released (pilot)

2024

- Operational Emissions Score introduced (pilot)
- Embodied carbon benchmarking launches
- Laboratory Benchmarking Tool (LBT) peer database surpasses 1,000 lab buildings

2025

- AIM Report released in the United States (August) and globally (December)

2026

- Energy and Operational Emissions Score updated (Version 1)
- Labs2Zero Champion Training and Accreditation opens
- LBT peer database surpasses 1,500 lab buildings

Future Releases

- New AIM measures and enhanced calculator (2026)
- Embodied Carbon Score
- Design2Zero tool for new construction labs
- Certification program to recognize high-performing lab buildings

Tools and Resources for Saving Energy in the World's Lab Buildings

Labs2Zero Performance Assessment Tools

The **Laboratory Benchmarking Tool** allows users to compare the energy use, operational and embodied emissions, and operational practices of their lab buildings with those of similar facilities. The tool's peer-group database contains owner-submitted data from **more than 1,500 lab buildings**. Visit to learn more: <https://lbt.i2sl.org/>.

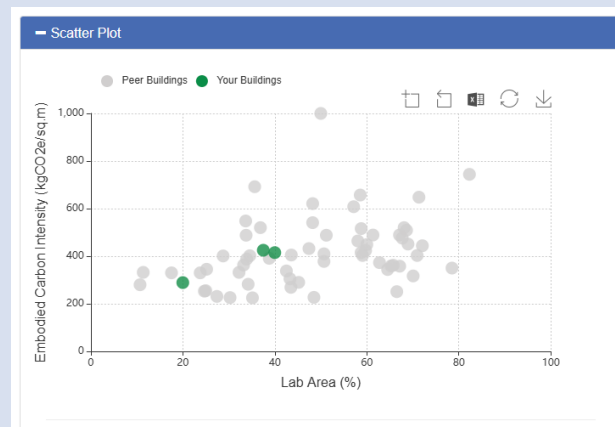
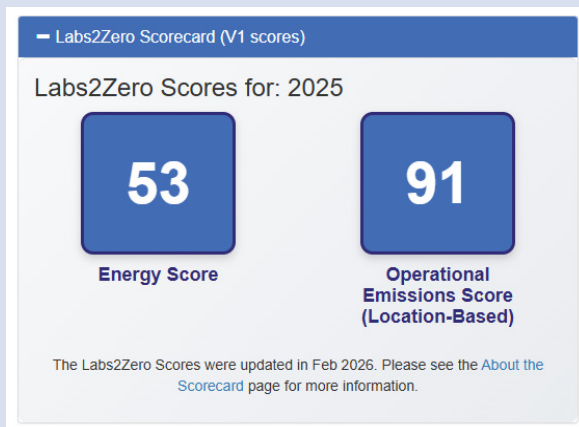
The **Energy Score** is the first energy performance score to provide a 1-100, percentile-based rating for lab buildings. Lab designers can also use the Target Setter tool to calculate the energy performance needed to achieve a desired score.

The **Operational Emissions Score** rates greenhouse gas emissions performance based on energy consumption and the local electrical grid.

The LBT also includes an **Embodied Carbon Benchmarking** tool as a first step to comparing the emissions associated with lab structural system materials, using life cycle assessment data.



Over 100 architects, engineers, consultants, service providers, developers, and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, universities, and real estate have volunteered their time and expertise to TACs supporting the development of the Labs2Zero tools.



Labs2Zero Performance Improvement Tool

The **AIM Report** software provides automated lab building energy audits at a fraction of the cost of an in-person assessment. AIM suggests applicable energy-saving measures, estimates potential energy savings and implementation costs, displays relevant case studies, and empowers users to build their own packages of energy-saving measures for their facilities.

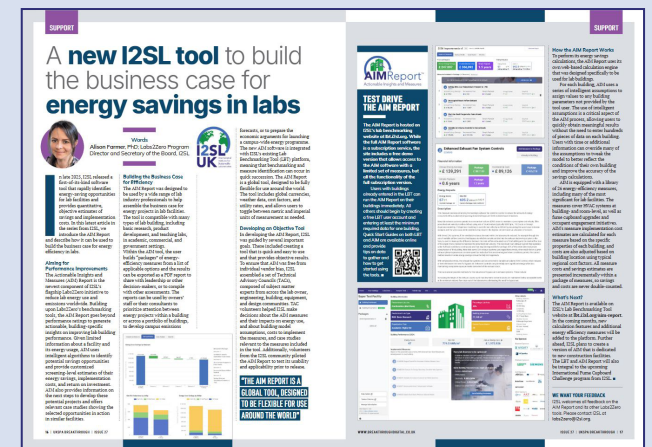
Labs2Zero Professional Accreditation Programs

New in 2026, I2SL is offering professional accreditation to those who wish to be ambassadors for energy efficiency by leveraging the Labs2Zero tools. Labs2Zero Champions demonstrate their understanding and share information about the program's tools, while Labs2Zero Experts are technical experts who will train others on using the tools.



Labs2Zero Program Director Alison Farmer and I2SL President Gordon Sharp provided hands-on training for the AIM Report and LBT at the Sustainable Labs Canada Conference in November 2025.

The Labs2Zero tools were featured in several issues of UKSPA's *Breakthrough Magazine*.



Thank You, Labs2Zero Sponsors!

The Labs2Zero program continues to receive broad support from industry sponsors.

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