

## Introduction

Welcome to Week 12 of the 2018 Certified Green Lab Program! This week, we'll be starting to discuss the Efficiency & Equipment portion of our actions, with Elective Action #13. To get refreshed on our past newsletters, go [here](#).

13. Participate in the Freezer Challenge during its next enrollment period. (<https://www.freezerchallenge.org/>)

As a reminder, completion of five Elective Actions beyond the Required Actions will earn you Bronze level certification, completion of ten will earn Silver level certification, and fifteen Elective Actions will earn Gold level certification.

## Instructions

***Elective Action #13: Participate in the [Freezer Challenge](#) during its next enrollment period.***

***Note that many of the credits in the Certified Green Labs Program also fulfill Freezer Challenge criteria.***

Lab freezers might suck up a lot of energy, but there's a lot of little things that can be done to improve their efficiency -- which is the point of the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge! Started as a collaboration between the [International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories](#) and [My Green Lab](#), thousands of labs around the world have enrolled in the program in order to cut the energy usage of their lab's freezers.

[According to Paul Foote](#), the head of the project here at UIUC, "The International Laboratory Freezer Challenge utilizes friendly competition to optimize sustainability of freezer management in laboratories. The Challenge promotes sample accessibility, sample integrity, reduced costs, and energy efficiency by harnessing a spirit of competition within and between laboratories." The F&S Energy Services Retrocommissioning and Energy Conservation unit won funding from the Student Sustainability Committee in December 2017 in order to support labs at UIUC in joining the challenge.

The most recent Freezer Challenge began in the Fall, and will conclude in June. If you have not already joined for this year, please consider enrolling during this fall's next enrollment period!

If you would like to ask questions specific to the UIUC Freezer Challenge, Paul Foote can be contacted at [gfoote2@illinois.edu](mailto:gfoote2@illinois.edu).

If you're interested in the scientific evidence and research behind the Freezer Challenge's principles, as well as some webinars about improving energy efficiency, be sure to visit the [Resources](#) page on the Freezer Challenge website.