

Introduction

Welcome to Week 16 of CGLP! This newsletter, we'll be going over Elective Actions #19, #20, & #21. As always, you can find all of our other newsletters on the iSEE website [here](#).

19. Before ordering chemicals, check your inventory and explore opportunities to use excess chemicals from another lab.
20. Have a spring cleaning event with other labs and see if you can repurpose or reuse anything from other labs before waste gets thrown away or recycled.
21. Use green cleaning products whenever possible.

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 #19: Before ordering chemicals, check your inventory and explore opportunities to use excess chemicals from another lab.

Whether it's chemicals in the lab or groceries at home, sometimes we forget what we have in stock and rebuy things we don't need. Therefore, it's always good practice to double check before ordering anything to be extra sure you're not getting stuff you don't quite need yet.

Another practice that can help reduce the amount of chemicals that you're ordering is to set up an exchange program with other labs that use similar chemicals. As long as no one's set on hoarding their chemicals, this can be a great way to both reduce over ordering, chemical degradation, and waste, and to foster collaboration and communication between labs. (Of course, keep in mind that you'll have to be willing to share your chemicals as well!)

Elective Action #20: Have a spring cleaning event with other labs and see if you can repurpose or reuse anything from other labs before waste gets thrown away or recycled.

This action goes hand in hand with setting up a chemical exchange program in the last Elective Action! Whether or not the other labs you're in contact with are also a part of CGLP, organize a spring cleaning event where unwanted chemicals or other supplies are put up for grabs for other labs. Remember, repurposing and reusing

materials is an even better way of combating resource overconsumption than recycling! The best way, of course, is to reduce consumption in the first place, so keep that in mind when you are buying new supplies. Finally, throwing things away into the trash should obviously be your very last resort -- so try your hardest to think of a way to save everything you can before it gets tossed!

Elective Action #21: Use green cleaning products whenever possible.

As chemists, you're certainly aware that the chemicals in some cleaning products are more damaging to the environment than others. Unfortunately, the products that aren't as dangerous are often more expensive. But, just as many other eco-friendly products are, they are well worth the investment. Remember, if you don't have the funds for these products, you can apply for funds from the [Student Sustainability Committee](#). This is another great action for applying to a micro-grant, or, you could join together with other labs to apply during the official cycles and get the funds for a shared bulk purchase!

For basic cleaning products (aka not laboratory grade), good brands to check out that can be found in local stores are [Seventh Generation](#) and [ECOS](#).

Laboratory specific green cleaning supplies can be harder to come by, but Labconscious does have a short list of them available [here](#).