

Introduction

Welcome to Week 4 of the CGLP! This week we will discuss Elective Action #4. If you need to catch up on any of our first three newsletters, head [here](#) to the iSEE website!

3. Share equipment and freezers with neighboring labs if 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 #4: Share equipment and freezers with neighboring labs if possible.

Did you know that a typical ultra-low temperature freezer [uses as much energy](#) as an average household? That means that a building with several labs that all have one or more ULT freezers adds the electricity of numerous houses onto its already large carbon footprint. That might sound like bad news, but if looked at optimistically, that's also a great opportunity for cutting down the carbon footprint!

Remember the lesson we were all taught as children: sharing is caring. In this case, by sharing freezers and other lab equipment with other labs, you're not just caring for each other -- you're caring for the Earth! While we know this may not be feasible for all labs (whether that's because of your work or your colleagues'), it's definitely worth taking a good look in your freezers/at your equipment and evaluating how you might be able adjust your practices to be able to share them. And it never hurts to at least ask your colleagues about the possibility.

Be sure to check out the cited report from the University of California-Riverside about the efficiency and energy use tests performed on ULT freezers by the Office of Sustainability. [The report](#) also takes into consideration the noise and heat generated by these freezers to evaluate the overall performance of the tested appliances and make usage recommendations.