

Sarah McKibbin

Greener practices to reduce the environmental impact of nanofabrication labs

Nanofabrication cleanrooms are some of the most energy intensive workplaces on the planet due to requirements for power usage, waste generation and both toxic chemical and gas use. Greater community participation in the nanoscience and fabrication community is needed to solve challenges such as the creation of specialized recycling programs for lab plastics and minimizing the use of greenhouse equivalent gases in plasma processing.

Initiatives such as *My Green Labs* and the *Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework*, provide resources to evaluate areas of operation in scientific research lab settings from a facility and user perspective. I will summarise these initiatives and provide examples relevant to nanotechnology of real day to day actions you can do as users to minimize wasteful practices, reduce the carbon footprint of research labs and how to start a local community of sustainability-minded scientists to enact long term change.