

# CU INNOVATION & EFFICIENCY AWARDS PROGRAM

The University of Colorado Innovation & Efficiency Awards Program promotes business process improvements developed by employees. These examples highlight sustainability initiatives from select departments.

## Green Labs Program

Labs at research universities are typically responsible for over 40% of campus energy use. Employees developed a program to reduce energy, water, material, and chemical use, and to promote equipment sharing and efficient lab space utilization.

*Saves ~\$300,000/year by reducing resource consumption and avoiding research equipment purchase. Influencing the creation of Green Lab Programs at other research institutions across North America.*

## Electronic Lab Registration Program

Employees developed a master database of critical operations and contact information for campus areas with chemical/physical hazards (science/engineering labs, photo labs, art studios, shops, theatre works, etc.).

*Helps identify additional safety protocols and training requirements, promoting overall environmental/personal well-being.*

## Steam Weed Control

Staff cover three times more ground/hour than pulling weeds by hand, while supporting the mission of an herbicide-free campus.

*During major floods, when campus steam vaults overflowed and killed surrounding vegetation, employees realized the potential of using steam to control weeds.*

## Green Darkroom

Staff in the art photography lab changed the quantity/type of chemicals used and installed regulators on faucets, reducing use of water and generation of hazardous waste.

*A new employee realized that routine flooding in the photo lab was due to improper faucet use in a low-light situation.*

## Autoclave Program for Biohazardous Waste

Staff switched to using onsite autoclaves in research buildings, saving money and promoting a safer workplace.

*Previously, a contracted vendor transported > 82 tons of regulated waste/year offsite for autoclaving prior to disposal.*

## Laboratory Mopping System

Staff re-engineered the vivarium cleaning process to decrease chemical/water use, save staff time, and maintain bioexclusion requirements. Subsequently awarded national recognition.

*Saves 3,900 hours of labor; 620 gallons of chemicals; and 41,000 gallons of water/year.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO INNOVATION & EFFICIENCY AWARDS PROGRAM

Recognizing employees who are inspired by typical challenges or atypical events: [cu.edu/controller/innovation](http://cu.edu/controller/innovation)