

Help us drive sustainable research at UZH and become a pilot laboratory for LEAF at UZH!



Laboratory operations need a lot of resources, including consumables, reagents, space, and electricity – we want to make sure they're used efficiently!

The [Greenlab Zurich group](#) is organizing a pilot run of the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF), a tool to evaluate resource use in labs. The Sustainability Team and the MNF Sustainability Committee support this pilot. **It would be great if your laboratory would participate in this pilot!**

What is LEAF?

[LEAF](#) is a tool created by University College London to assess sustainable research practices. It is used at 80 universities worldwide. Laboratory members fill out a questionnaire to assess resource use in their group and can set themselves targets. The tool gives recommendations on how to make laboratory practices more sustainable. Based on current practices and improvements, your laboratory can be awarded a certificate in one of three levels (Bronze, Silver, or Gold). A calculator allows to estimate carbon and budget savings.

What are the aims of the pilot project?

This pilot project has three major aims:

1. Enable you to assess the environmental impact of your lab and provide you with concrete recommendations on how to make your lab more sustainable.
2. Foster connections between sustainability-minded researchers.
3. Collect real-life data on sustainable research to inform future UZH policy.

Who can join?

Participation is open to any researchers at UZH from all faculties. LEAF is primarily aimed at "Wet-Lab" laboratory spaces. We run this pilot together with ETH Zurich, which started its pilot this spring and has already 30 laboratories registered.

How much work is it and does it cost anything?

Participating in the LEAF pilot will require a one-time investment of 1 – 10 hours to fill the questionnaire and calculator, in addition to the implementation of measures in the individual laboratories. Multiple researchers from the same lab can sign up and share the work.

You will receive valuable information on how to improve efficiency and sustainability in your lab, others interested in sustainable research and the unique opportunity to contribute directly to UZHs Sustainability Policy. Participation is free of charge for laboratories at UZH. The costs for the pilot are covered through the Make Itchel More sustainable Grant from MNF.

I am interested – how can I participate?

- We will hold a kickoff event with a short demonstration on **15. November 2023, 15:00 – 16:30 at Y-10-E-36** followed by a small Aperol. Please let us know you will be attending, so we can plan accordingly.
- Laboratories can sign up under [this link](#). Please use your [first].[last]@uzh.ch email address so you can be matched with the institutional license.
- During the pilot year, we will offer monthly helpdesk hours (joint between UZH and ETH Zurich) where you can exchange experiences and address issues.

If you are interested or have any additional questions, get in touch with Dominik or Benedikt at dominik.olszewski@mls.uzh.ch or b.wimmer@bioc.uzh.ch respectively.