

CALVIN LAB ENERGY SURVEY



Assessments: March 16 and June 1, 2012
Building Contact: Mara Bryan

Calvin Lab, the home of the Energy Biosciences Institute when energy survey was conducted, was specifically designed as a round lab so that everyone's office would open onto a central room, thus generating creative interaction. It was chosen as a pilot for the Energy Management Initiative because of the leadership of the lab management and to determine best practices in a biological lab.

STICKERS

After the initial energy survey, it was agreed that a good way to reduce energy was to identify and label equipment that can be turned off at certain times. The myPower team worked with Mara Bryan, lab manager, to place specially-designed stickers – which are combination labels and reminders – on over 50 pieces of equipment. Of this number, 80% reminded users to turn off the equipment when not in use. They were placed mostly on incubators, centrifuges, water baths, and shakers – but only on ones identified by the lab manager.

The results have been promising – there is anecdotal evidence that equipment is being turned off more often, hopefully evidence of the success of the stickers in changing individual behavior. Only one sticker has

been removed – on a centrifuge that require a twenty-minute warm-up period.



Stop!

This equipment stays on at all times.



Wait!

See instructions on the sticker for instructions before turning on or off.



Go Ahead!

Turn off this equipment when you are finished using it.

Energy Savings

Since the Energy Biosciences Institute moved to a new home only a few months after the survey was conducted, it is difficult to document concrete energy savings. Besides the anecdotal evidence that equipment is being used less, energy use in the first two months after the equipment stickers were applied is down slightly (1,000-2,000 kWh per month).

Existing Practices

The myPower found many existing practices in the lab, which are already saving energy:

- Researchers share a great deal of equipment.
- The refrigerators were all relatively new and more energy efficient.
- Staff defrost refrigerator and freezer coils yearly.
- The lab uses 30% recycled computer paper but more often use USB drives instead of printing.

- There are different sized containers to carry ice, to minimize ice use.
- Contents of freezers are posted on the door to make them easier to find.
- Staff soak their glassware in old water before washing, which results in shorter wash times.
- Staff regularly close biological safety cabinets – in their new building (EBB), the fume hoods will have automatic sash closures.



Applying Stickers to Lab Equipment

FURTHER RESOURCES:

- Contact myPower for monitor and light switch stickers.
- Become a Power Agent! Go to: mypower.berkeley.edu/about/power_agents.html
- myPower Lab tips available at: mypower.berkeley.edu/takeaction/lab.html
- Recycle old computers, appliances, and lab equipment! For more information, go to the Berkeley Overstock and Surplus website: businessservices.berkeley.edu/overstock