

LEAF: Laboratory Sustainability Certification Program



We are thrilled that you are interested in the [LEAF Lab Sustainability Certification Program](#)!

LEAF is a standard set by University College London (UCL) to improve the sustainability and efficiency of laboratories.

The LEAF program comprises four elements:

1. **The Framework:** An online tool that guides users through sustainability actions to save plastics, water, energy, and other resources in their laboratory.
2. **Online Calculators:** To help measure financial and carbon impact. You can estimate how sustainable your lab is now and track improvements.
3. **Toolkit and Resources:** From guides to sustainable lab equipment and consumables to induction and exit procedures.
4. **User Engagement & Training:** LEAF offers each institution a tailored workshop to engage employees working in the laboratory on sustainable science, and to introduce LEAF.

By joining the LEAF program, laboratories reduce their carbon emissions and create an environment that supports research quality. Laboratories are awarded either a Bronze, Silver, or Gold level depending on their sustainability actions.

You can **get started** by following the first steps in the [LEAF User Guide](#).

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The User Guide will walk you through getting started, managing your lab, completing LEAF, submitting LEAF, peer auditing, and provide criteria assessment guidance. You can find additional [LEAF resources here](#).

To receive the LEAF certificate at the DKFZ your lab must:

- **Address each criterion** for the award level sought. Each criterion must be addressed for your award level, even if it's to say why it's not applicable. Make sure to save as you go!
- Assign between 1-3 people in your lab to **audit another DKFZ lab**.
- **Review and submit** your work once complete.

Moreover, we encourage you to:

- Use the **Calculators**, which allow you to estimate your carbon reductions or financial savings.
- Fill in **Open Initiatives**, which are initiatives that may not have fit within a criterion but are worth sharing.

Please write to sustainability@dkfz.de with questions.