

Event Overview:

On March 27, 2014, the Boston Green Ribbon Commission's Higher Education and Health Care Working Groups jointly hosted an all-day Green Labs Symposium at Harvard University. Kate Walsh, President and CEO, Boston Medical Center, and Katie Lapp, Executive Vice President, Harvard University, opened the event. The purpose of the event was to bring together lab experts from the higher education, health care, and biotech sectors to explore shared challenges and solutions to making our labs more sustainable. The event featured best in class examples of smart, sustainable labs to spur dialogue and best practice sharing. All content was selected after outreach to many stakeholders in both Higher Ed and Health Care to understand who they most wanted to hear from and on what topics. This event was sponsored by NSTAR and National Grid and supported by the Barr Foundation and Health Care Without Harm. The event was sold out.

Participant Overview:

We directly targeted facilities, operations, environmental health and safety, and sustainability professionals from the higher education, health care, and biotech communities to attend this event. Approximately 150 people attended.

Content:

The content was selected after outreach to many stakeholders in both Higher Ed and Health Care to understand who they most wanted to hear from and on what topics. The event featured:

- Keynote presentations from:
 - **Wendell Brase**, Vice Chancellor, Administrative & Business Services at UC Irvine
 - **Phil Wirdzek**, Founding President and Executive Director of the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL)
 - **Allen Aloise**, Director of Laboratories and Co-Director of Graduate Studies in the Harvard Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
- A workshop and detailed case study presented by the Smart Labs team at UC Irvine, which has realized energy savings of 50% or more in existing and new laboratories. Featuring technical presentations from personnel in UC Irvine's Facilities Management and Environmental Health & Safety organizations:
 - **Marc A. Gomez**, Assistant Vice Chancellor, EH&S and Facilities Management at UC Irvine
 - **Matt Gudorf**, Campus Energy Manager at UC Irvine
 - **Fred Bockmiller**, Manager, Engineering Group at UC Irvine
 - **David Kang**, Industrial Hygiene Energy Specialist at UC Irvine
- Other best-in-class success stories, with a technical focus on energy efficiency, lab design, and HVAC strategies, including two projects selected by the utilities as examples of a model partnership between the utility and a client.
 - **Paul Lukitsch**, *Regional Facilities Manager at EMD Millipore*
 - **Chris Longchamps**, *Senior Facilities Engineer at Partners HealthCare*
 - **John Kibbee**, *Program Manager at NSTAR Electric & Gas*, **Joe Ranahan**, *Energy Manager at Northeastern University*

- **Fran Boucher**, *Energy Efficiency Program Manager at National Grid*, **David MacNeil**, *Senior Mechanical Project Engineer at UMass Medical School*
- Ample time for participants to discuss shared challenges and best practices in the facilitated afternoon discussion portion of the event.
- Opportunities to provide input on future events and other resources.
- Lunch and an evening networking reception sponsored by NSTAR.

Event Feedback:

Participants were asked to fill out a survey indicating how useful and informative they found the event content and format. These results are summarized below.

Over 90% of respondents felt that the event met their expectations and that they learned something useful at the event, and that they would attend a similar event in the future.

Additionally, we received numerous emails stating how much participants enjoyed the event and how relevant and useful they found the presentations. A few quotes are listed below.

- “This was the best event I've been to in some time. Well done!”
- “It was a truly great event.”
- “Loved the symposium.”
- “I thought the event was fantastic and very well organized.”
- “That symposium was fantastic.”
- “Thank you for the excellent symposium.”
- “Was very well put together event.”

Feedback on Future Events:

Participants were asked to fill out a survey indicating their interest in future event topics and their preferred event format. These results are summarized below.

According to the survey results, over 50% of attendees indicated high interest in the following topics:

- Renovations/retrofits for efficiency and sustainability
- Fume hood ventilation minimization and retrofits
- Air change reductions in animal facilities and labs
- Right-sizing lab space vs. flexibility
- Feedback and behavior change for fume hood use
- Using energy modeling to optimize design & retrofits
- Control systems
- Metering and sub-metering
- Equipment design and selection

Climate preparedness is a topic that came up many times in our conversations with stakeholders, but surprisingly, it didn't rank very highly with our participants as a topic for future events.

Survey results showed that participants prefer case studies, trainings, and facility tours, and that full- or half-day events are the preferred event length.

Summary of Next Steps:

We received great feedback from participants on topics of interest for future events, and we will be discussing this feedback with the utilities and our higher ed/health care planning committee to identify next steps for future efforts and events.

Presentations:

Copies of the presentations and video footage of the speakers are available in the Presentations section of the event website at <http://green.harvard.edu/campaign/green-labs-symposium> and will be linked to from the GRC website in the near future.

Press:

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2014/03/making-labs-greener/>