



 **green LABS^**  
update

## Connect to the Green Labs Network

Every month, we'll be sharing new green labs tips, but we want to hear from you on how you made your lab more sustainable last month. Email Max Christman (mchristm@caltech.edu) to share your story.

### November's Sustainability Topic: Energy Practices

#### Fact

**-Green practices in the lab are the most impactful way for each of you to help lower Caltech's carbon footprint and environmental impact. Labs across campus are already engaging in green behavior.**

#### What Can You Do?

- Check for and enable energy saving modes on all pieces of equipment.
- Turn off chilled centrifuges, ovens, heating blocks, and other pieces of equipment when not in use.
- Place shut down checklists near points of egress to remind occupants about turning off equipment.

## Disposal of Hazardous Waste

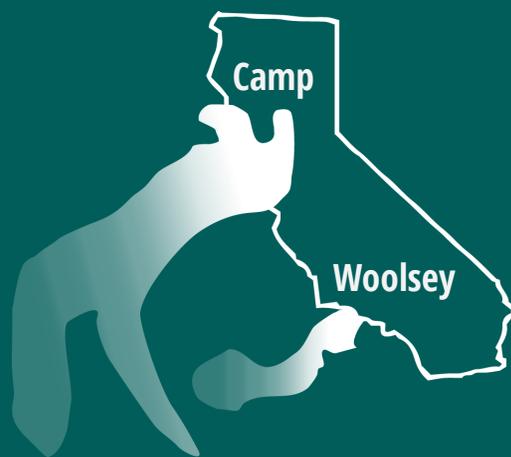
Many different types of waste are removed from your labs every day, but where do these wastes go? A deeper dive into disposal methods for common wastes can help inform your practices for reducing waste generation in the laboratory.

Today, we'll take a look at biohazardous waste, also known as regulated medical waste. This waste includes biohazardous materials or pathogens that require sterilization or disinfection prior to final disposal.

While some generators simply incinerate this waste, Caltech takes an environmentally responsible approach by first shredding and microwaving the waste to render it biologically inert. Pathogen elimination is verified immediately following this process.

This shredded material is then sent to a facility in Commerce, CA where it is converted into a renewable energy source for the power grid.

## Did You Know?



Wildfires are the size of **PASADENA X 16**

NASA's Terra satellite captured images of the Camp and Woolsey Fires using its Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer. The fires have burned 230,000 acres, or 16 times the size of Pasadena, as of 11/14/18.

Caltech works to keep pollutants, like smoke and black carbon, out of campus buildings using advanced building controls like weather informed exhaust systems.

**Wind Informed Exhaust**

**Average TV on for a full year**



Caltech uses wind speeds and direction to control building exhaust and save energy in the Jorgensen Lab. This saves enough energy to watch 43 TVs for an entire year.

