Better Buildings®
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

2023

BETTER PRACTICE

Sustainable Labs
UVA SUSTAINABILITY

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA:
UVA Sustainable Labs Program

The University of Virginia (UVA) implemented a Sustainable Labs Program to increase energy savings in intensive lab buildings, enhance safety features, and promote engagement with UVA's research community, decreasing CO_2e by more than 20%, energy use by almost 20%, and annual costs by around $5 million.

✓ **Fully implemented Sustainable Labs in two research buildings and carried out targeted upgrades, lighting retrofits, and ventilation risk assessments**

✓ **Designed and implemented specialized outreach programs, such as Green Labs Certification and the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge**

✓ **Critical for UVA achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and fossil fuel-free by 2050 as labs account for one-third of total energy use on campus**