



# 2023–24 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Susan Bottino, Sustainability Manager

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Harvard Chan School of Public Health (HSPH), in collaboration with the Harvard Office for Sustainability (OFS), hired Sustainability Manager Susan Bottino in November 2023. She is supervised through OFS and embedded with HSPH Operations, Kresge LL15.

## ZERO-WASTE

### Reuse Room Thriving

The Reuse Room in Building 1 provides for the hyper-local exchange of surplus items, reducing waste and saving money. In the six months since it reopened in January 2024, there have been 80 visits by donors and shoppers. Typical items swapped include a variety of office supplies, lab supplies and equipment, small pieces of furniture, and household goods. Visitors come from across the Harvard Longwood Campus to pick up and drop off extra materials, and they also build community around waste reduction and sustainability. The Reuse Room is usually open on Wednesdays 11:30 am–1:30 pm, and by appointment.

In addition to the room location, the varying inventory is redistributed through donations to the Mission Hill Grammar School (100+ binders), Freecycle events, the Harvard Surplus Center (80 boxes plus furniture), which is open to the public, and at our fairs and events.



### Very Busy Spring 2024 Freecycle Swap

Around 300 people participated in the February Freecycle at Rosenau Atrium, adjacent to Sebastian's Café in the Kresge Building. Many staff and students brought items from home and hundreds of useful goods were distributed. Items exchanged included office supplies, books, home furnishings, clothing, shoes, and electronics. Leftover items went to the Reuse Room and the Harvard Surplus Center.

## Waste Stewardship Working Group Collaborating on Ideas

As part of the Waste Stewardship Steering Committee's efforts to create a strategic Zero Waste framework for the university, HSPH Operations and Sustainability staff contribute to the Waste Stewardship Working Group helping to shape this framework and create a plan for the school. This effort, led by Recycling & Waste Services in Facilities Maintenance

Operations, Environmental Health & Safety, and the Office for Sustainability, includes representatives from schools and business units coming together for regular meetings throughout 2024. They inform next steps and priorities related to waste prevention, reduction, and recycling as set out in the Harvard Sustainability Action Plan.

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## ENGAGEMENT

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### EcoOpportunity Green Team Relunched

Since March 2024, the EcoOpportunity Green Team, which is open to all Harvard Longwood community members, has held monthly meetings to create community and engage in sustainability efforts. Discussions have led to volunteering at sustainability events, learning from guest speakers, and implementing a waste ambassador program to assist individuals with composting, recycling,

and trash disposal. We are building a strong network of sustainability professionals from HSPH, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Wyss Institute.

**eco**opportunity



### Earth Day Festival Popular on Campus

The HU Longwood Earth Day Festival in April brought 350 people to Countway Community Garden, where they chatted with representatives from Harvard's Public Health, Medical, and Dental Medicine schools, Countway Library, Office for Sustainability, Recycling, Environmental Affairs, C-Change, Native and Indigenous Student Health Forum, Longwood Consortium, Zhu Family Center for Global Cancer Prevention, Restaurant Associates, and Harvard University Dining Services. Activities included rock painting, food samples, free plants, seeds, and coffee drinks, and sustainability-themed prizes.

## LABORATORIES

### Freezer Challenge Challenging

HSPH participated in the International Freezer Challenge, run by the nonprofits My Green Lab and the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories. This is an annual contest that aims to improve energy efficiency of cold storage, particularly freezers, enable better sample accessibility, reduce risk, and decrease costs. We shared information and resources and helped raise awareness about the importance of proper cold storage.



### Sustainable Labs Vendor Fair Demonstrates Innovations



On June 26, 2024, HSPH co-hosted a Sustainable Labs Vendor Fair on Countway Plaza. Sixteen vendors demonstrated products such as biodegradable lab gloves, bio-based lab consumables, more energy-efficient ultra-low temperature freezers, and other resources to over 200 people. The event was sponsored by HSPH, HMS, and HSDM, in partnership with Harvard preferred vendor VWR. Sponsors shared information about campus sustainability efforts and attendees picked up free surplus lab consumables.

### Pipette Tip Box Recycling Program Takes Off

After a successful pilot of the Pipette Tip Box Recycling Program in early 2023, the collection has continued and expanded at HSPH. GreenLabs Recycling, the local company that receives and recycles this

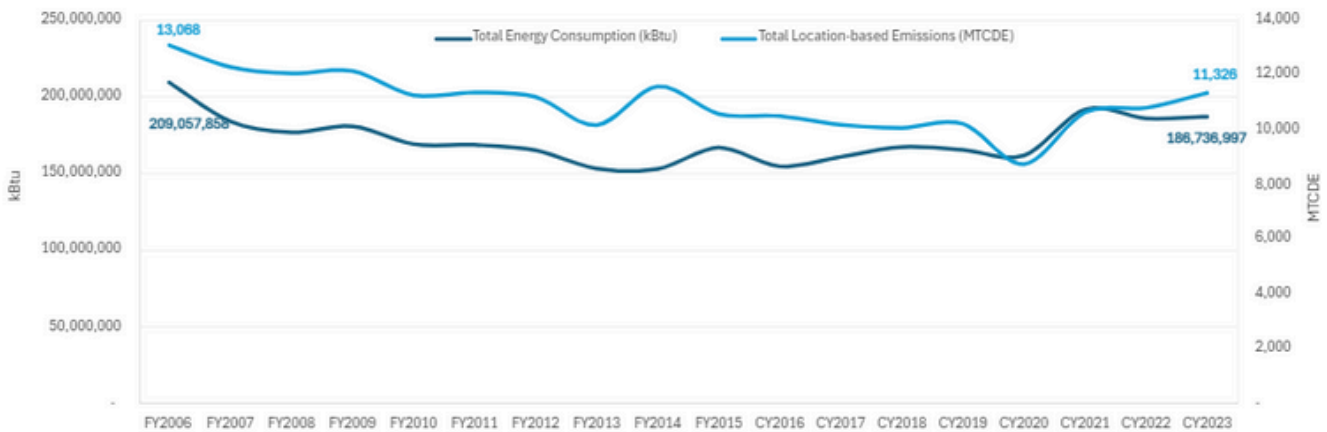
lab plastic, reports that HSPH has diverted approximately 1,101 lbs (4,404 pipette tip boxes) of lab plastic since July 2023. The boxes are sorted and shredded to create a raw material for use in manufacturing.

# ENERGY AND OPERATIONS

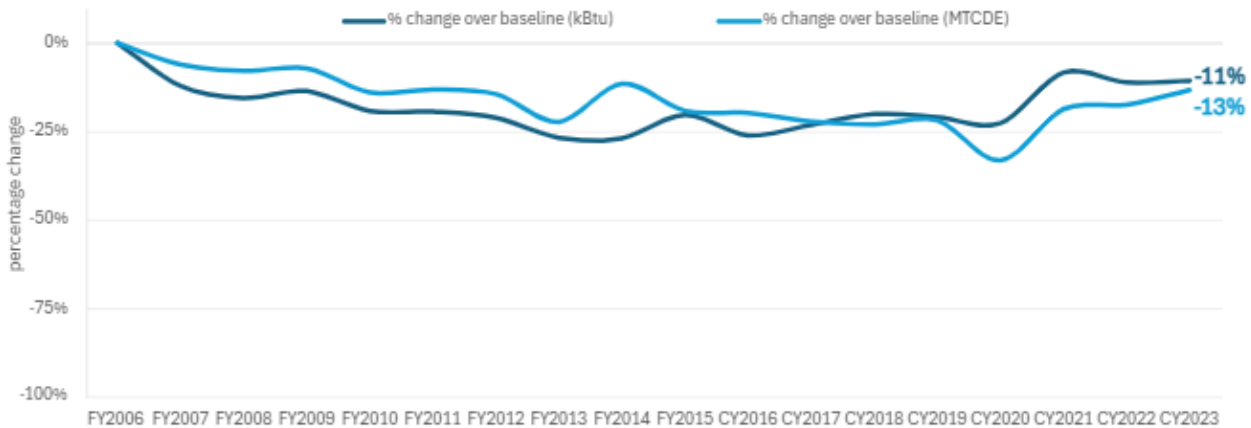
GHG emissions are calculated using the location-based reporting methodology, following The Climate Registry's (TCR) General Reporting Protocol for the Voluntary Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Program. The GHG inventory consists of direct emissions from onsite

fossil fuel combustion (scope 1) and indirect emissions from purchased commodities (scope 2) sources. CY2023 emissions are draft and subject to change when final emission factors are published and verified.

HSPH energy & emissions trends (FY06-CY23)



HSPH energy & emissions trends (FY06-CY23)



# Major Projects Improve Reliability and Sustainability

Major building infrastructure renewal projects completed by Operations in 2023-24 include:

- Air handlers replaced in the basements of Buildings 1 and 2
- Air handlers replaced on the roof of Building 2
- Exhaust fans replaced on the roof of Building 2
- Air handlers replaced on the roof of the Kresge Building
- Electrical infrastructure replaced in Buildings 1 and 2



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## UP NEXT

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### Operations Equipment Upgrades

As part of continuing campus infrastructure upgrades, the elevators in the Kresge Building will be modernized by the Fall of 2025. Upgrading the elevators with energy-efficient technologies will reduce our carbon footprint and operating costs, as well as enhance reliability, safety, and aesthetics.

In 2025, a new tunnel washer, rack washer, and in-line bedding dispenser will replace the existing animal cage cleaning equipment in the basement of Building 2.

The current equipment is over 20 years old—well past end-of-life—and in need of replacement. Given the age, some equipment parts are obsolete or otherwise difficult to source when a repair is needed, which causes increasing downtime. Newer cage racks cannot be processed in the existing rack washer due to limitations within the chamber. By upgrading both the tunnel washer and rack washer, we will have a more efficient and more flexible operation, eliminating the need for a second tunnel washer.

### Events to Engage the Community

EcoOp volunteers will offer information at student resource fairs this summer and fall, run a fall Freecycle, and participate in the Longwood Campus fall bike fair.

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## TO LEARN MORE

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HSPH EcoOpportunity Green Team  
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