

Green Labs NL – Annual Report 2024

1. Foreword

In this report, we share the goals, members and activities of the foundation Green Labs NL across the year 2024.

2. About Green Labs NL

Green Labs NL is a bottom-up initiative that was founded in 2021 by members of the Dutch scientific community, with a passion for sustainability and planetary health.

Vision

Green Labs NL strives to accelerate the transition towards a just and sustainable laboratory environment and scientific landscape in the Netherlands and beyond.

Mission

Green Labs NL works on embedding just and sustainable scientific practices into the science and laboratory community by running local and (inter)national projects, and through knowledge and movement building. In addition, it is our mission to equip current and future professionals with knowledge, skills, and reflective capabilities needed to minimise the negative social and environmental impacts of scientific research and laboratory work through educational innovations.

Identity

Green Labs NL was founded in 2021 to connect and support the growing number of local grass root initiatives, such as laboratory green teams. Green Labs NL has built expertise and network to progress the green science movement at national and international level.

3. Board Members

The Green Labs board was constituted as follows on 31 december 2024:

Chair: Rolf Slaats

Secretary: Mandy Erkelens

Treasurer: Marit de Kort

Vice-chair: Joep Sprangers

4. Green Labs NL members

The following people were core members of the Green Labs NL team on 31 december 2024:

Florijn Dekkers
 Boaz Chemtob
 Gabriela Dankova
 Yusuf Bilgehan Arik
 Aram de Haas
 Rolf Slaats
 Mandy Erkelens
 Marit de Kort
 Joep Sprangers
 Laura Meulenbroeks

5. Key Activities and Highlights

a. Talks and Events

In 2024, Green Labs NL members participated in the following events, talks and workshops:

| Date | GLNL speaker | Type | Name event | Topic Talk | Host |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| 28/04/2024 | Rolf | Talk | ECCMID | Reduction of energy use in the lab | ESCMID |
| 15/16-05-2024 | Florijn | Talk | European Funding Landscape | Result of funding landscape in the Netherlands | EMBO |
| 05.03.2024 | Boaz and Joep | Talk/brains torming | symposium DGK (veterinary sciences UU) | LEAF, sustainability at UU, GLNL | |
| 22/03/2024 | Rolf and Joep | Talk/works hop | Young at Heart event | Sustainability in healthcare and research | Dutch Heart Foundation |
| 26/03/2024 | Rolf | Talk | | | Batavia Biosciences |
| 05/03/2024 | Florijn | Talk | Green funding landscape | Discussion ZonMW/NWO/OCW/Green Labs NL | Ministry of OCW |
| 04/03/2024 | Florijn | Panel discussion | wetenschapscommunicatie bij voor de studenten van Pre-University College | Movement building | |
| June 17/June 18 | Florijn | Pitch | Oncode | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|--|---|
| 15/03/2024 | | Award | Lab sustainability award | | EMBO |
| 05/04/2024 | | Award | Lab sustainability award | | I2SL |
| 22/03/2024 | Joep | Speaker | LEAF event (details tbd by Joep) | | Maj (PMC) |
| 02/05/2024 | Mariela/Marit | Workshop | BMW Honoursprogramma | Lab Sustainability | Honoursprogramma BMW UU |
| 01/07/2024 | Marit | workshop | PhD Day GSLS | Workshop planetary health/sustainability | GSLS UMCU |
| 28/05/2024 | Rolf | Workshop | ProQR annual conference | Sustainability in the lab | ProQR |
| 12/06/2024 | Mandy + Marit | workshop | | | TNO Leiden |
| 24/09/2024 | Joep | Talk | pre-conference of the European Tissue Repair Society | Sustainability in the lab | ETRS |
| 28/09/2024 | Florijn + Arte | Workshop | Groene zorg festival | Maatschappelijk verantwoord onderzoek | GZA |
| 25/09/2024 | Marit / Rolf | talk | WoTS | Sustainability in the lab | FHI |
| 30/10/2024 | Florijn | Panel member | Utrecht Science Week | When does research become waste? | CO2 assistant |
| 23/10/2024 | Rolf | Talk | 3D Cell Culture Day! | Sustainability and cell culture | Isogen |
| 5-7 nov 2024 | Marit/Florijn/Rolf/Joep | Talk/posters | Labos 1.5 Event | | Labos 1.5 |
| 04/10/2024 | Joep | Talk | Susan Vink <susan.vink@hu.nl> | | HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht |
| 09/11/2024 | Marit | Talk | | Lab sustainability | GSLS UU, Msc students, regenerative medicine biofabrication |

b. Summary of Green Labs NL activities and publications in 2024

Activities

- LEAF Q4 project wrap-up

Green Labs NL contributed to the LEAF NL Q4 project, with the financial support of the Minister of Health, working towards signing all University Medical Centers up for LEAF, and having new labs join the LEAF programmes and getting bronze or silver LEAF certification. The project was wrapped up in 2024.

- Green Labs NL strategy meetings

In 2024, Green Labs NL held two strategy meetings, where all core members were invited. During these meetings, we reviewed the current vision and goals for the foundation, and decided on priorities for the upcoming 6 months.

- Green Labs NL community meetings

Three Green Labs NL community meetings were organised:

April on research animal alternatives, with invited speaker Jeffrey Bajramovic.

June: principles of green chemistry, with invited guest Thomas Freese.

December: sustainable computing practices and Green DiSC with invited speaker Loïc Lannelongue.

- Green Labs NL Freezer Challenge

Green Labs NL developed a simple version of a freezer challenge, based on previous challenges done locally in Dutch institutes. This challenge can be used to clear unwanted samples from freezers and was piloted at UMC Utrecht in Q4 2024.

- Educational activities

Green Labs NL members contributed to the development of Planetary Health educational tools for life sciences, such as the Guidelines Socially Responsible Research, and two E-modules on Just and Sustainable Research and laboratory practices. This was done in collaboration with UMC Utrecht and many other experts.

Publications

- [Green Science, what's in it for you? Florijn Dekkers, Nature 2024.](#)

- [Green Labs NL brings funders together to act for sustainability.](#)

- [Guidelines socially responsible research](#) (co-created with Green Labs NL members)

- [E-module Just and Sustainable Laboratory Practices](#) (co-created with Green Labs NL members, project lead by Florijn Dekkers)

- [Heidelberg agreements](#) (with contribution from Florijn Dekkers)

Other important updates:

- International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) prize

Green Labs NL was awarded the i2sl Award for Partnerships and Education. Florijn Dekkers and Joep Sprangers presented during the award ceremony.

Notary update and ANBI status

- In order to apply for ANBI status, the Green Labs NL statutes were changed with minor details to meet the requirements for ANBI status. The following changes were required:
 - Upon dissolution of our foundation, the money will be donated to a cause with similar goals, also with ANBI status.
 - Our financial year statements will be checked by an accountant.

Green Labs NL acquired ANBI status as of September 2024.

1% for the planet

Green Labs NL signed up for 1% for the planet and has started conversations with a partner for a project-based donation initiative.

- Website and look

In order to meet our professional growth over the past few years, we have dedicated time and funds in 2024 to improve the Green Labs NL website, as well as the visual identity and logo of the foundation.

6. Financial Overview

- Income

This year, we have received one donation. Our other income was based on speaker fees for talks and workshops, or hourly fees from on project-based work.

- Spendings

We spent a part of our income on administrative tasks, such as domain fees, Zoom subscriptions, and bank fees. A large sum also was spent on the accountant, which is a requirement for ANBI status.

A part was also spent on our strategy meetings, by organising a meeting room and a dinner for our (mostly volunteering) core members.

For a more detailed overview of our finances, please refer to the financial year report 2024.

7. Goals for 2025

- Launch of Green Labs NL website and community (100 members)
- Continue with workshops and talks for knowledge spread, at least X events
- Further professionalize further developing the house style
- Set up collaboration for 1% of the planet
- Maintain and improve financial stability for the foundation
- Stay informed and contribute to the SPARKhub development
- Continue with implementation of 1st E-module and finalize the 2nd E-module
- Roll out the Freezer Challenge as part of NFU Green Deal Sustainable Healthcare project

- Continue development of (inter)national standards for sustainability in research, together with collaboration partners such as the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, NWO, NOW-KIN, EMBO and UKRI.

9. Acknowledgements

We thank our core members and Green Labs NL associates for all their efforts towards the goals of the Green Labs NL foundation.

10. Approval of the year report

On Thursday June 19th, the core team and board of Green Labs NL voted to approve the year report and financial year report.

11. Appendices

Find the financial year report on our website.