

Pharmacology Green Committee (PGC)

Newsletter

[PGC Website](#)About
the PGC

The Pharmacology Green Committee was started in 2009 and has since raised awareness within the department about environmental responsibility and decreased its environmental impact.

Our goals as a committee are to:

1. Reduce waste production by labs, administrative offices and individuals in the department;
2. Encourage eco-friendly behaviours;
3. Raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainable practices

It encourages any individual or group efforts to reach these goals so that the community as a whole benefits.

Check us out on [Facebook](#).

Simple Advice:**Greening your westerns...**

Western blots are a frequently used technique in molecular biology laboratories. One of the main steps involves the transfer of the separated proteins from the gel to an absorbent membrane and requires a methanol-based transfer buffer. Surprisingly, most people are unaware of the health effects related to methanol exposure. According to World Health Organization (WHO), methanol, which readily evaporates and is freely miscible in air, can cause retinal and optic nerve damage, as well metabolic acidosis and dermatitis¹. We decided to experiment and see whether switching the buffer to an ethanol base instead would have any effect on detection of a phosphorylated protein. As clearly shown in our results (see above), there is no difference in the detection of a phosphorylated protein when ethanol is used to make the transfer buffer.

¹(<http://www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc196.htm>)

For disposal and safety precautions, [click here](#).

Green initiatives at McGill**McGill Seeds of Change introduces “Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB)”**

A joint effort with Class Action 2011 to bring mobile purified-water kiosques all over campus. So bring your bottle!

[Click here for more details](#)

McGill Sustainability Project Fund

Their goal is to achieve the highest standards of sustainability on McGill campuses. Find out how you can help [by clicking here](#)

ACS Summer School on Green Chemistry and Sustainable Energy

A forum for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to explore solutions to global environmental challenges.

Date: June 26th – July 3rd, 2011

Place: McGill University, Montreal, Qc

Application deadline: March 14, 2011

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

5 Sustainable practices

1. Spring cleaning? Recycle your old clothes/toys/working electronics at the following service points:
 - [Salvation Army](#)
 - [Renaissance Quebec](#)
 - [Share the Warmth](#)
 - [Les Lutins Verts](#)
2. Make a lunch: it's healthier and cheaper!
3. Use a cloth instead of a paper towel when cleaning.
4. Use old maps as wrapping paper
5. Place a bottle of water in your toilet tank to save water

PGC Activities 2011

Want to Green your event? Contact your PGC and discover how we can help!



Your PGC was interviewed by the *MCGILL DAILY*. Check it out [here](#).

COMING SOON!**FOOTING THE BILL**

Your PGC is planning to open a fund that will help labs pay for more environmentally responsible reagents. Stay tuned for more details.