



# ACT

**LABEL VERIFICATION  
GUIDE** VERSION 1.2

April 2024



ACT is the Premier  
Eco-Nutrition Label  
for Laboratory Products.

**ACCOUNTABILITY.**  
**CONSISTENCY.**  
**TRANSPARENCY.**



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**ACT.**



		US
<b>Product Name</b>		
Product Location SKU 0000		
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact 		
<b>Manufacturing</b>		
Manufacturing Impact Reduction		3
Renewable Energy Use		Yes
Responsible Chemical Management		5
Shipping Impact		9
Product Content		1
Packaging Content		5
<b>User Impact</b>		
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)		2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)		13.1
Product Lifetime		4
<b>End of Life</b>		
Packaging		5
Product		1
<b>Innovation</b>		
Innovative Practices		-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>		<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:		January 2021
		act.mygreenlab.org



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SECTION 1

# ACT Overview





# Introducing ACT

The opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of labs through smarter purchases is tremendous. The ACT Environmental Impact Factor (EIF) Label was designed to address the need of both scientists and procurement specialists for clear, third-party verified information about the environmental impact of laboratory products. By emphasizing Accountability, Consistency, and Transparency (ACT) around manufacturing, energy and water use, packaging, and end-of-life, ACT makes it easy to choose more sustainable products. ACT-labeled products are independently audited by Sustainable Management and Strategy Collaborative (SMSC) and verified by My Green Lab.



## ACT LABEL BY THE NUMBERS AND GROWING FAST

**1200+**  
ACT LABELLED  
PRODUCTS

**30+**  
MANUFACTURERS

**33**  
SUPPORTING  
ORGANIZATIONS

Numbers above are as of April 2024. Please visit the ACT database for a full updated list of companies and products: [actdatabase.mygreenlab.org](http://actdatabase.mygreenlab.org)

 <b>ACT.</b> <span style="float: right;">US</span>	
The Environmental Impact Factor Label	
<b>Product Name</b>	
Product Location	
SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact	
1	10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 47.6</b>	
Label Valid Through:	January 2021
 <a href="http://act.mygreenlab.org">act.mygreenlab.org</a>	



# Reading the Label

The criteria for the ACT label, also known as the Environmental Impact Factor (EIF) criteria, were developed with input from industry experts and external stakeholders. Scientists, sustainability directors, procurement specialists, and manufacturers all provided valuable feedback on the EIF criteria, resulting in the most comprehensive product labeling program for life science products.

A score of 1 is equivalent to the lowest environmental impact and a score of 10 equals the highest environmental impact. For equipment, the energy and water consumption values represent actual usage per day and may exceed a score of 10.

The ACT label process entails third-party verification of the sustainable impacts of a product, its operations, and its end of life. Completing this process is a significant achievement that offers a baseline and framework for continuous improvement for the manufacturing community.

This category is either yes or no  
Detailed scoring explanations for each category are outlined in the verification guide

The sum total of all values equals the Environmental Impact Factor  
ACT labels are valid for two years from the date of issue

 <b>ACT.</b> <span style="float: right;">us</span> <small>The Environmental Impact Factor Label</small>	
<b>Product Name</b>	
Product Location SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact 	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 47.6</b>	
Label Valid Through: December 2025	
 <a href="http://act.mygreenlab.org">act.mygreenlab.org</a>	

Regional labels capture the differences in the Shipping and End of Life impacts for each region (US, EU, UK) in which the product is sold. The regional labels also showcase how the energy usage may vary across the markets and reports the water usage in units specific to the market (gallons per day or liters per day) for equipment.

These values are graded on a scale of 1-10, with 1 indicating the lowest environmental impact and 10 indicating the highest environmental impact

These values represent actual daily consumption and apply only to equipment

A lower number indicates a lower overall environmental impact



The ACT label applies to all products that can be used in a lab and the scoring process is divided by the following categories:



**CONSUMABLES**



**EQUIPMENT**



**CHEMICALS & REAGENTS**



# The Value of ACT

ACT delivers tangible value for your company, for your customers, and for your people:

## Credibility

ACT is the International 'Gold Standard' third-party framework to evaluate the sustainability of laboratory products

## Leadership

Lead the market and showcase a clear commitment to sustainability to customers, investors and employees

## Demand Generation

Win new customers and RFP's through a visible commitment to sustainability

## Market Visibility

Connect to new markets through powerful partnership and visibility opportunities

## Continuous Improvement

The ACT third-party verification process, confirms your successes but also challenges your organization to continuously improve and reduce your impact

*"The ACT label provides a trusted 3rd party verification that we are buying the most sustainable products. It is a key part of our strategic sourcing strategy to improve our labs and drive industry transformation"*

-KRISTIN FLOYD, SENIOR BUYER, STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, MEMBER OF THE PROCUREMENT ACTIVISTS

*"My Green Lab and ACT are tackling the challenge of increasing transparency of sustainability. They are a great partner to advance environmental sustainability at your organization and share the impact with the global scientific community."*

-JEFFREY WHITFORD, HEAD OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND BRANDING FOR MILLIPORESIGMA

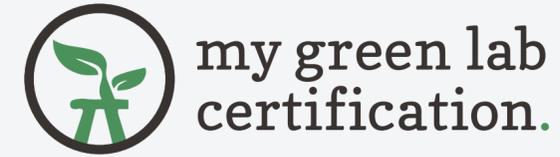


# Building a Movement for Green Labs

The Green Lab movement unites scientists, suppliers, procurement specialists, safety managers, sustainability professionals, and others in the common effort to reduce the environmental impact of labs.

My Green Lab's mission is to build a global culture of sustainability in science. Our My Green Lab Certification Program is the cornerstone of our mission, educating and engaging scientists on laboratory sustainability best practices so they can become active contributors in minimizing the environmental impact of their laboratory operations.

My Green Lab Certification is endorsed by the UN-backed Race to Zero program, and considered the international 'gold standard' for laboratory sustainability best practices. Thousands of labs have been certified in a variety of sectors, including academic institutions, government labs, hospitals, and pharma & biotech companies, among others. Scientists can also become My Green Lab Ambassadors through our education program, allowing them to network, learn, and discuss laboratory sustainability with other Ambassadors and professionals in the green labs industry. In becoming My Green Lab certified and joining our Ambassador network, we have seen people and organizations make real and impactful changes across their laboratories.



# ACT.

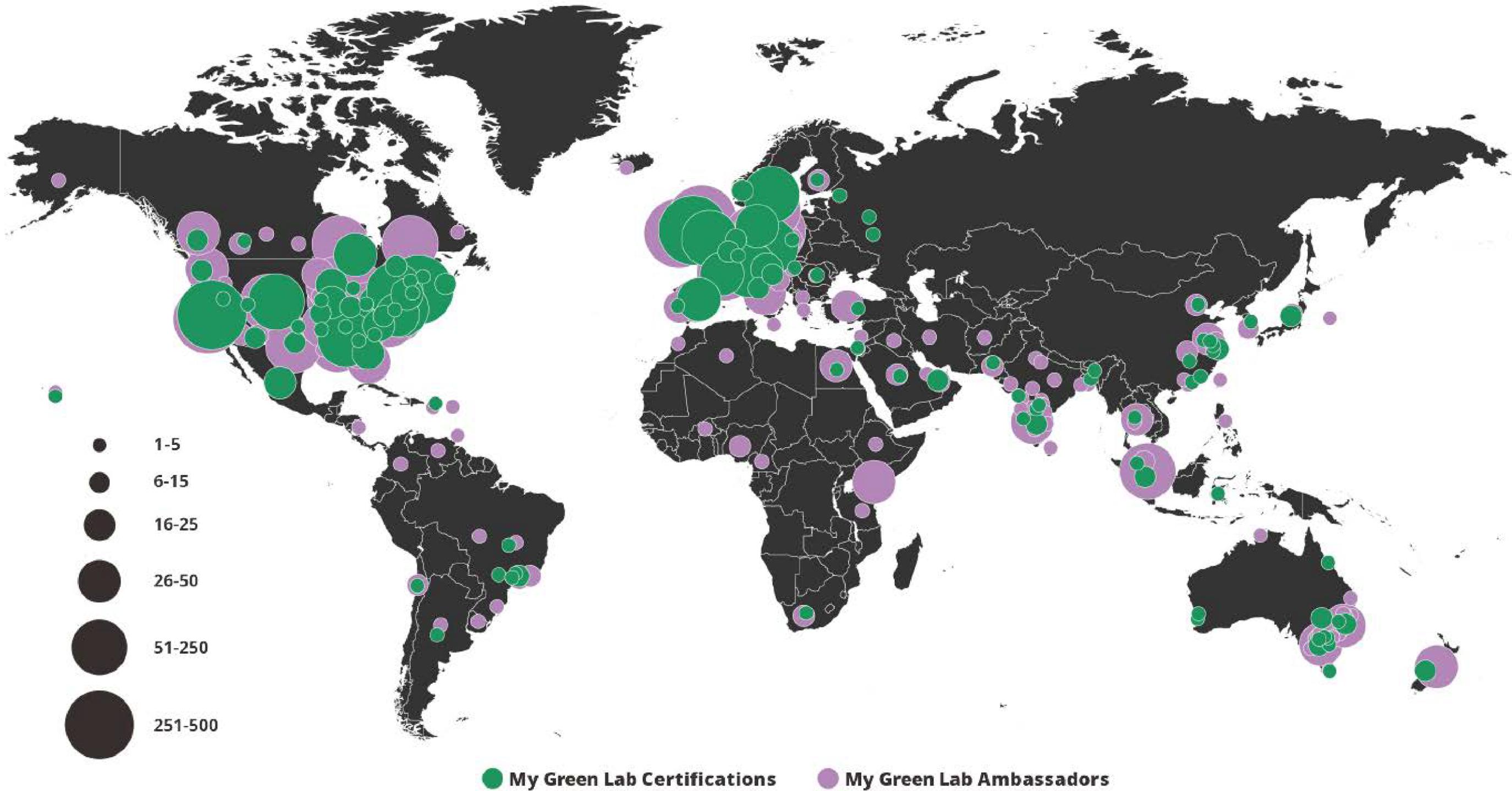
The ACT label began as a US only label in 2017. In 2018, we launched our global initiative and have expanded ACT to include the EU and UK markets. Within the coming years we plan to expand ACT into all global scientific markets.

ACT works hand in hand with My Green Lab Certification and My Green Lab Ambassador program. Certified green labs and ambassadors advocate for and use the ACT label in their procurement processes - creating demand for transparency from product manufacturers.





# Green Labs Around the World





# ACTivist 50 & Procurement ACTivist

As the first multi-attribute eco-label focused on sustainability in products and manufacturing for the life sciences industry, My Green Lab proactively works with Manufacturers and Procurement officials to educate the market about the act label and ensure its widespread adoption through the ACTivist 50 and Procurement ACTivists.

## **ACTIVIST 50**

The ACTivist 50 is a group of leading manufacturers and suppliers working to promote sustainable procurement in labs. The group meets annually to discuss opportunities for enhancing sustainability throughout the supply chain and to share best practices.

## **PROCUREMENT ACTIVIST**

The ACTivist 50 group is mirrored by the Procurement ACTivist group, which includes leading procurement specialists dedicated to establishing sustainable procurement guidelines for laboratory products.

**The ACTivist 50 and Procurement ACTivists share ideas and work together to affect lasting change in the laboratory product space.**





# How to ACT

The ACT label process includes an extensive desktop audit, performed as a collaboration between My Green Lab, the SMSC, and the manufacturer. At the end of the audit, the manufacturer is provided with a report including suggestions on how to reduce the environmental impact of their products and packaging. Many of our partners now use the ACT criteria to inform their product development process, to ensure continuous improvement in the sustainability attributes of their product.

My Green Lab and SMSC complete the following tasks as part of the ACT Label assessment process, which generally takes between 2-6 months.

Task	Executed By
<b>KICK-OFF CALL</b>	<b>SMSC</b>
<b>INITIAL DATA COLLECTION &amp; ANALYSIS</b>	<b>SMSC</b>
<b>ACT LABEL CREATION &amp; REPORT OUT</b>	<b>MGL &amp; SMSC</b>
<b>ACT LABEL ISSUE</b>	<b>MGL</b>
<b>BI-YEARLY MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>MGL &amp; SMSC</b>

## INVESTMENT

ACT pricing is determined by product family.

Pricing for the ACT label is differentiated between Equipment and Chemicals/Consumables. Pricing is based on the time involved in the evaluation determined by the specific difference between products and product families.

Review the ACT website ([act.mygreenlab.org](http://act.mygreenlab.org)) for general pricing. Please contact ([info@mygreenlab.org](mailto:info@mygreenlab.org)) for a pricing quote for your company's products. Bulk discounts are available for manufacturers pursuing a large volume of products.



A female scientist with long dark hair, wearing a white lab coat and clear safety glasses with blue frames, is focused on her work in a laboratory. She is using a pipette to transfer liquid into a multi-well plate. The background is softly blurred, showing laboratory equipment and a clean, professional environment. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the precision of her actions.

SECTION 2

# Scoring Criteria



# ACT Environmental Impact Factor Scoring Criteria Summary: Manufacturing Impacts

The ACT Label requires a holistic evaluation of the manufacturing impact of a product in a number of critical impact areas. Lower scores would be achieved if the plant producing the product has shown reductions in energy, water, and waste at the manufacturing site. Lower scores are also achieved for robust chemical management programs, reduced shipping impact, as well as non-toxic and sustainable content of the product and packaging.



## ACT LABEL SECTION

### Manufacturing Impacts

#### MANUFACTURING IMPACT REDUCTION

Verifies if the manufacturer has made reductions in various impact categories such as energy, water, waste, etc, in the production of the product.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY USE

Verifies if the manufacturer uses renewable energy to produce the product being evaluated.

#### RESPONSIBLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

Verifies that the manufacturer has processes and procedures in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and products throughout the product's value chain.

#### SHIPPING IMPACT

Measures the distance between the manufacturing location and point of sale(s) for the product.

#### PRODUCT CONTENT

Verifies the use of sustainable content in the product, including claims of dematerialization.

#### PACKAGING CONTENT

Verifies the use of sustainable content in the packaging materials, including claims of dematerialization.

## SCORING

1-10

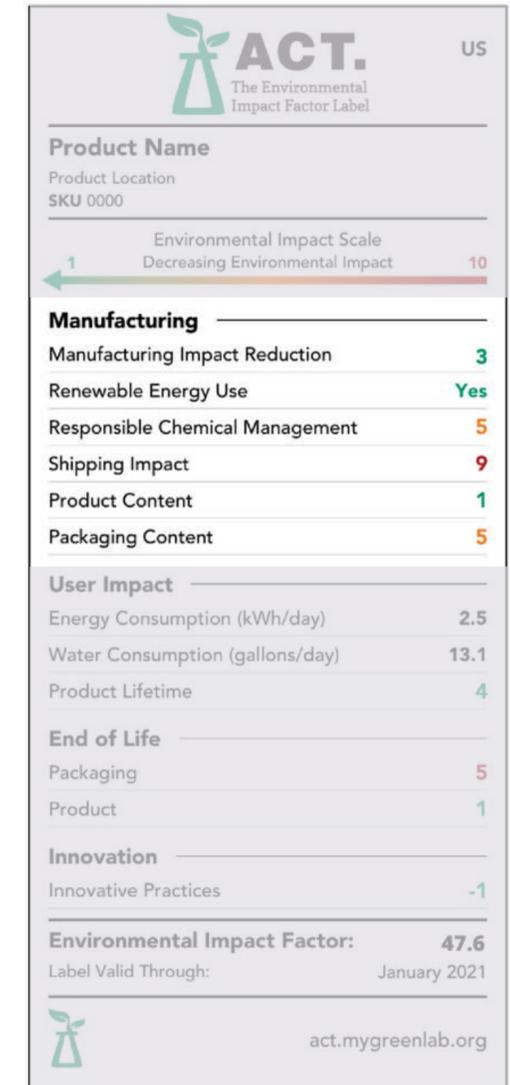
Y/N

1-10

1-10

1-10

1-10





# ACT Environmental Impact Factor Scoring Criteria Summary: User Impact

The ACT Label provides scientists and purchasers with clear, comparable information regarding the efficiency and durability of a product. This information enables purchasers to make informed decisions about the products they buy and manufactures to showcase these key attributes of their products.



## ACT LABEL SECTION

### User Impact

#### ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Measures the amount of energy (kWh) a product uses over a 24-hour period. Actual kWh usage over 24-hour period is reported.

#### WATER CONSUMPTION

Measures the amount of water a product uses over a 24-hour period. Actual water consumption over a 24-hour period is reported.

#### PRODUCT LIFETIME

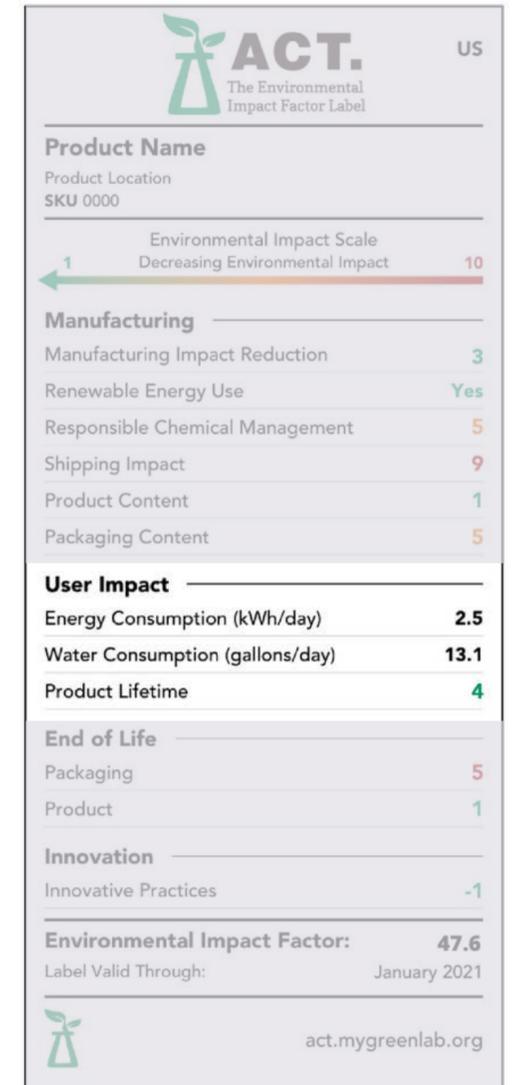
Verifies the durability or anticipated useful life of the product being assessed.

## SCORING

kWh per day

gal or l per day

1-10





# ACT Environmental Impact Factor Scoring Criteria Summary: End of Life Impact

The ACT label evaluation covers the full life cycle of the product, from manufacturer, transportation, use, to end of life. The end of life evaluation encourages manufacturers to consider the reuse and circularity of their product which is where the lowest scores are achieved.



### ACT LABEL SECTION

## End of Life Impact

### PACKAGING END OF LIFE

Audits the end-of-life (EOL) opportunities for the packaging.

### PRODUCT END OF LIFE

Audits the end-of-life (EOL) opportunities for the product.

### INNOVATION CREDIT

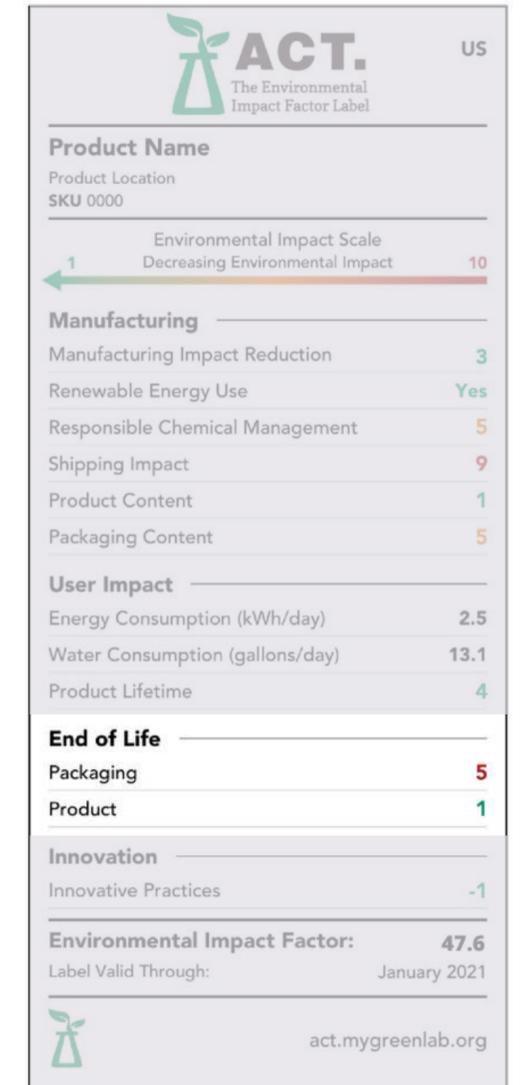
Encourages manufacturers to implement sustainability attributes that goes beyond the current scope of any other Environmental Impact Factor with innovative solutions. A score of -1 will be assigned if achieved.

### SCORING

1-10

1-10

1-10





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Manufacturing Impact Reduction

INTENT

To verify if the manufacturer has made reductions in various impact categories such as energy, water, waste, etc, in the production of the product.

## Scoring Criteria



- 1** Indicates that the manufacturer has achieved reductions in all impact categories.
- 3** Indicates that the manufacturer has achieved reductions in a majority of impact categories.
- 6** Indicates that the manufacturer has achieved reductions in a minority of impact categories.
- 10** Indicates that the manufacturer has not achieved reductions in any impact categories.

The screenshot shows the ACT Environmental Impact Factor Label for a product. It includes the ACT logo, product name, location, and a score of 3 for Manufacturing Impact Reduction. Other categories like User Impact and Innovation are also shown with their respective scores.

Category	Score
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>	<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:	January 2021





# ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Renewable Energy Usage

## INTENT

To verify if the manufacturer uses renewable energy to produce the product being evaluated.

## Scoring Criteria



**YES**

Indicates that the manufacturing facility that produces the product utilizing renewable energy.

**NO**

Indicates that the manufacturing facility that produces the product does not utilize renewable energy.

ACT. The Environmental Impact Factor Label	
Product Name	US
Product Location	SKU 0000
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact	
1	10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
<b>Renewable Energy Use</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>	<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:	January 2021
act.mygreenlab.org	





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Responsible Chemical Management

INTENT

To verify that the manufacturer has processes and procedures in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and products throughout the product's value chain.



## Scoring Criteria



**1**

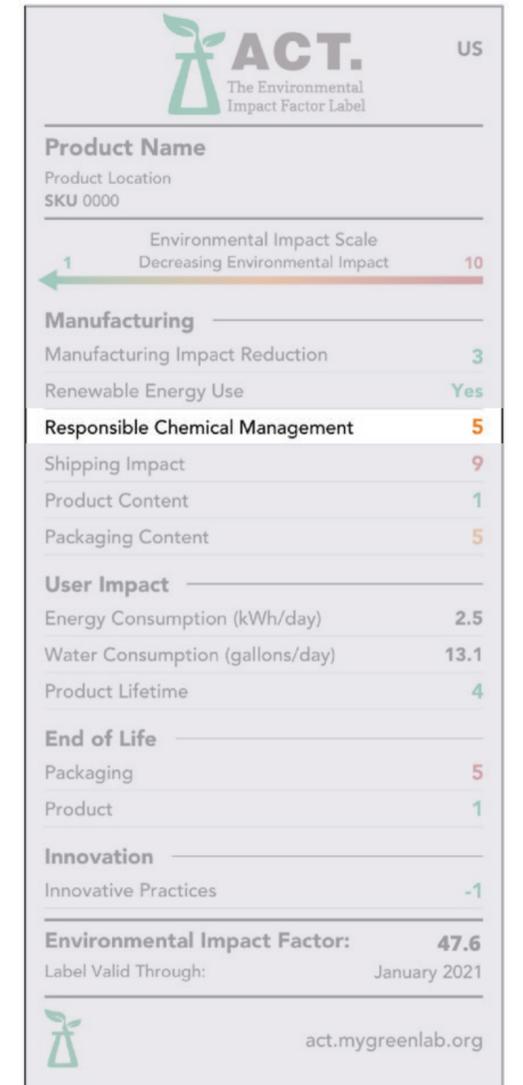
Indicates that the manufacturer has processes and policies in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and can verify the absence of hazardous chemicals.

**5**

Indicates that the manufacturer has made progress to establish either policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of exposures to hazardous chemicals and/or can verify the absence of hazardous chemicals.

**10**

Indicates that the manufacturer does not have processes and policies in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and cannot verify the absence of hazardous chemicals.





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Shipping Impact

INTENT

To measure the distance between the manufacturing location and point of sale for the product.

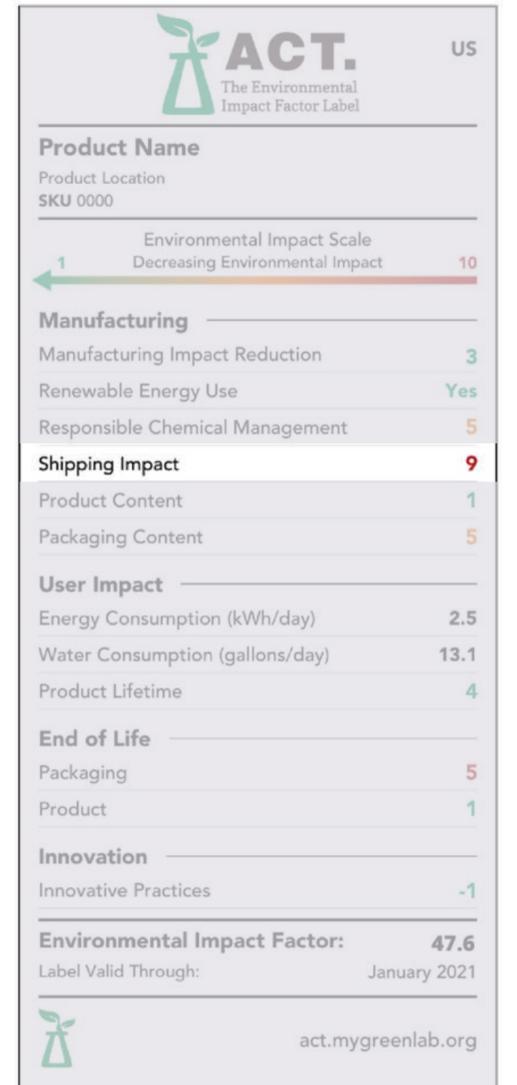
## Scoring Criteria



**1** Indicates that the manufacturing facility and point of sale are located within the same region.

**2-9** Indicates a certain level of distance between the manufacturing facility and point of sale which are in different regions.

**10** Indicates a large distance (and impact) between the manufacturing facility and point of sale which are in different regions.





# ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Product Content

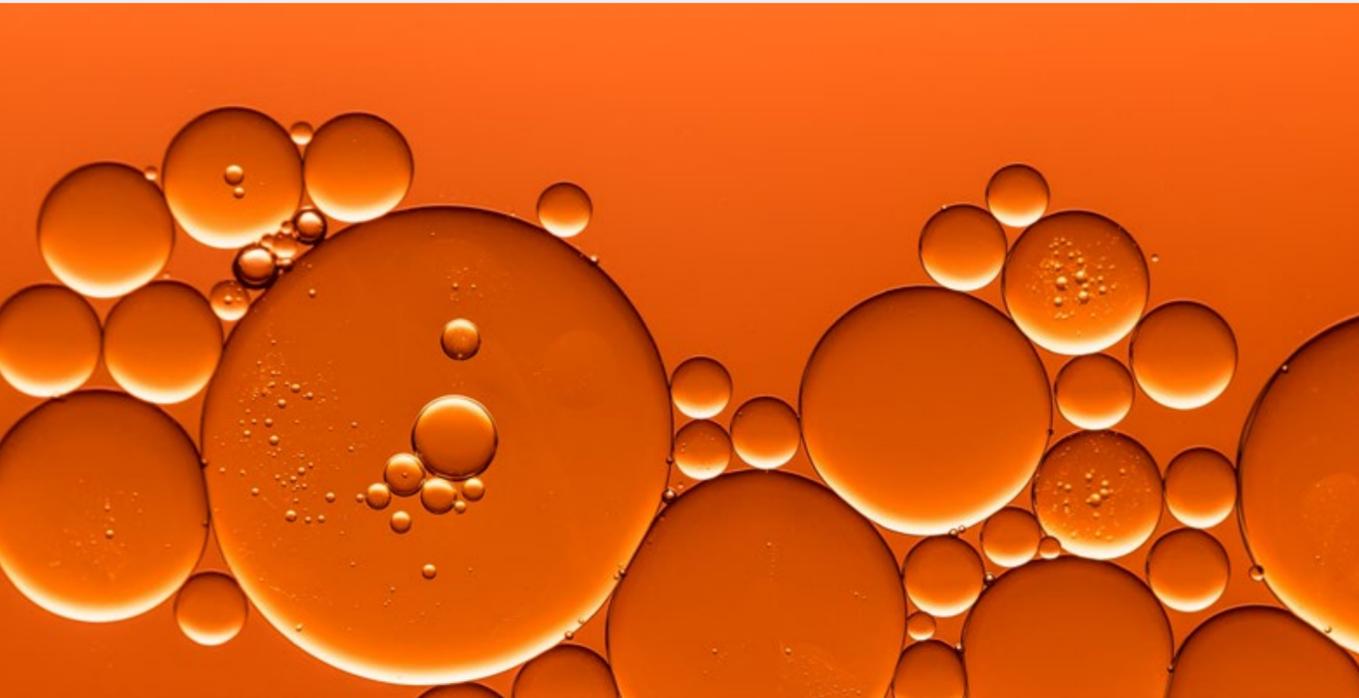
## INTENT

To verify the use of sustainable content in the product, including claims of dematerialization.

## Scoring Criteria

- 1** Indicates that the product contains a majority of sustainable content.
- 5** Indicates that the product contains some sustainable content.
- 10** Indicates that the product does not contain any sustainable content.

ACT. The Environmental Impact Factor Label		US
<b>Product Name</b>		
Product Location SKU 0000		
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact		
1		10
<b>Manufacturing</b>		
Manufacturing Impact Reduction		3
Renewable Energy Use		Yes
Responsible Chemical Management		5
Shipping Impact		9
<b>Product Content</b>		
Packaging Content		5
<b>User Impact</b>		
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)		2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)		13.1
Product Lifetime		4
<b>End of Life</b>		
Packaging		5
Product		1
<b>Innovation</b>		
Innovative Practices		-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>		<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:		January 2021
		act.mygreenlab.org





# ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY Manufacturing Environmental Impact Factor: Packaging Content

## INTENT

To verify the use of sustainable content in the packaging materials, including claims of dematerialization.

## Scoring Criteria

- 1** Indicates that the packaging contains a majority of sustainable content.
- 5** Indicates that the packaging contains some level of sustainable content.
- 10** Indicates that the packaging does not contain any sustainable content.

The screenshot shows the ACT Environmental Impact Factor Label for a product. It includes the following information:

- Product Name:** Product Location SKU 0000
- Environmental Impact Scale:** A scale from 1 (green) to 10 (red) with a label 'Decreasing Environmental Impact'. The current score is 1.
- Manufacturing:**
  - Manufacturing Impact Reduction: 3
  - Renewable Energy Use: Yes
  - Responsible Chemical Management: 5
  - Shipping Impact: 9
  - Product Content: 1
  - Packaging Content: 5**
- User Impact:**
  - Energy Consumption (kWh/day): 2.5
  - Water Consumption (gallons/day): 13.1
  - Product Lifetime: 4
- End of Life:**
  - Packaging: 5
  - Product: 1
- Innovation:**
  - Innovative Practices: -1
- Environmental Impact Factor:** 47.6
- Label Valid Through:** January 2021
- Website:** act.mygreenlab.org





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# User Impact Environmental Impact Factor: Energy Consumption (Equipment Only)

INTENT

To verify the amount of energy consumed by the product over the course of a 24-hour period.

## Scoring Criteria



**kWh**

Indicates the amount of energy consumed (in kWh) during the typical use phase of the product per day.

ACT. The Environmental Impact Factor Label	
US	
<b>Product Name</b>	
Product Location SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact	
1	10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
Product Lifetime	4
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor: 47.6</b>	
Label Valid Through: January 2021	
act.mygreenlab.org	





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# User Impact Environmental Impact Factor: Water Consumption (Equipment Only)

INTENT

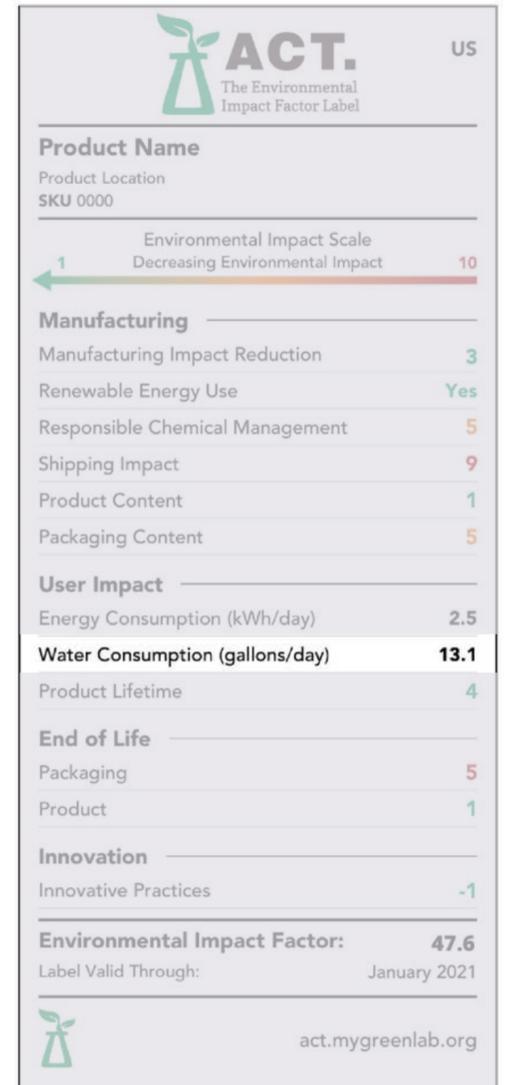
To verify the amount of water consumed by the product over the course of a 24-hour period.

## Scoring Criteria



gal  
or l

Indicates the amount of water consumed (in liters or gallons) during the typical use phase of the product per day.





# ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY User Impact Environmental Impact Factor: Lifetime Rating

## INTENT

To verify the durability / anticipated useful life of the product being assessed.

## Scoring Criteria

- 1** Indicates that the product is durable and has a long lifetime<sup>1</sup>.
- 2-9** Indicates the product has various ranges of durability and longevity.
- 10** Indicates that the product's lifetime is extremely short.

<sup>1</sup>The threshold for a long lifetime is based on the ACT Product Category (e.g. different thresholds are set for consumables, chemicals / reagents, and equipment).

ACT. The Environmental Impact Factor Label	
Product Name	
Product Location SKU 0000	
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact	
1	10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	3
Renewable Energy Use	Yes
Responsible Chemical Management	5
Shipping Impact	9
Product Content	1
Packaging Content	5
<b>User Impact</b>	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	13.1
<b>Product Lifetime</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>End of Life</b>	
Packaging	5
Product	1
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovative Practices	-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>	<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:	January 2021
act.mygreenlab.org	





ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# End of Life Environmental Impact Factor: Packaging End-of-Life

INTENT

To audit the end-of-life (EOL) opportunities for the packaging.

## EOL Option Scores



**1**

Indicates that the packaging has an active and valid take-back program.

**2-9**

Indicates the product is managed via various recycling and/or other disposal methods such as composting, energy recovery, etc.

**10**

Indicates the product is landfilled or incinerated.



**ACT.** The Environmental Impact Factor Label US

Product Name  
Product Location  
SKU 0000

Environmental Impact Scale  
Decreasing Environmental Impact  
1 10

**Manufacturing**

- Manufacturing Impact Reduction 3
- Renewable Energy Use Yes
- Responsible Chemical Management 5
- Shipping Impact 9
- Product Content 1
- Packaging Content 5

**User Impact**

- Energy Consumption (kWh/day) 2.5
- Water Consumption (gallons/day) 13.1
- Product Lifetime 4

**End of Life**

- Packaging 5
- Product 1

**Innovation**

- Innovative Practices -1

**Environmental Impact Factor: 47.6**  
Label Valid Through: January 2021

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ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# End of Life Environmental Impact Factor: Product End-of-Life

INTENT

To audit the end-of-life (EOL) opportunities for the product.

## EOL Option Scores



**1** Indicates that the product has an active and valid take-back program.

**2-9** Indicates the product is managed via various recycling and/or other disposal methods such as composting, energy recovery, etc.

**10** Indicates the product is landfilled or incinerated.



**ACT.** The Environmental Impact Factor Label US

**Product Name**  
Product Location  
SKU 0000

Environmental Impact Scale  
Decreasing Environmental Impact  
1 ← → 10

**Manufacturing**

- Manufacturing Impact Reduction: 3
- Renewable Energy Use: Yes
- Responsible Chemical Management: 5
- Shipping Impact: 9
- Product Content: 1
- Packaging Content: 5

**User Impact**

- Energy Consumption (kWh/day): 2.5
- Water Consumption (gallons/day): 13.1
- Product Lifetime: 4

**End of Life**

- Packaging: 5
- Product: 1**

**Innovation**

- Innovative Practices: -1

**Environmental Impact Factor: 47.6**  
Label Valid Through: January 2021

act.mygreenlab.org



ACT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FACTOR CATEGORY

# End of Life Environmental Impact Factor: Innovative Practices

INTENT

To encourage manufacturers to implement sustainability attributes that goes beyond the current scope of any other Environmental Impact Factor with innovative solutions.



## Scoring Credit



**-1**

Indicates that the manufacturer achieved the innovation credit. Credit will only be listed on the ACT label if awarded.

ACT. The Environmental Impact Factor Label		US
<b>Product Name</b>		
Product Location SKU 0000		
Environmental Impact Scale Decreasing Environmental Impact		
1		10
<b>Manufacturing</b>		
Manufacturing Impact Reduction		3
Renewable Energy Use		Yes
Responsible Chemical Management		5
Shipping Impact		9
Product Content		1
Packaging Content		5
<b>User Impact</b>		
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)		2.5
Water Consumption (gallons/day)		13.1
Product Lifetime		4
<b>End of Life</b>		
Packaging		5
Product		1
<b>Innovation</b>		
Innovative Practices		-1
<b>Environmental Impact Factor:</b>		<b>47.6</b>
Label Valid Through:		January 2021
		act.mygreenlab.org

SECTION 3

# Appendix





# Appendix A: History and Purpose of the ACT Label

A 2015 study published by the Emerging Technologies Coordinating Council (ETCC) of California revealed that over 80% of scientists would prefer to purchase a product with reduced energy consumption, reduced water consumption, and/or reduced toxicity. In fact, the majority of scientists surveyed said that they would be willing to pay a premium for these products. However, these same respondents also noted that there was no way for them to know if the products they were purchasing were sustainable (by any definition), nor was there a way for them to compare products on the basis of environmental attributes, such as energy consumption.

This lack of objective, third-party information has meant that the vast majority of scientists purchase products with little to no understanding of how their purchases impact the environment. Moreover, in the absence of a standard or label, and armed with the knowledge that their customers are concerned about mitigating their environmental impact, laboratory product vendors have sought to create their own internal standards for labeling products as 'green'. In most cases the criteria for this designation are not transparent, and because the criteria differ between organizations it is not possible to compare products among different suppliers. This has led to a general sense of confusion in the marketplace, and a clear need for an independent standard and evaluator.

Recent years have also seen an increased focus on, and investment in, sustainable procurement. Led by academia and several Fortune 500 companies, the movement towards sustainable procurement reflects an understanding that carbon neutrality and zero-waste goals cannot be achieved without addressing all aspects of the business, including purchasing. Yet with little sustainability information available for laboratory products, most procurement departments avoid developing green purchasing guidelines for laboratories. In a university, where laboratory products typically account for more than 25% of all spend, ignoring these products can have a significant impact on the overall ability of a sustainable procurement program to reach its goals; in a biotech or pharmaceutical company, where laboratory products account for much more than 50% of all spend makes it incredibly difficult to meet sustainable procurement goals.

The My Green Lab ACT Environmental Impact Factor Label was designed, in collaboration with the SMSC, to address the need of both scientists and procurement specialists for clear, third-party verified information about the environmental impact of laboratory products. Using a standardized method, an evaluation by a team of independent auditors results in an ACT label that scores a product on a number of sustainability criteria, including energy and water use, responsible chemical management, and disposal of the product and packaging materials at the end of life. The ACT label allows researchers to compare products within a particular product category on the basis of their overall environmental impact, or on the basis of a particular attribute. As the program grows, and more ACT labels are issued, the information on the label can also be used to develop clear sustainable procurement guidelines for laboratory products, and with those guidelines drive the laboratory product market toward the development of safer, more sustainable products.





# Appendix B: Continuous Improvement for Manufacturers

The ACT label provides manufacturers internal value as well as external verification and validation of their sustainability effort(s). ACT provides a baseline upon which to measure and certify continuous improvement. By pursuing the ACT label, manufacturers are using a third-party certification scheme to level-set their sustainability initiatives and efforts (if any) as they relate to its products and manufacturing process. After the initial certification process, manufacturers are encouraged, and have the unique opportunity, to showcase and prove to the market through third-party verification, their commitment to sustainability, and continuous improvement. Through the first 3 years of the program, companies have already made significant improvements to their EIF scores and have demonstrated to the market their commitment to continuous improvement.

The continuous improvement process starts with the final report-out call (see Appendix A for an overview of the verification process). As part of the ACT label analysis, the SMSC auditor will observe and note opportunities for potential improvement. During the final report-out, the auditor will review these observations with the manufacturer and discuss how certain changes in the future could affect an EIF score.





# Appendix C: ACT Program Development and Continuous Improvement

As with any eco-label or industry standard, it is important to review and update the standard on a periodic basis to continue driving market transformation. In that spirit, My Green Lab and SMSC are constantly engaging with external stakeholders to understand how the ACT Label Program can grow alongside the industry. Each iteration of the ACT Label Verification Guide is based upon feedback from manufacturers who have achieved ACT labels, the ACTivist 50 group and the Procurement 50 group. This will ensure all stakeholders in the ACT label ecosystem have the opportunity to support the continual refinement of the program into the future. SMSC will oversee (in collaboration with My Green Lab) and maintain the ACT Label Verification Guide version updates in a formal version update procedure.





# Appendix D: Scope of ACT

This document is a summary of the environmental impact factor scoring protocol and has been designed for manufacturers, researchers, procurement personnel, and sustainability managers for whom transparency, disclosure, and reduced environmental impact are a priority in manufacturing and purchasing laboratory products.

Nuances per product category are noted and recorded in the formal ACT Label Verification Guide by SMSC personnel and approved by MGL, to ensure consistent and concise third-party analysis for all products within that category.

Please Note: In order to obtain an ACT label, a third-party verification by SMSC must be conducted which will follow the process as described in Appendix A. A manufacturer can preliminarily self-score using this guide, but official ACT scores can only be issued by SMSC and My Green Lab. SMSC and My Green Lab may ask more detailed questions or need further specifics within the third-party verification process than specified within this document to complete the EIF verification process to deliver an ACT label.





# Appendix E: Verification Process

The My Green Lab ACT Label was designed to address the need of manufacturers, scientists and procurement specialists for clear, third-party verified information about the environmental impact of laboratory products. Using a standardized method, the evaluation of these products by a team of independent auditors results in an ACT label that scores a product on a number of Environmental Impact Criteria, including energy and water use, responsible chemical management, lifetime rating, and disposal of the product and packaging at the end of life. All products undergoing an Environmental Impact Factor evaluation for the ACT Label are assessed using the same standardized process and procedure as described below.

## **A.1 KICK-OFF CALL**

Upon execution of proposal agreement, the auditing team (SMSC) will set up a kick-off call with representatives of the participating manufacturer to review the audit process, discuss project schedules, obtain an understanding of the products undergoing the assessment, and review the documentation requirements to complete the ACT label and EIF audit.

## **A.2 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

The auditing team will work with the participating manufacturer to collect the necessary data to complete the ACT label audit. The auditing team will assess the documentation submitted and determine how the specified product is scored based on the EIF criteria (as described above).

## **A.3 CREATION OF ACT LABEL & FINAL REPORT OUT**

Upon completion of the audit (pending successful completion of the quality check and assurance procedure), My Green Lab will create an ACT label for each approved product, which will include the scores for each category section within the Environmental Impact Factor (EIF) criteria. The auditing team will conduct a final report-out call and review the results with the participating manufacturer. The manufacturer will then have a two-week period during which they can submit additional documentation to change an EIF score.

## **A.4 ISSUING OF ACT LABEL**

Upon finalizing the ACT label results, My Green Lab will issue the ACT label to the participating manufacturer. This label will be listed on the My Green Lab website along with the overall ACT Label Verification Guide for each EIF score. Joint marketing support for the ACT label will be completed upon request of the participating manufacturer to promote program achievements.

## **A.5 ANNUAL REVIEW**

To ensure the on-going integrity of ACT label claims and to capture continuous improvement of the organizations certified, labels will be reviewed yearly. After initial certification, on a rotating yearly basis, the following will occur:

### **A.5.1 RECERTIFICATION: FIRST YEAR**

Maintenance Questionnaire. My Green Lab will send the participating manufacturer a recertification questionnaire 90-days prior to ACT label's one-year anniversary confirming that claims and product formulations previously assessed have remained the same. If changes have occurred within the product or manufacturing process that would result in a changed score, an additional assessment will be required; additional fees may apply.

### **A.5.2 RECERTIFICATION: SECOND YEAR**

Full Assessment. My Green Lab will notify the participating manufacturer 150-days prior to ACT label expiration to begin the full assessment process. This assessment will include a full re-analysis and scoring of the participating manufacturer's specified products to ensure accuracy and integrity of these claims. The fees associated with this will be established at the time of reanalysis. Reviews will continue for the duration of the sale of the product.



# Appendix F: MGL & SMSC

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My Green Lab is fundamentally and permanently improving the sustainability of scientific research. A non-profit organization, My Green Lab was formed to unify and lead scientists, vendors, designers, energy providers, and others in a common drive toward a world in which all research reflects the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility. Run “for scientists, by scientists”, My Green Lab develops standards, oversees their implementation, and inspires the many behavioral changes that are needed throughout the scientific community.

My Green Lab’s Green Lab Certification Program is recognized throughout North America as the gold standard for laboratory sustainability. It has been adopted by public and private institutions alike and has been used to certify over 100 labs since the program’s inception in 2014, resulting in millions of kWh and millions of gallons of water saved.

My Green Lab also led the successful effort to establish ENERGY STAR® standards for laboratory refrigeration products – the first ever laboratory product category to be recognized by the EPA’s ENERGY STAR program.

Having established behavioral standards through the Green Lab Certification Program, and energy standards with the EPA, My Green Lab now sees a clear need to address the gap in sustainable procurement for all laboratory products. The ACT label will accomplish this, while also supporting the message of the non-profit’s existing programs.

## **B.2 SMS COLLABORATIVE, LLC**

The Sustainability Management and Strategy Collaborative (SMSC), is a company of leading experts in sustainable program development and third-party verification that are dedicated to going beyond impact reduction to demonstrate the business value of sustainability at each company we support. SMSC uses third-party verification as a catalyst for market transformation and has supported in the development of some of the most well-known and transformative sustainability eco-labels in the industry like LEED, Declare, Living Product Challenge, and ACT.

Through their partnership, My Green Lab and SMSC created the first ever eco-label for laboratory consumables, chemicals, and equipment, ACT. The ACT label enables SMSC and MGL to collaborate with leading corporate and institutional lab products procurement personnel, manufacturers, and scientists to rapidly transform the supply chain of this trillion-dollar industry.

Visit [act.mygreenlab.org](https://act.mygreenlab.org) for more details and next steps

[mygreenlab.org](https://mygreenlab.org)

**ACT.**

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