## Freezers are major energy users in the lab

- 1 average -80°C freezer uses 12,000 kwh of energy per year
  - The same amount used by 1 family home in the US per year!



- General tips for reducing freezer energy consumption:
  - Maintain a detailed log of freezer contents on the outside of the door, and open the door as briefly as possible (each 1 minute the door is open → +10 minutes to recover temperature)
  - Keep freezers full fill empty spots with ice packs or empty boxes
  - Regular freezer maintenance clean dust off filter, defrost ice buildup
  - Clean out unneeded materials regularly and combine contents of multiple freezers
  - Consider replacing old inefficient freezers (each year → +3% more energy consumed)

## "Chill up" from -80°C to -70°C!

- 15 years ago, all samples were stored at -65°C or -70°C
- The standard only became -80°C due to effective marketing with new ULT technology, not demonstrated scientific need!



- Higher temperature = longer freezer lifespan & lower energy consumption
- "Chilling up" uses 30-40% less energy with no harm to samples
- Researcher concerns:
  - Why change if samples are safe at -80°C?
  - Will samples be safe at -70°C?
  - Won't samples be safer longer at lower temperatures if freezer fails?

## Growing research shows samples are safe at -70°C

- UC-Boulder has "chilled up" 60% of lab freezers
- Online collaborative database of samples successfully stored at -70°C:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13UvBeoXAhwSHshSYoUDHwcxWiW7qYLnUb-eLwxJbCYs/edit#gid=0

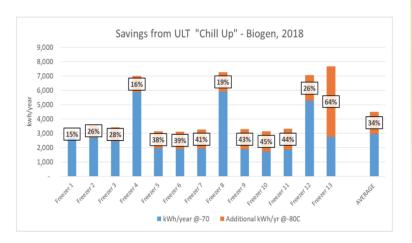
Table 1: Summary of samples stored in ULTs with -70°C set points

Sample Type	# of Labs	Avg. Storage time (years)	Range storage time (years)
Animal tissue (including human)	31	6	1 to >10
Bacterial stocks	29	7	2 to >10
RNA	25	5	0.5 to >10
DNA (including cDNA)	24	6	2 to >10
Purified proteins	24	5	1 to >10
Competent cells	20	3	0.5 to 6
Cell extracts	17	5	1 to >10
Enzymes	13	5	1 to 10
Cell lines	12	6	1.5 to >10
Yeast stocks	11	7	10 to >10
Antibodies	7	7	3 to 10
Plant tissue	7	3	0.5 to 5
Virus stocks	5	6	3 to >10

<sup>\*</sup> Based on a database of self-reported information provided by researchers at UC Davis, CU Boulder, UC San Diego and UC Riverside [3].



# Saving the planet saves money





#### **Freezer Recommendations**

Go back to Recycling Freezers (link words "Recycling Freezers" w/ pub.page)

Here's what you can do:

### Chill Up: Raise Temperature in Ultra low Freezers

Freezers, Ultra low									
Description		Monthly Average						Monthly	
Brand	Model	~Age	On at -80			Raised Temperature at -70			Potential Savings
*Isotemp -80	Basic Freezer	2002	\$49.59	684.72 kWh	951 W	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Baker	UF 755 G	2010	\$40.00	532 kWh	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Forma Scient	923	1998	\$51.00	678.24 kWh	942 VA	\$46.94	624.24	867 VA	\$4.06
**Harris	ELT-14LS-90-D31	2004	\$42.77	568.8 kWh	790 VA	\$31.08	413.28	574 VA	\$11.70
**Revco (chest)	ULT 2090-5-A31	2002	\$57.77	768.24 kWh	1067 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Revco	ULT 2586-5-D39	2005	\$67.14	892.8 kWh	1240 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Revco	ULT 2586-9SI-A38	2007	\$56.69	753.84 kWh	1047 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Revco	ULT 1786-3-A14	1998	\$41.80	555.84 kWh	772 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Revco	ULT 2586-9-A35	n/a	\$52.68	700.56 kWh	973 VA	\$43.32	576	800 VA	\$9.37
**Sanyo	MDF-U71VC	n/a	\$74.50	990.72 kWh	1376 VA	\$67.52	897.84	1247 VA	\$6.98
**Sanyo	MDF-U73VC	n/a	\$60.86	809.28 kWh	1124 VA	\$57.39	763.2	1060 VA	\$3.47
**Thermo (chest)	ULT1090-3-A34	n/a	\$35.41	470.88 kWh	654 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**Thermo Forma	916	2001	\$65.08	865.44 kWh	1202 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	
**VWR	5463		\$40.99	545.04 kWh	757 VA	n/a	n/a	n/a	

\*Penn metering project \*\*Data collected from UC Davis, found at: http://labs21.lbl.gov/wiki/equipment

#### Notes:

Monthly Potential Savings comes from turning up the freezer from -80 to -70, many items are safe at this temperature and the compressor does not need to work as hard to keep the freezer at a higher temperature.

Monthly Cost based on \$0.0752/kWh

## Creating initiatives to improve freezer sustainability

- Annual UC-Davis Freezer Challenge (December 2019 May 2020)
  - Awards given to individual labs and institutions
  - Winners published in Nature
- Penn Ultra Low Temperature Freezer Program
  - Penn will pay \$500 to properly recycle an old lab freezer
  - Incentives for purchasing efficient new freezers

Freezer Energy Usage	Incentive Amount
500Wh/day/cu-ft or less	\$2,500
500 to 750 Wh/day/cu-ft*	\$1,500

#### Let's create more initiatives!

- Plan individual lab freezer clean up days coordinate with neighboring labs and combine!
- Penn campus freezer challenge?