

Payette & Arup: Creating the Wellness Business Case for Net Zero Energy Labs

Chidi Anozie, Allison Bard, David Loo, Kate Sullivan

Project Scope: *Creating the business case for net zero energy labs, focusing on productivity, morale, and absenteeism levels.*

Cleaner Air

Happier Workers

Increased Productivity

Reduced Sick Days

Additional Natural Lighting

Happier Workers

Increased Productivity

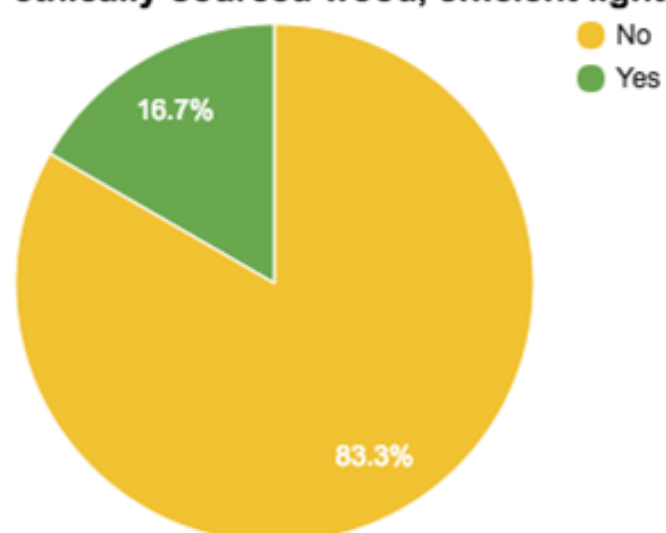
Reduced Sick Days

Takeaways

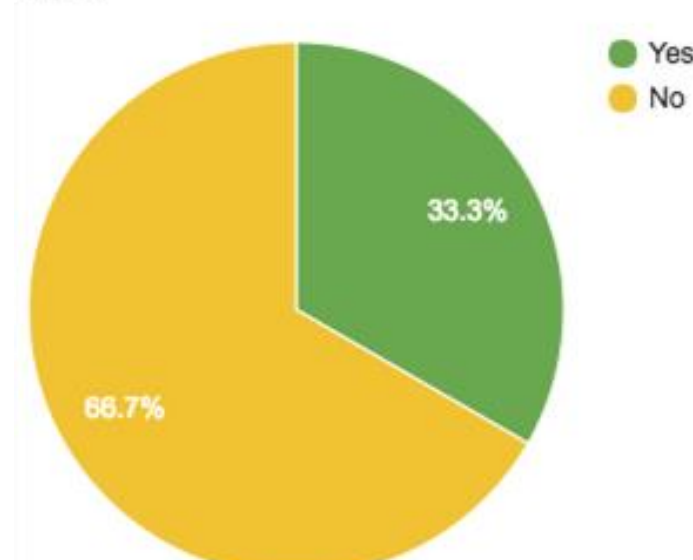
- Proper daylighting and fresh air can improve productivity and creativity
- Improving productivity can help lower personnel costs, often the most expensive costs of any company
- Experts believe that as global warming continues, the aforementioned issues will become increasingly pertinent

Quotes from Lab Utilization Survey Respondents

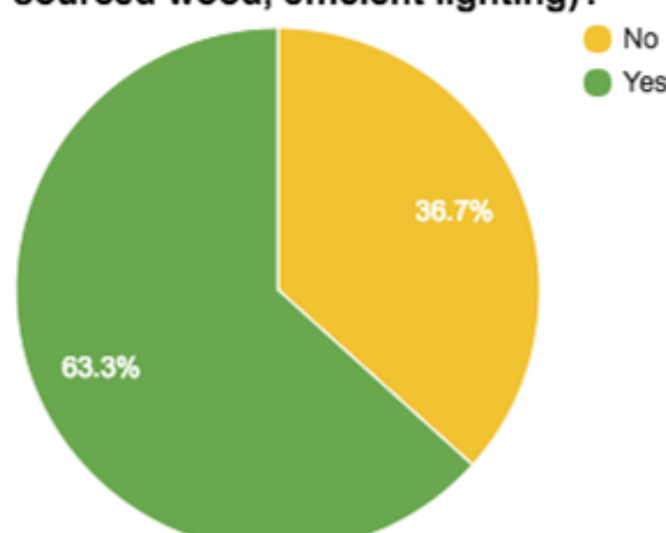
Do you think you would be more productive if your lab had sustainable design attributes (e.g., ethically-sourced wood, efficient lighting)?



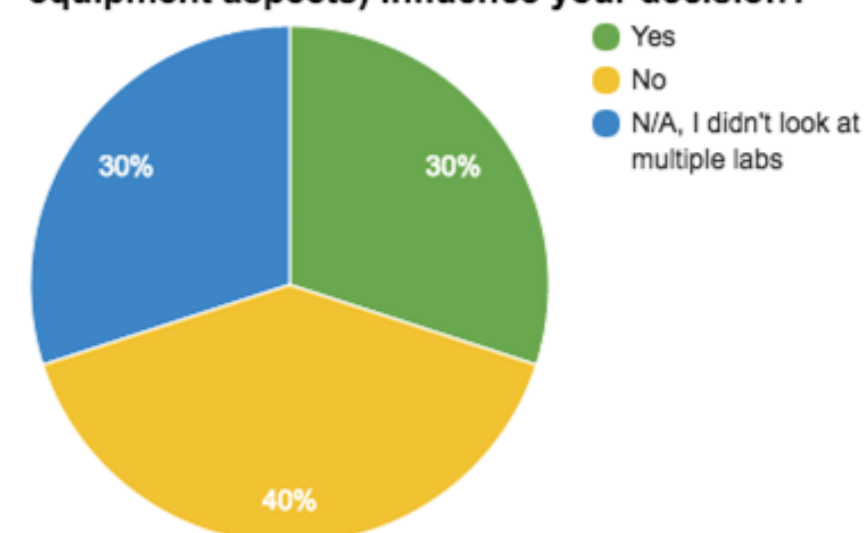
Are you concerned about the air quality in your lab?



Would you enjoy your lab space more if your lab had sustainable design attributes (e.g., ethically-sourced wood, efficient lighting)?



If you were choosing between labs, did the physical aspects of the lab (non-research-equipment aspects) influence your decision?



Question: Do you think certain physical features of your lab or work space would increase your productivity?

- "Good ventilation - a serious health issue in a chemistry lab. Pre-renovation, our lab had problems in this regard. Fixing this beats everything. Having open space is also nice."
- "More desk/bench space, lighting (we have yellow light to save energy--but it creates a drowsy atmosphere)."
- "Having a window and fewer dark colors everywhere would probably help me feel more energized. Also having a larger desk space that was more ergonomic."

Question: Given the option, would you prefer natural light in your lab?

- "We have huge windows in our lab and they make life so good. Plus, we sometimes write equations on them to feel smart when experiments aren't working."
- "It is nice to be able to see the sun and outside life. It sometimes feels like you are trapped and is difficult to notice the passage of time."
- "It would be nice to get some natural light. Just being able to look outside makes you feel better, especially when one is taking a break."