

Understanding the Labs2Zero Score Updates

The Labs2Zero scoring system for lab buildings was upgraded in February 2026, signaling its progression from a pilot offering to the first official version (V1) of the scorecard. This fact sheet explains why and how the Energy Score and Operational Emissions Score have changed.

Background: The Labs2Zero Scorecard



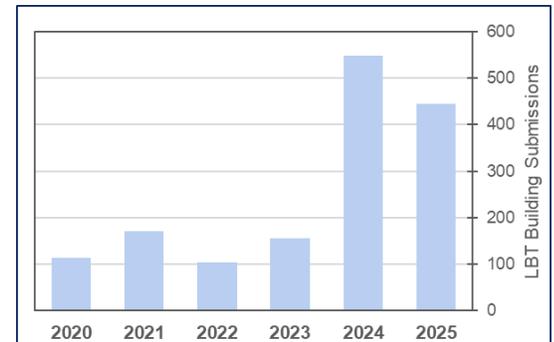
Each building entered in the Laboratory Benchmarking Tool (LBT) receives two scores for each data year: the Energy Score and the Operational Emissions Score. Each of these scores provides a 1-100 percentile rating, where a score of 80 means that the building's performance exceeds that of 80% of other lab buildings. The scores incorporate adjustment factors for lab-specific functional requirements, such as the amount and type of lab space within a facility, to enable comparisons between lab buildings with different properties. The scoring system was based on a statistical analysis of the buildings submitted to the LBT database.



The scores were released as pilots (the Energy Score in 2023 and the Operational Emissions Score in 2024). The LBT website's [About the Scorecard](#) page includes details on both scores.

An Opportunity for Improvement

In the time since the launch of the pilot Energy Score, many hundreds of buildings have received their scores via the LBT. The large volume of new data submissions presented an opportunity to improve the scoring system itself. Using the latest LBT dataset, I2SL and LBNL worked together to implement tighter data quality constraints on the subset of data used for the score analysis, including the exclusion of older data and of buildings with some missing data fields.



Using this higher-quality, more recent dataset revealed new trends in the data that allow improved adjustments for lab building properties. The new V1 scoring system now incorporates adjustment factors for the density of fume hoods within lab spaces and the amount of vivarium space in each building, replacing a general biochemistry factor that was in place for the pilot score. The v1.0 score also includes a correction for cold weather conditions experienced during each year of data (the pilot included only a hot weather correction).

The Score Updates on the LBT

All buildings' Energy and Operational Emissions Scores (and the Target Setter page for the Energy Score) have been updated using the new formulation, and the values shown on the LBT and in the AIM Report are now the V1 scores, regardless of whether a building's data was entered before or after the score update took place.

How Buildings' Scores Have Changed

On average, the switch from the pilot to the V1 scores produced a slight decrease in both the Energy and Operational Emissions scores. Buildings with high fume hood densities, high vivarium fractions, and in cold climate areas will see larger shifts in score because the scoring system now takes more of their energy-driving requirements into account.

- **Score increases:** buildings with higher fume hood density, more vivarium area, more heating degree days (HDD)
- **Score decreases:** bio/chem facilities with fewer fume hoods and warmer climates
- **Score change statistics (Energy Score):**
 - Median 2-point decrease
 - 43% of peers* within ± 5
 - 85% of peers within ± 15

*peer buildings are those in the LBT's anonymized benchmarking database

Score Warnings will still be shown for some types of lab buildings that are not fully represented in the scoring formulation. These include manufacturing facilities, crime labs, and labs in healthcare facilities.

How to Access Your Old Pilot Scores

For a limited time, Pilot Energy and Operational Emissions Scores will be shown on the Building Details page of the LBT. Please note that these pilot scores are static values, so they will not be recalculated if you change the properties of your lab buildings in the LBT, and they will not be calculated for any new buildings or additional years of data entered into the tool. If you need to obtain Pilot scores for updated or new buildings, please contact I2SL at labs2zero@i2sl.org for assistance.

For More Information

A set of [FAQs](#) on the scores and the updates is available on the LBT webpage. Detailed technical white papers on the original development and the update of each score are also available on the LBT site's [About the Scorecard](#) page. Please contact labs2zero@i2sl.org with any questions on the score updates or on the Labs2Zero program.

