

Get started: LEAF as a guide for Green Labs

Evaluate, Plan and Transform Your Lab



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What Is LEAF? What are benefits?

- **LEAF = Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework** Developed by UCL to help labs:
 - Reduce environmental impact
 - Strengthen operational efficiency
 - Track progress with standardised criteria

Labs can benefit:

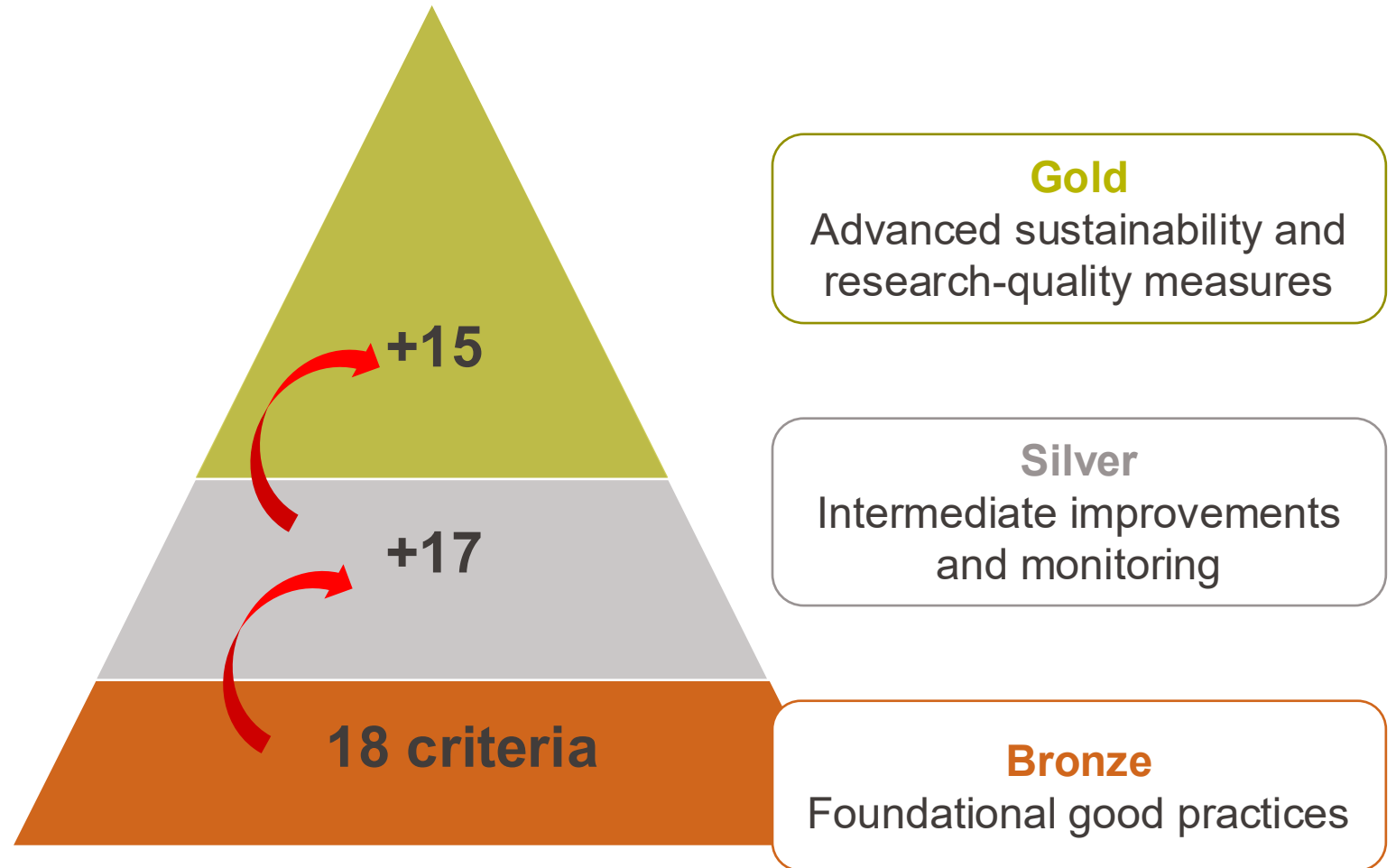
- **Research Quality**
 - Lower energy and consumable costs.
 - Better equipment performance.
 - Improved reproducibility.
- **Visibility**
 - Stronger grant applications.
 - Recognition for lab teams.
 - Contribution to EPFL's reduction target.



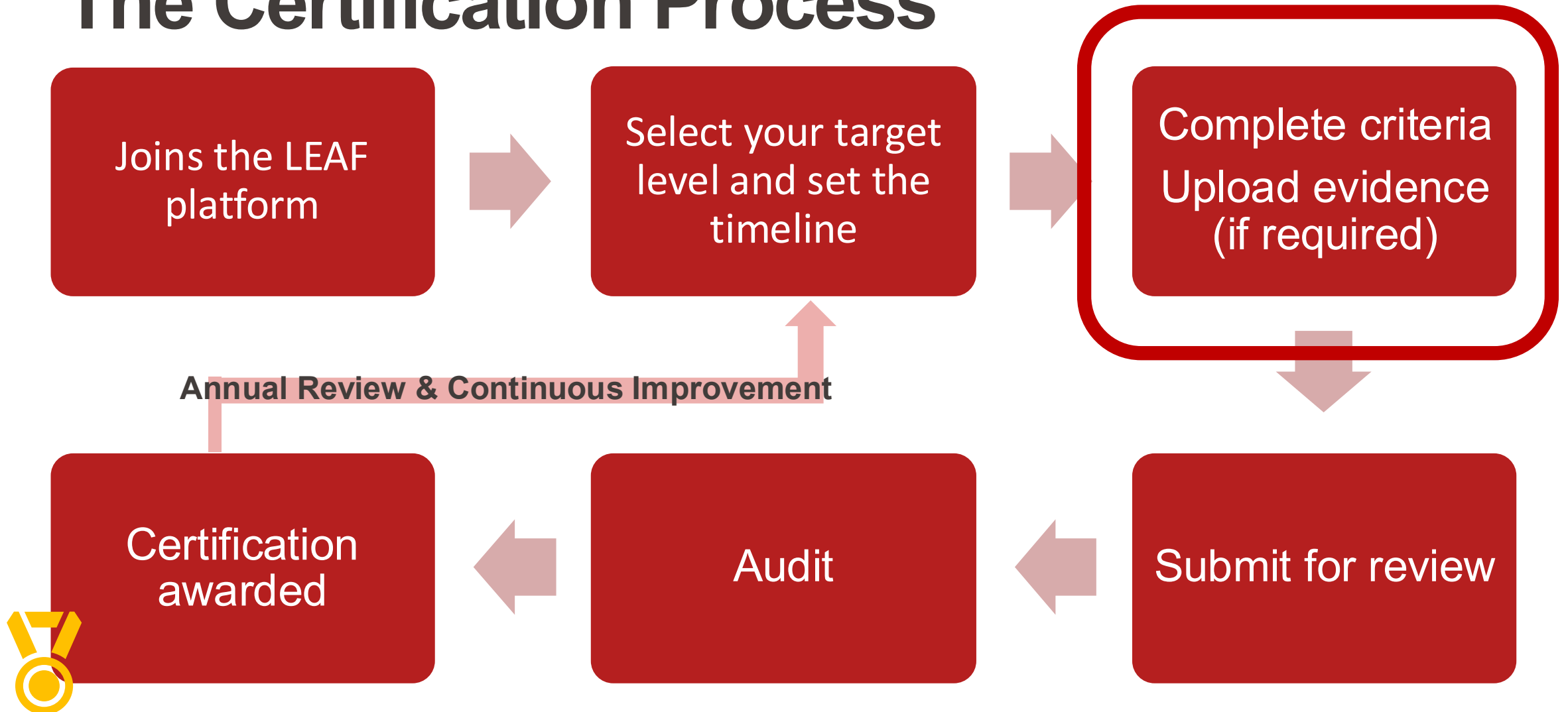
LEAF Certification Levels and Criteria Categories

Categories of criteria

- Waste
- People
- Purchasing
- Equipment
- IT
- Sample and chemical management
- Research Quality
- Ventilation
- Water
- Teaching



The Certification Process



Getting started

- Register yourself via LEAF login portal to start

- https://app.ucl.ac.uk/leaf/leaf_external

- Join an existing lab, or request to join

- Manage your lab

- Lab Details
 - Lab Members
 - New Lab Member
 - View Institution Structure
 - View Submission History

Welcome to LEAF

UPDATES

SV - School of Life Science > IBI-SV - Interschool Institute of Bioengineering

Welcome to **LEAF** (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), a standard in sustainable laboratory operations.

[User Guide](#)

Manage Award Criteria

Manage Calculators

Manage Open Initiatives

How LEAF works

When completing LEAF

- Address each criteria for the Award Level sought. Each criteria must be answered for your award level, even if it's to say why it's not applicable.
- Make sure to save as you go!
- Optionally, you may fill in "Open Initiatives", which are initiatives that may not have fit within a criteria but are worth sharing. You may also wish to use this space to capture the Geographic location of your lab and the names of the research or groups involved in the submission.
- Optionally, you may use the "Calculators", which allow you to estimate your carbon reductions or financial savings.
- Once complete, click on "Review & Submit" where you can review your work, before choosing to submit it.

Manage Lab

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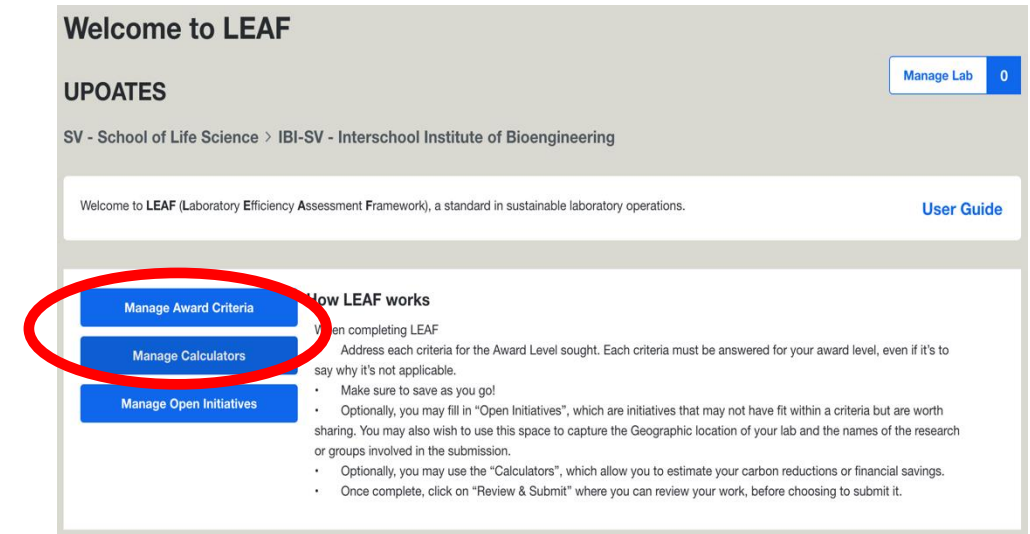
How to fill the form

- Manage Award Criteria to access the form.
- Calculators and Open Initiatives are optional.

Tips

- Your carbon footprint can be assessed with the EPFL's CO₂ Calculator (launch in October 2026)
- An Excel sheet with template criteria answers for EPFL's labs is available.
- EPFL fulfils certain criteria in the school. It is indicated in the excel sheet mentioned above.

=> please contact a sustainability manager in your faculty

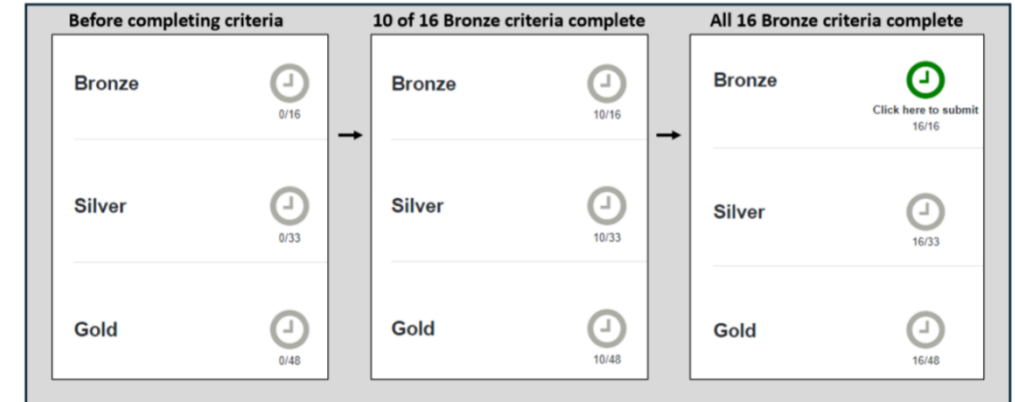


What to consider

- Supporting evidence: gather proofs, ex. photos of before / after, documentation, size of data storage,...
- Documentation quality
 - Evidence that actions are implemented, not just planned.
 - Consistency between lab practices and form claims.
 - If something is not yet in place, explain the current status.
- Engagement of lab members.
- Opportunities for improvement for your lab.

Submission & Audit Process

- Lab completes web form and submit.
- Keep evidences ready (photos, data, calculator, etc.)
- Audit will be assigned by an institute admin.
- Auditor reviews documentation.
- Audit meeting / lab walkthrough.
- Feedback + required adjustments (if applicable).
- Certification will be awarded.
 - To be successful at each level, the number of criteria on the table need to be passed:



Level	No. of criteria to be passed
Bronze	13 out of 18
Silver	12 out of 17
Gold	11 out of 15

Types of Audit in EPFL

Audit Type	Best For	Description
Admin	Bronze / Silver levels	• Conducted by trained sustainability managers • Ensures compliance with LEAF criteria • Fastest route to certification
EPFL peer	Silver level Units expecting for cross-team learning	• Conducted by colleagues from other labs in EPFL • Encourages cross-lab learning and shared best practices • Faster coordination and scheduling. • Understanding of EPFL context and practices
External Peer	Silver level Units expecting for cross-team learning	• Conducted by colleagues from other institutions • Encourages cross-lab learning and shared best practices • Provides higher credibility
Professional	Gold level	• Conducted by independent professional auditors • Highest level of credibility and neutrality

Tools & Supports

- LEAF online platform
 - https://app.ucl.ac.uk/leaf/leaf_external
- [the LEAF updates mailing list](#)
- [Criteria specific Workshops](#)