

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE FUNDING PROPOSAL

Part I- General Information:

Name of Student Organization	Environmental Coalition
Contact/Responsible Person	Rial Tombes
Contact Office Held/Title	Vice President
Contact Email Address	rialto13@vt.edu
Contact Telephone Number	804 – 475 -7391

Part II- Project Cost Information

Estimated Cost of this Proposal See III.C. below

Estimated Savings - See III.D. below

Net Cost of this Proposal =

Part III- Supporting Information

A. Please describe your sustainability initiative and attach supporting documentation.

Over the past few years there has been a marked move by consumers from non-renewable to renewable consumption as sustainability has moved to the forefront of consumers' minds. Here at Virginia Tech that can easily be seen as more and more students opt for reusable water bottles rather than plastic single use containers. This shift has led students to look for places to refill these bottles, but unfortunately our campus is lacking in convenient and accessible water bottle refilling stations. While our campus has water fountains in most buildings, the water fountains are not convenient for refilling water bottles. We seek to fill this need by requesting water bottle refilling stations to be located strategically throughout campus.

Plastic water bottles are inherently wasteful as they are single use items, which are typically used once and hopefully recycled, but often thrown away. The university has done a fine job working to increase recycling initiatives throughout campus, but these efforts need to be taken one step further to advance efforts toward sustainability. By diverting plastic water bottles to recycling, there is still a recurring cost to the University. Refill stations will need only initial funding and then very low maintenance costs to follow. Working to reduce the amount of waste from plastic water bottles will help decrease the amount of waste the University produces and the costs associated with that waste.

The proposed locations for these refill stations falls under the control of UUSA and the student centers (as stated by the VTCAC) but could easily extend out further beyond these locations. High traffic buildings and locations such as Squires Student Center, Newman Library, various residential halls and dining centers are possible locations.

This proposal requests four (4) EZH20 Water Bottle Refilling Stations be installed on campus. Elkay offers a full size water bottle refilling stations (Combination Kit-Water Cooler plus Refilling Station), as well as a Retrofit Refill Station that can be attached to existing Elkay water coolers. Both types are shown in their brochure: http://www.elkayusa.com/Files_Media/EZH20%20Brochure.pdf

There are already Elkay EZH20 Water Bottle Refilling Stations located in the Donaldson Brown Graduate Life Center as well as throughout McComas Hall. The Squires Student Center recently installed a Combination Kit-Water Cooler Plus Refilling Station. These refilling stations have been situated in high traffic areas and are used by many students on a regular basis. The Elkay brand water bottle refilling station would be an excellent addition to the Virginia Tech campus.

This proposal requests Virginia Tech buy 2 Elkay EZH20 Combination Kit-Water Cooler plus Refilling Stations, and 2 Elkay EZH20 Retrofit Refill Stations, with installation locations shown below. Prior coordination has been done with representatives from both locations and they are supportive.

Squires Student Center (2):

- Combination Kit Station outside the Au Bon Pain Kiosk
- Retrofit Refill Station second Floor Water Fountain outside Bathroom

Newman Library (2):

- Combination Kit Station on Second Floor Lobby area or other appropriate location
- Retrofit Refill Station on one other floor (3rd or 4th)

B. How does this initiative help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution and Sustainability Plan?

In section 5 B.3 of the Climate Action Commitment Resolution it clearly calls for the University to “Add filtered water refilling stations for water bottles in student centers”.

“Making water-refilling stations available will encourage the use of reusable containers over purchasing bottled water for students, faculty, and staff. It can also be paired with an education campaign to let students know the benefits of reusing containers. Reusing a container for water is much better than using individually bottled water, even if the container is recycled. This initiative will significantly reduce bottled water use and waste.”

Using these statements as a guide we can infer that these efforts will indeed encourage the growth of sustainable culture, produce less waste, and decrease petroleum based product consumption as laid out in the plan. The somewhat ambiguous ideas surrounding increased sustainability on campus are crystallized in this plan as it works to meet these goals and others laid out in the plan. It is clear from looking at already installed refill stations on campus that there is indeed a demand. In the Graduate Life Center the counter of water bottles saved on the refillable water bottle station has reached almost 33,000. That is more than one bottle for every student at the university, and a considerable saving in waste removal for the university. This proposal works directly in tandem with the goals laid out in the VTCAC & SP and continues the efforts of moving the University towards a more sustainable campus.

C. What is the cost of your proposal? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your cost estimate.

Model	Price
Elkay EZH20 Combination-Kit	\$1,500 (chilled)
Elkay EZH20 Retrofit	\$500

Facilities Services has verified both the unit cost and estimated installation costs.

Unit cost for 2 Combination Kit-Water Cooler Plus Refill Station and 2 Retrofit Stations is as follows:

$\$1,500 \times 2 = \$3,000$
 $\$ 500 \times 2 = \$1,000$
4 Unit Cost= \$4,000

Installations cost is \$1,500 for the Combination Kit and \$500 for the \$500 Retrofit. Thus, the total installation cost for the 4 units is \$4,000.

Total project cost (unit cost + installation cost) is \$8,000.

D. Will your proposal produce cost savings for the University? If so, how much? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your savings estimate.

The monetary savings are currently unknown, but they could be estimated with the appropriate information. The savings come specifically from the reduced costs in recycling and waste removal that the university incurs.

E. Is this funding request an Ongoing or One-Time change (**please check one**)?

One-time

Ongoing

If ongoing funding is requested please explain how the initiative and resource needs may change in future years.

The current proposal is for a one time change, but could be extended to an ongoing project to retro-fit existing water fountains all over campus.

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.)

No funding is known for this project.

Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Jeremy Mauck and Rial Tombes

Nov 9, 2011

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

(Date)

Dennis C. Cochrane, Sustainability Program Mgr., Office of Energy and Sustainability

Nov 14, 2011

Reviewed By (Name of Office of Energy and Sustainability Representative)

(Date)