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*Sustainable CU: Environmental Improvement Initiative
Microfiber Funding Proposal*
February 15, 2008

1. Basic Organizational Information

Are you a recognized student group or campus department? Please describe the nature of your organization, and if your group includes paid staff or volunteers.

Department of Facilities Management (FM)
Environmental Services Division
CU-Boulder

FM consists of over 350 paid FTE in various areas including planning, design, maintenance & repair, and power generation.
Environmental Services specifically consists of 145 FTE and up to 10 temporary workers.

2. Primary Contact Person

Name, e-mail address, telephone number

Primary:

Tara Weachter, Manager, Environmental Services
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Secondary:

Ed von Bleichert, Sustainability Coordinator
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3. Project Description

Please provide a short description of your proposed project.

The Environmental Services Division of Facilities Management (FMES) is requesting funding for a program that was started in December 2007. FMES is proposing to eliminate as many non sustainable cleaning materials over the next three years as possible. Using new microfiber technology, Environmental Services is able reduce indoor air quality issues, provide a higher level of cleanliness and disinfecting to hard surfaces on campus, and reuse products rather than disposing of them.

4. Project Scope & Timeline

What is the scope of your project? Scope includes: requested funds from this grant, implementation timeline, and number of people needed. Also, list the campus groups that need to be involved to implement your project (for example: Facilities Management, Housing).

The requested project budget totals \$7,376.76 and includes the purchase of 9 Rubbermaid cleaning carts equipped with micro fiber materials including flat mop heads, overhead dust wands (w/ dust sleeve), multiple cloths, and scrubbing pads for floors & walls. This project will be a cooperative effort between UCSU and FM. The goal is to have staff using all microfiber material on campus through a gradual purchasing initiative over the next three years.

5. Detailed Project Budget

Please provide, on a separate sheet if necessary, a more detailed budget for your project. Please show other sources of funding necessary for your project, and whether those sources have been committed.

Please see attached budget.

6. Environmental Impact

How does your project enhance and protect the environment? Please refer to the [Blueprint for a Green Campus \(http://ecenter.colorado.edu/blueprint06/\)](http://ecenter.colorado.edu/blueprint06/) for specific environmental goals, and show how your project will fulfill one or more of these goals. Grants that provide environmental impact reduction that are not listed in the current Blueprint will also be considered.

Blueprint: Waste Reduction and Minimization, Purchase & Use of Green Products & Indoor Air Quality:

- Sustainable product:
 - Microfiber cleaning cloths and mops can be laundered and reused hundreds of times, resulting in an estimated 60% lifetime cost savings. On average, traditional cleaning materials have a life cycle of <10 uses

- Improves Indoor Air Quality:
 - The microfiber technology collects and holds dust, dirt, and allergens better than traditional cleaning methods and has been shown to reduce bacteria levels as much as 99%
 - Microfiber technology uses up to 95% less chemical and water for substantial cost savings and greener cleaning
- Purchase of Green Products:
 - Purchasing microfiber supports the “green” initiative in place on campus

FMES is requesting funding for this project. As you know, purchasing new equipment and materials within an existing budget can be challenging. Although we were able to find original funds in the General Operating budget to start the project, additional funding will come through the reduction of repeat purchases due to “disposable, throw away” items, over the course of time.

The use of the microfiber cleaning systems has a positive overall effect to the entire campus community.

7. CU Quality of Life

How does your project enhance the educational experience of students on campus? How does your project enhance quality of life for the entire campus community (Students, Faculty, and Staff)? How does your project enhance the quality of life at the University?

1. FMES proposes that through the use of microfiber the existence of latent germs and bacteria will be reduced thereby helping to minimize illness
2. FMES proposes that the use of the Rubbermaid microfiber cleaning systems will improve the staff quality of life by providing them with equipment and materials that are lighter in weight, ergonomic and has been shown to reduce worker strain and saving as much as 20% in labor costs per day

The net result will be improved air quality, supporting the “green” cleaning initiatives in place and the purchase of sustainable products.

8. Saving Money.

Do you think your project will save the University and/or Student’s money? (Your answer can be a narrative, and does not necessarily need to include hard figures.)

If Environmental Services continues to purchase microfiber cleaning systems it will avoid substantial continued cost due to purchasing disposable, non reusable products. It will promote reduction of chemicals & the overall reduction of water consumption needed for cleaning.

9. Project Longevity.

Please explain how your project will continue to provide benefits in the long term, and if your project will be maintained and continue to work after the students working on the project leave campus, if applicable.

This project will continue over the next three years as we deplete the old traditional equipment and materials and purchase new.

Environmental Services sees this as another step in supporting the sustainable and green initiatives on campus. The responsibilities of Environmental Services are to cleaning and maintain 119 facilities, totaling 5.9 million gsf.

10. Social and Environmental Equity and Justice.

How does your project contribute to improved social and environmental justice issues on campus?

This project will lead to a reduction in the use of harmful chemicals by front line staff in Environmental Services. This in turn reduces the exposure risk to what is traditionally a low paid and mostly immigrant work force that struggle to understand certain hazards associated with chemicals due to language barriers. The use of more ergonomic and lightweight materials will also benefit our workforce by reducing potential strains due to old heavy equipment.