



## **Sustainable CU: The Environmental Improvement Initiative**

### **Proposal: Filtered Water Stations for grab-n-go operations** from CU Housing & Dining Services **January 29, 2008**

#### **1. Basic Organizational Information**

CU Housing & Dining Services provides an exceptional residential and dining experience in support of the mission of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dining Services provides about 2 million meals to the residence hall student and guests each academic year.

Of these meals, about 685,000 meals (34%) are served through the grab-n-go operations. As part of this program, a large number of individual use ( $\frac{1}{2}$  liter) water bottles are being used and ultimately end up in the campus waste stream and recycling program.

#### **2. Primary Contact Person**

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#### **3. Project Description**

Sustainable CU provided funding for three triple filtered water stations in 2008. The concept has been well received by the campus community and we would like to expand this service to be available in all our grab-n-go locations. The remaining two locations are at Zeller's (Sewall) and Lickety Split (Libby). There is a balance remaining from the original grant. In order to fund two additional stations, the funding request for this proposal will be \$5,000.00.

#### **4. Project Scope and Timeline**

The scope will include purchase, fabrication of cabinets and installation of filtered water station in close proximity to our grab-n-go operations. In some cases, water lines may have to be routed to the appropriate location and new drains may need to be located. This work could be completed during the summer break, when grab-n-go operations are not utilized.

## 5. Project Budget

It is important to note that Dining Services does not receive General Fund money, but rather derives funding from meal plan fees. Therefore, Dining Services proposes to use monies from the Sustainable CU fund for purchase and installation of these filtered water stations. Ongoing filter replacement and maintenance will be the responsibility of Housing & Dining Services. We are currently investigating two brand names, therefore figures below are estimates. We need to have a system that is “vandal proof”, allows multiple customers to fill at same time and has easy access.

Cost for one water station:

Cabinet	2	\$99.00	\$198.00
Corian top	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
Water filler faucet	2	\$202.56	\$405.12
Bubbler head/pan	1	\$205.00	\$205.00
plumbing supplies	1	\$778.59	\$778.59
filters	3	\$74.93	\$224.79
filter system	1	\$304.67	\$304.67
labor - external	1	\$701.28	\$701.28
signage (4)	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total			\$3,317.45

## 6. Environmental Impact

In 2006, Americans used 33.7 billion disposable water bottles .5 liters or smaller, according to the Beverage Marketing Corp., a company that monitors consumer trends in the beverage industry. The 2006 figure is an 18 percent increase from the amount in 2005.

The Earth Policy Institute, an environmental think tank, reports that it takes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil each year to produce America's supply of plastic water bottles. Transporting and refrigerating the bottles consumes additional resources.

Reducing the need to truck large quantities of bottled water to campus several times per week will have a positive impact on the environment, traffic on campus and pedestrian safety, as well as eliminate concerns about lack of storage for the bottled water.

Eliminating a large amount of water bottles used on this campus will have a tremendous impact on the environment and the campus waste stream as well as the recycling program.

## **7. CU Quality of Life**

CU – Boulder has always been an environmental leader and looks for ways to decrease the ecological footprint. This project will help our campus create a more climate friendly, in addition to healthy, alternative. By providing the appropriate tools and business practices, along with outreach and education, our students, faculty, staff and visitors can move toward a minimal impact lifestyle.

## **8. Saving Money**

In academic year 2007-08, HDS spent \$187,634 on 807,029 ½ liter bottles of water for use primarily in our Grab-n-Gos. Significant operational changes that we made for this academic year include limiting the number of individual beverages per meal swipe and promotion of utilizing the filtered water stations (when they come on line). We are currently looking at other ways to reduce and potentially eliminate individual bottled/canned beverage use for implementation within the next 8 months. Already we are starting to see a reduction of individual bottled water usage at those locations with a filtered water station in place. Other money saving measures include the decrease trash and recycling costs after the beverage is consumed. Even if our department does not save money, our university needs to make drastic changes to meet our goals of zero impact and implementing this tool is a major step in the right direction. Current operational practices may show an increase in food cost, due to students taking additional side dishes.

## **9. Project Longevity**

The estimated life span of these filtration units is 10-15 years.

## **10. Social and Environmental Equity and Justice.**

The installation of these water stations is equally beneficial to all users of the buildings in which they are implemented, as well as the entire campus community.