

SUSTAINABLE CU
SMALL-SCALE GRANT APPLICATION
DATE OF APPLICATION: MARCH 1, 2010

GOAL: SEEKING \$1,145 TO REPLACE DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS WITH COMPOSTABLES

Basic Organizational Information:

The Office of Orientation has 1.75 FTE; 6-8 part-time student employees that provide office and telephone support during the school year and 16-18 full-time student employees that provide support during summer orientation sessions. Our goal is to make the University's first in-person contact with students and their families comfortable, welcoming and engaged. The office hosts approximately 17,200 new first-year and transfer students and 5,000 parents of incoming students during summer orientation sessions.

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Description of Project

The Office of Orientation provides several meals and beverage breaks to orientation participants during summer sessions. It is our goal to provide these in the greenest and most sustainable way possible. UMC Catering who provides the meal and beverage service offers corn-starch compostable products but charge a premium for their use. Orientation will use the Sustainable CU funds to cover this premium for water service and a coffee/tea parent mixer in order to make these options sustainable during the Summer 2010. Signage and an explanation in our printed itinerary will provide an explanation of this "green" initiative. It will be an initiation for students and families into the "green" way of doing things on the CU-Boulder campus.

Student Involvement

The families of every new student attending an orientation session, or approximately 5,000 parents and guests, would be exposed to the green way of thinking at CU-Boulder starting with their initial interaction with the campus during orientation. All would use the compostable products provided by the UMC with their water service and the parent

coffee/tea mixers.

Detailed Budget

Water Service outside CHEM 140:

Cost includes: compostable cups, collection and disposal of end product, signage highlighting sustainable products used

\$.15/person x 300 people x 11 dates

= \$495 TOTAL FOR SUMMER

Coffee/Tea Mixer:

Cost includes: compostable plates, cups, napkins, silverware, collection and disposal of end product, signage highlighting sustainable products used

\$.65/person x 100 guests x 10 dates

= \$650 TOTAL FOR SUMMER

Combined cost:

= \$1145 TOTAL FOR SUMMER

Matching Funds

No matching funds are available at this time. However, funds may be identified in the Orientation budget in a future budget cycle.

Feasibility

Immediately: Orientation works with UMC Catering on selecting and incorporating sustainable methods of delivering our meals and water service to orientation participants.

June 10, 2010 – August 19, 2010: Sustainable meals and water service are provided to orientation participants.

Late August: Orientation and UMC catering staff meet to review the products and educational materials provided to guests to determine effectiveness of the program and identify changes or improvements that can be made.

CRITERIA FOR SMALL SCALE APPLICATIONS

Student Impact

100% of all incoming undergraduate student families will be impacted. This number includes first-year and transfer students and all colleges and schools. New CU families will be initiated in the campuses "green" efforts and learn of the Environmental Center through signage posted at meals and beverage stations.

Sustainability

Environmental protection: resources will be saved by orientation's switch from

traditional disposable products to compostable versions. The product substitute will help lower our carbon footprint and contribute toward the goal of being a waste-free campus.

Economic benefit: There is no immediate economic benefit with the product replacement. Instead of putting endless sums of money toward disposable products the compostable cups will not end up in a landfill.

Social equity: Providing an educational explanation of the green materials used at water stations and the coffee/tea mixer will contribute to the awareness of orientation participants on the effects of their actions, and demonstrate how small changes can provide big benefits to the eco-system.

Innovation

CU-Boulder's Orientation is on the cutting-edge of trying to create a more sustainable event. Several innovations already in place are: a switch from a plastic to a reusable bag for participants; a move from printed to electronic publications; the purchase of an electric car to facilitate the moving of equipment and supplies prior to, and during sessions; and the use of post-consumer recycled materials for the remaining printed publications.

Replacing disposable products with green products at our water stations will continue to move orientation sessions toward our eventual goal of becoming a waste-free event.

We promote our sustainable efforts to all of our orientation participants, educating them about CU-Boulder's move to a lower carbon footprint, zero waste, and sustainable campus.

We also educate our fellow orientation professionals through the National Orientation Director's Association (NODA), our professional organization, and hope that by sharing our efforts we will encourage other campuses to take similar actions.