

Hand Dryers as Replacement for Paper Towels Twenty Percent Student-Funded Initiative 2009-2010

The Project

Installing hand dryers would aim to get people thinking about their environmental impact in their daily lives. The thought originated from an Admissions staff member requesting that the paper towels in her restroom be composted, seeing how it is such a waste to only use them once and then discard. After serious consideration, the idea was deemed unfeasible because of the strain it would put on custodial staff. However, the notion arose that the staff time already being spent to restock, clean and remove the paper towels is a strain in itself. The space to store paper towels, the production, waste and cost is also a nuisance to PLU. By replacing out-dated paper towel dispensers with automated hand dryers, the school could be saving costs, while helping the environment.

Funds

The purchase and installation of hand dryers would be funded through the *Student Resolution for the Purchase of Green Tags and the Support of Renewable Energy by Pacific Lutheran University*, which was passed in 2008 and added a \$10 increase to student tuition each semester.

Stewards

The hand dryers project is student-led. The spending of this fund is to be monitored by the Sustainability Committee, which consists of students, faculty, and staff. For the 2009-2010 school year, the committee is chaired by Brian Naasz. Chrissy Cooley, PLU's Sustainability Coordinator is also overseeing this project.

The following student leaders decided that the Hand Dryer campaign would be a fitting project for the TPEC fund:

- ASPLU Sustainability Director
- ASPLU Sustainability Committee Members
- GREAN representatives

The hand dryers project involves altering buildings on campus, so it is important that David Kohler be a signatory on this charter.

Priorities

Our priorities for choosing the project were:

- 1) Paper product reduction
- 2) Student visibility
- 3) Potential for short term implementation
- 4) Longevity of infrastructure and education

We feel that the Hand Dryers project fits into all four of these priorities.

Paper product reduction: Despite the purchase of recycled content paper products, there is still significant energy used to produce, transport and dispose of the paper towels used on campus. Even with the hand dryers added energy, switching to them would still have a positive environmental impact.

Student visibility: The new equipment will be obvious to building occupants because it will be brand-new. A small laminated sign will be installed informing members about the funding origin and purpose of the hand dryers.

Potential for short-term implementation: Purchasing and shipping the equipment will happen before the end of May 2010.

Longevity of infrastructure and education: We will purchase hand dryers will be durable and long-lasting. The University values having quality equipment that will last. Facilities is willing to support and continue purchasing hand dryers instead of paper towel dispensers.

The campaign will include:

- **Purchasing Equipment:** Two new hand dryers and their installation will be purchased by the TPEC fund.
- **Education:** A laminated sign will be hung stating the funding origin and purpose of the new equipment.

Assessment:

The success of this program will be determined by comparing the paper towel usage before and after the installation in the following ways:

- Machine use through the XXXXXXXXXXXX employees monitoring

Budget:

\$4,000

Permanent Signage: \$5

1 laminated sign by the machines

By signing this project charter I understand and agree to my role in the Hand Dryer Project.

Chrissy Cooley
Ratzke

Andrew

Brian Naasz
Krzmarzick

Becca

Dave Kohler

