

# **Reusable Utensils and Dishware Washing Stations**

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**Abstract:** This project would support and encourage students, staff, employees and HSU visitor's usage of reusable utensils and dishware through the construction and the implementation of four designated outdoor R.U.D. (Reusable Utensils and Dishware) Washing Stations throughout campus. These stations would be located by the 5 main dining locations on campus: The J, the Depot, the College Creek Marketplace, the Library Café and the Hilltop Marketplace.

## Reusable Utensils and Dishware Washing Stations

**Project Description:** Humboldt State University's dedication to waste diversion can be seen in its execution of the OZZI system, its elimination of plastic water bottles and straws on campus and its student body, staff, and employees who actively use reusable utensils and dishware. Since it is discouraged to put food items and food waste in the sinks in the library and the bathroom sinks throughout campus and since there is not a designated place to wash reusable utensils and dishware besides the kitchen in Oh SNAP!, the execution of the outdoor R.U.D. Washing Stations would be the perfect solution to address that need. Access to these 24-hour outdoor washing stations would encourage the behavior change of switching from disposable to reusable utensils and dishware. This project would not only benefit the people who come to campus prepared with their reusable utensils and dishware but also benefits the school and most importantly, the environment.

**Need Statement:** My project proposal addresses all 5 of the primary goals of HEIF's mission.

1. *The HEIF will achieve its mission through projects that are developed by students and, to the extent possible, implemented, monitored, and maintained with strong student involvement.*  
Development (research, design), implementation, and monitoring of this project will be executed by students through the support of various school programs such as the Dining and Services, the Office of Sustainability and its umbrella programs such as Green Campus and W.R.R.A.P. CCAT can also be included in the design if the wash stations are to be created using an appropriate technology design. This project would be maintained by student volunteers. These students do not have to be involved with Green Campus, W.R.R.A.P., and CCAT but involvement is encouraged. To make sure that the R.U.D. Washing Station's cleanliness is maintained, and rust is prevented, there must be a systematic schedule that volunteers can follow and be held accountable for.
2. *The HEIF will require accountability by measuring and reporting quantitative and qualitative results, as well as levels of involvement by students and other participants, in all its projects.*  
The R.U.D. Washing Stations meet the HEIF accountability because students can use the water usage as a means to measure and report quantitative and qualitative data and results. They can also track the usage of other supplies such as dish soap, and scrubs that are required in the up-keep of the wash stations.
3. *The HEIF will strive to make its projects derive from and be connected to the curriculum of the university.*  
This project meets HEIF curriculum because it strives to encourage reusable utensils and dishware that help lessen unnecessary waste.
4. *The HEIF will support dissemination of information about its projects through public outreach and educational activities.*  
This projects creation can be an education opportunity for students. Also someone can gain managing experience by being appointed to keep track of the systematic volunteer schedule. Also bulletin boards can be placed above the washing stations that can be

used to disseminate information about similar activities that promote waste reduction and other projects of sustainability happening around campus.

5. *The HEIF will seek to publicize accomplishments and experiences associated with its program and projects through a variety of media.*

The R.U.D. Washing Station project's success and waste diversion can be publicized through the social media platforms of the various groups and programs platforms working towards sustainability on campus. Also in my research, there were no known schools to have yet implemented outdoor washing stations on their campuses so if HSU were to be the first campus to execute it, that accomplishment could be publicized and could lead other campuses to follow in its already noteworthy direction of waste diversion.

**Outcome:** By close monitoring and measuring and reporting of quantitative and qualitative results, HEIF will be able to see how many people take advantage of this project, and how much money the school will save from the reduced usage of disposable utensils, plates, and cups. Students who get involved in this project will get the opportunity to conduct studies that are associated with waste reduction, and water/energy usage that track how much disposable utensils, plates and cups get wasted daily at the different dining areas on campus and see how the execution of the R.U.D. washing stations have helped divert that waste. It benefits the environment because reusable utensils and dishware use less energy and resources, and less waste will filter into landfills.

**Partners:** Possible partners that could support this project are Dining and Services, the Office of Sustainability and a couple of its umbrella programs: Green Campus and W.R.R.A.P., CCAT and possibly Oh SNAP!

## Appendix

The following references are some examples where outdoor washing stations have been utilized or mentioned. In my research of this project there were only two schools that mentioned washing stations, but there were no known schools to have actually implemented them.

Nix the 6 Manual. *Plastic Pollution Coalition*. Retrieved from

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Portland Farmers Market Switches to Reusable Dishware. (2015, July 27<sup>th</sup>). *Oregon Live*.

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