



## Green Fund

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(TBD)

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### ***USEFULL* Improvements, Funded by Green Fund**

Northern Arizona University Campus Dining piloted the *USEFULL* system in March, featuring reusable bowls and cups at select dining locations on campus. The project was funded by NAU's Green Fund, a student led sustainability initiative. After monitoring the project for several months and listening to feedback from dining patrons, the Green Fund is funding improvements to the system.

Campus Dining is adding three new return stations in the Union so students can more conveniently return their bowls and cups. They are also adding new drying racks to help accommodate a large volume of bowls and cups as the new academic year begins.

These additions will help continue to improve the *USEFULL* pilot program, which is set to end in March of 2025. After that, Campus Dining will evaluate whether or not to keep the program going.

As of August 20, patrons of *USEFULL* have checked out 37,143 containers at NAU, and saved 3,497 pounds of trash, 97,928 gallons of water, and 11,008 pounds of emissions. This project has largely contributed to reducing waste at NAU, which has a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. *USEFULL* will be a large part of NAU reaching that goal. NAU is the most successful trial of *USEFULL* on a college campus for the company so far, based on usage and pounds of trash saved.

The *USEFULL* program is available at three dining locations: Cobrizo Mexican Grill, Turnip the Greens, and Lemon Grass. At these locations, patrons are required to download the *USEFULL* app in order to scan a cup or bowl to check it out, and have three days to return it.

The NAU Green Fund was founded in 2010 and is comprised of eight students in addition to faculty and staff members who vote to fund projects and research using the \$15 per student per

semester Green Fee. All of the Green Fund's meetings are open to the public and any student, staff or faculty member can submit a proposal.