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Contact Information	
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Project Name	Advancing Campus Sustainability with Bottle Filling Stations

Executive Summary

The proposed project will support the installation of **two** water bottle filling stations within the Applied Research and Development (ARD) Building at Northern Arizona University’s Flagstaff Mountain Campus. This initiative is designed to reduce single-use plastic consumption, promote sustainable behaviors, and enhance access to clean drinking water for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The visible presence of single-use plastic water bottles in both staff and public spaces highlights an opportunity to strengthen campus sustainability efforts through improved hydration infrastructure. Existing drinking fountains are not engineered for reusable bottles, often forcing users to refill containers at an angle that may compromise hygiene and user comfort. Installing touchless bottle filling stations would remove this barrier, making sustainable behavior the easier choice while advancing waste reduction goals and supporting a healthier campus environment.

By providing convenient hydration infrastructure in a high-use facility, the project aligns directly with the Green Fund’s mission to lessen NAU’s environmental impact while fostering a campus-wide culture of sustainability. Water bottle filling stations are a proven strategy for decreasing reliance on disposable plastic bottles, thereby reducing landfill waste and the upstream environmental costs associated with plastic production and transportation.

As the Center for Community Health & Engaged Research, housed on the first floor of the ARD, is supported by grant funding, we are unable to independently fund this project. However, we have initiated conversations with other building occupants to determine whether operational or facilities budgets could offset a portion of the project costs. Both the Center for Adaptable Western Landscapes and the Pathogen and Microbiome Lab (PMI) support this request and would directly benefit from the installation of bottle filling stations.

We would love to add educational signage, and behavior-change messaging that highlights the environmental benefits of reusable bottles. Real-time counters on the filling stations will provide

visible metrics on plastic bottles avoided, reinforcing sustainability awareness and encouraging long-term habit formation.

As a one-time infrastructure investment with lasting environmental returns, this project advances NAU's broader sustainability and climate goals while modeling a scalable, high-impact solution that can be replicated across campus facilities.

Project Components

1. Does your project require space or construction on campus? If so, where?

Yes. The project requires minor construction to support the installation of two water bottle filling stations within the Applied Research and Development (ARD) Building on NAU's Flagstaff Mountain Campus. The units will be installed in high-visibility, high-traffic interior locations to maximize accessibility and encourage use among students, faculty, staff, and visitors. One will be located on floor 1 and the other on floor 2 near the main entrances between restrooms with current plumbing.

The project team will coordinate closely with NAU Facilities Services and the appropriate building leadership to confirm final placement (which is ideally just in place of the current fountains), ensure compliance with campus standards, and complete any required space approval processes. Because this project involves retrofitting existing plumbing infrastructure rather than new construction, disruptions are expected to be minimal.

2. Have you obtained all necessary approvals for this project?

The project team is actively coordinating with building leadership and Facilities Services to secure all required approvals prior to installation.

3. Does the project include any continued maintenance costs?

No significant ongoing maintenance costs are anticipated. Water bottle filling stations are durable, commercial-grade fixtures designed for long-term use with minimal servicing requirements.

Following installation, the units will be incorporated into standard building operations and maintained through existing Facilities Services processes. As such, the project represents a one-time infrastructure investment with sustained environmental benefits and negligible long-term financial impact.

Project Specifics

1. Is there a public outreach plan? How do you plan on communicating your project with the NAU community? Do you require assistance from the Green Fund in your outreach plan?

Yes. A targeted outreach plan will accompany the installation to promote awareness, encourage behavior change, and reinforce NAU's commitment to sustainability. Educational signage will be placed near each filling station highlighting the environmental benefits of reusable water bottles, including reductions in single-use plastics and landfill waste. Additionally, the stations' digital bottle counters will provide real-time visualization of plastic bottles avoided, serving as an ongoing educational tool.

Project partners will collaborate with the Office of Sustainability to amplify communication through campus channels such as newsletters, social media, and sustainability campaigns. This coordinated approach will help normalize reusable bottle use while increasing project visibility across the university community.

The project team welcomes collaboration with the Green Fund on promotional efforts, particularly during the project launch, to further highlight the Fund's role in advancing student-supported sustainability initiatives.

2. Are you working with other groups on or off campus? If so, describe your partnership.

Yes. The project will be implemented in partnership with NAU Facilities Services and the leadership of the Applied Research and Development Building to ensure proper site selection, code compliance, and efficient installation.

Additionally, the project aligns with the broader sustainability priorities of the Office of Sustainability and contributes to institutional efforts to reduce waste and support environmentally responsible campus infrastructure.

These partnerships reflect cross-departmental collaboration and demonstrate shared institutional investment in advancing NAU's sustainability goals.

Project Parameters

1. What are the environmental costs and benefits associated with your project?

Environmental Benefits:

The installation of water bottle filling stations directly supports waste reduction by decreasing reliance on single-use plastic bottles. On average, a single filling station can offset thousands of disposable bottles annually, reducing landfill contributions, lowering greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic manufacturing and transportation, and conserving the natural resources required for bottle production.

Additionally, increasing access to refill infrastructure promotes long-term behavior change by making sustainable choices convenient and visible within daily campus life.

Environmental Costs:

Environmental impacts associated with this project are minimal and largely limited to the

manufacturing, transportation, and installation of the filling stations. These short-term impacts are substantially outweighed by the long-term reduction in plastic waste and lifecycle emissions. Overall, this project represents a high-impact, low-footprint sustainability investment.

2. Is this a one-time expense or will you require future funding for your project?

This project is designed as a one-time capital investment. Once installed, the filling stations will be integrated into existing building operations with no anticipated need for future Green Fund support.

Routine servicing, such as filter replacement or minor maintenance, will be managed within standard Facilities Services protocols. As a result, the project delivers long-term environmental benefits without creating an ongoing financial obligation.

Line Item Budget:

ITEM	JUSTIFICATION	QUANTITY	PRICE PER UNIT
ELkay Bottle Filling Station Model # LZS8WSSP	One per most occupied floors	2	\$1,789.99 (Home Depot) \$3,579.98 for both approx..
Facility Services	Installation	3 hours per unit=6 hours	\$57.51/hour per technician \$345.06 installation approx..
Approximate tax on \$3925.04	City tax rate 9.39%	1	\$369.00 approx.
TOTAL			\$4,300.00

5% of Total Project Cost \$215.00

Total Project Cost \$4,515.00*

*Unsure of the labor/installation costs or if the Home Depot units are the ones allowed at NAU.