UIS Green Projects Application

Full Project Proposal- **Step 2**

**Project Name: Water Bottle Refill Station on the 4th Floor of the Brookens Library**

**Contact Information:**

Project Team

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| *Name* | *UIS Student/Faculty/Staff & Department (or Office)* | *UIS Email* | *Phone #* |
| Elizabeth Guadarrama | UIS Student  OASIS Peer Advisor | eguad2@uis.edu | (224) 381 – 3551 |
| Dara Abina | OASIS Advisor  STARS Student Success Coach | dabin2@uis.edu | (217) 206 – 8119 |

Organization/Affiliation: Office of Advising Services, Information, and Support (OASIS)

**Project Information:**

*Provide a brief description of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:*

This is a proposal for the installation of a new water bottle refill station attachment for the water fountain on the 4th floor of the classroom side of the Brookens Library. Water bottle refill station attachments install over existing water fountains, so there is no need to replace the entire water fountain system. Rather, the proposed attachment would be installed over the taller of the two water fountains located on the 4th floor of the classroom side of the Brookens Library. This would both preserve the wheelchair accessibility of the shorter of the two water fountains while also installing a new water bottle refill station.

The main goals of this project include reducing the university’s carbon footprint and providing the students, faculty, and staff with easily accessible drinking water. Currently, many students and staff use disposable water bottles purchased either from vending machines or from the university’s cafeteria. The proposed water bottle refill station attachment would encourage students and staff to purchase refillable water bottles and use the new station. This would result in a reduction in the volume of plastic waste created by UIS and, over time, would also lead to a reduction in the university’s negative impact on the environment. The classroom side of the Brookens Library is heavily trafficked by both students and faculty, and installation of the water bottle refill attachment would be beneficial in this location. A support page explaining the proposed project was placed above the water fountains and received many signatures in favor of the water bottle refill station attachment. Attached to this proposal is the signatures of those in favor of installing the proposed water bottle refill station attachment.

*How will this project improve sustainability at UIS?*

The implementation of the proposed project to install a new water bottle refill station attachment will help UIS become an environmentally friendly place. The university’s environmental impact will decrease in regards to plastic waste, as there will be an increased use of reusable water bottles, which have a long lifespan and produce less waste than disposable water bottles.

Having the proposed refill station attachment on the water fountain will encourage students and staff to remain hydrated without being concerned with the costs or environmental impacts of using disposable water bottles. Reusable water bottles are sold for a flat rate ranging from $5 to $20, while a single use water bottle can cost $1.50 per bottle or higher. With the implementation of the proposed water bottle refill station attachment, water will be more easily accessible.

*Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?*

Students and staff members of the Center for Success, COLRS, and Graduate Public Service Internship Office will be the primary users of the proposed water bottle refill station attachment in the classroom side of the Brookens Library. Water bottle refill stations are perceived as more sanitary than water fountains and are easier to refill a water bottle from. Students and staff that are on the 4th classroom side floor of Brookens have to walk down to the third or first floors to purchase water bottles from a vending machine. Installing the proposed attachment will minimize the amount of time a student has to leave their class, tutoring appointment, or work in order to get clean, fresh water. Staff members will also minimize time away from their desks and maximize the time they spend helping students if they do not have to travel to other floors in search of fresh water.

Other than saving students time and effort, the proposed water bottle refill station attachment will also save students and staff money. A refillable water bottle has a price range of $5 to $20, this is a flat rate and students only spend money on a water bottle once. Single use water bottles from vending machines or the Student Union cafeteria however, typically cost $1.50 per bottle. At a bottle per weekday ($1.50 x 5) a student’s costs for water is $7.50 per week. Multiply that by the 15 weeks of a semester ($7.50 x 15), and the total cost for water amounts to $112.50 per semester. Students with meals plans could use this money for several meals instead, and those that do not have meal plans could find other uses for their estimated $112.50.

*Where will the project be located? Do you need special permissions to enact the project at this site? If so, please explain and attach a letter of support to your application. If you are not sure, let us know! We can help.*

The new water bottle refill attachment will be installed on the taller of the two existing water fountains located on the classroom side of the 4th floor of the Brookens Library. This will minimize cost, result in station where water bottles can be easily refilled, and maintain the integrity of the shorter water fountain as being wheelchair accessible.

*Other than the project team, who will hold stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments indirectly or directly affected by this project. This includes any funding entities (immediate, future, ongoing, etc.) and any entities that will be benefiting from this project. Communication with affected departments is encouraged ahead of time. List the names of who you spoke with and their comments.*

Students, staff, and faculty that work in or visit the 4th floor of the classroom side of Brookens Library hold a stake in the project. A support signature page explaining the proposal was created and posted above the water fountains on the 4th floor. Several students, staff, and faculty signed their names in support of installing the new water bottle refill attachment to the water fountain. Attached to this proposal is a typed out version of the signatures of those that support the project.

*Have you applied for funding from the Student Green Fee previously? If so, for what project?*

OASIS has not previously applied for funding from the Student Green Free.

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

*Do you have a plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project.*

We plan for the implementation of this new project to be as soon as possible. For instance, the new water bottle refill station attachment can be installed on the taller of the two water fountains during the winter break or early spring and be available for student and faculty use as soon as Spring 2019. If this is not possible, the attachment can be installed over the summer and will be available to students and staff for the next academic year, starting Fall 2019.

*List all budget items for which funding will be required. Include the cost for each item requested. Please be as detailed as possible, to the best of your ability. If you know where you would like to purchase materials from, please list the contact information of the retailer(s) below, along with the URL addresses to each item you will be requiring. If you need suggestions for how and where to purchase materials, please contact the Student Sustainability Projects Coordinators by email.*

This proposal calls for the installation of one (1) water bottle refill station attachment. Rather than purchasing an entirely new system, the water bottle refill station attachment will be installed over the existing water fountain and water system. Elkay systems have been installed in other building throughout campus, including PAC. For this project, we are proposing that the attachment also be purchased from this company.

[Elkay’s website](http://www.elkay.com/drinking-solutions/bottle-filling-stations#q=|15|0|1|mfName_ntk_cs%3A%22Retrofit%22) boasts three possible water bottle refill stations that can be installed on the 4th floor of the classroom side of the Brookens Library. The first possible attachment that is the [EMABFWS-RF model](http://www.elkay.com/drinking-solutions/bottle-filling-stations/emabfws-rf), which is a non-filtered, non-refrigerated attachment for a water fountain. This model has no spout, meaning that the spout existing on the water fountain is kept when installing this attachment. The retail price is $776.

The second possible attachment is the [EZWSRK model](http://www.elkay.com/drinking-solutions/bottle-filling-stations/ezwsrk). This attachment is a non-filtered, non-refrigerated model with a spout that retails for $776.

The third possible water bottle refill station attachment is the [LZWSRK model](http://www.elkay.com/drinking-solutions/bottle-filling-stations/lzwsrk), which is filtered, non-refrigerated, and comes with a spout. It retails at $856.

All three of these models come with touchless, sensor activation to help ensure the cleanliness of the station. Another feature these stations share is a display listing the number of 20 oz. disposable water bottles saved by using the water bottle refill system. These three models also boast laminar flows to minimize splashing, antimicrobial protection on plastic components that inhibit the growth of mold and mildew, and a drain system that quickly eliminates standing water.

We leave the selection of the specific water bottle refill station attachment up to the committee. We also welcome the committee’s estimates for labor and installation costs associated with this project. Funding for the new water bottle refill station attachment in the 4th floor classroom side of the Brookens Library will come from the Green Fee assessed to students. Alternatively, a fundraising campaign can also be started to help with the purchase, installation, and labor costs associated with the project.

*Will this project require ongoing funding? Do you have a plan for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?*

This project will require minimal funding for operation costs. In case of a leak or malfunction, the water bottle refill station will need to undergo maintenance. The funding for this will come from existing fees on the students, such as the green fee or the academic facility maintenance fund.

*Every project must be publicized! Where would you like to see information about this project reported?*

We would like to see information about the new water refill station reported in the UIS Journal and on the UIS website. Once the new station is available for use, we will also publicize it on the OASIS Facebook page. News about the newly installed water bottle refill station will also travel by word of mouth, as the students, faculty, and staff that use the fourth floor of the classroom side of the Brookens Library will be discussing the project’s completion.

**Supporting Document**

Signatures of Support

As part of our proposal for the water bottle refilling station attachment for the fountain on the classroom side of Brookens’ 4th floor, we created a sheet for students, faculty, and staff to sign in order to show their support. Below, we have provided the text that briefly explained the project that was posted along with the signature page and a typed version of the names of those that support installing a water bottle refill station attachment to the existing water fountain. Please note that not all signatures were legible. As such, we have also scanned the signature page and it will be attached to the proposal as a separate document.

Hello,

We are pleased to inform you that the UIS Green Fee Committee voted to advance our proposal to the next stage!

We need your support. Within the final stage of the proposal, we would like to include names of students, faculty and staff who would benefit from a filter water bottle filling station. Please provide us with your name and UIN for a final proposal. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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| **Support Bottle Filling Station** | |
| **Facilitators:** | Dara Abina & Elizabeth Guadarrama |

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|  | **Name** | **UIN** |
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| **2.** | Elizabeth Guadarrama | 657381443 |
| **3.** | Barb Sykes | 665936283 |
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| **5.** | Kris Ruebling |  |
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| **15.** | Nicole Hager |  |
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| **27.** | Nathan Leinberger |  |
| **18.** | Myra Kaufman |  |
| **19.** | Mae Noll |  |
| **20.** | Pam McGowan |  |
| **21.** | Amanda Starrick |  |
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| **30.** | Trent Sidwell |  |
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| **34.** | Selena Meints | 668528723 |
| **35.** | Jasmine Fernandez | 670806418 |
| **36.** | Diamond Dixon | 654679460 |
| **37.** | Lesley Garcia | 678016161 |
| **38.** | Tricia Berry | 669800273 |
| **39.** | Patrik Elkins | 654186384 |
| **40.** | Badria Luteify | 650315959 |
| **41.** | Jane Stump | 663379068 |
| **42.** | Cortrell Garland | 650644072 |
| **43.** | Fuad Abina | 655674171 |
| **44.** | Ashley McClinton | 665444528 |
| **45.** | Patricia Mubirigi | 656653847 |
| **46.** | Taaricia Walker | 678011856 |
| **47.** | Carrie Levin | 661302249 |
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| **49.** | Alex Idomita | 675773806 |
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| **51.** | Jacque Moore | 672641634 |
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