

Part I- General Information		
Name of Organization		GLC Fellows
Contact/Responsible Person		Danya Hakky/Lauren Surface
Contact Office Held/Title		
Contact Email Address		hdanya@vt.edu/lkeister@vt.edu
Contact Telephone number		1-6500
Part II- Project Cost Information		
Estimated Cost of this Proposal		\$3,250
Estimated Savings-		N/A
Net Cost of this Proposal=		3250
Part III- Supporting Information		
<p>A. Please describe your sustainability initiative and attach supporting documentation</p> <p>The Graduate Life Center is a very unique building that hosts a variety of clients ranging from undergraduate students, graduate students, professors, administrators and members of the community. A special building such as this should be special in all its aspects, which is why we are hoping to create a building that can be a model for all others on campus in terms of sustainability and green efforts. There are currently a few efforts in place but there is much more than can be done.</p> <p>At this point, we hope to add make three main changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adding a Elkay EZ H2O Bottle Filling Station (a fixture that has seen much traffic and demand already). Since its installation its meter has recorded plastic bottle savings of: 42,233. This fixture is an example of eco-feedback; a method used to make effects of sustainable behavior apparent to users. This information counteracts the gap between action and result that is arguably one of the main frustrations that deter people from making sustainability choices. 2. When prioritizing possible changes that should be made in a building so that it may become greener, it is important to listen to its users and their needs. To this effect, we reached out to the Graduate School Offices in the building and inquired after their needs. Their main request was more recycling containers. It was very encouraging to see the different ways people have adopted to recycle in that area of the building despite the shortage in containers. <p>I have been extremely pleased with the initiative Danya has shown by working on the Green RFP to support the Graduate Life Center. Even though it dovetails cleanly with her Doctoral program, she decided to pursue this project because she works part-time in the GLC. I am lucky to have her on staff and fully support her efforts. In addition to the Green RFP, she has begun work on a recycling audit of the building. The preliminary findings have led her to address some of the needs that were the easiest to identify. After discussing these plans with her, we worked collaboratively to develop the RFP in its current iteration. We have developed a close working relationship with the Graduate School and this RFP will allow us to assist our partners while truly being able to promote the GLC as a model for sustainability.</p> <p>-Eric Margiotta Auxiliary Student Centers Operations Coordinator Student Centers and Activities.</p> <p>The Graduate School is very interested in increasing sustainability in its office areas, partly to support student initiatives, partly to reinforce or teach sustainable practices to its employees, and partly to act as responsible contributors within the university and larger communities.</p> <p>Due to traffic patterns and office practices, enough recyclable trash (paper, plastic, aluminium) is</p>		

generated weekly to warrant having collection spots in Graduate School areas. Staff have expressed strong interest in and support for recycling and the Graduate School as an entity is fully supportive of this and other initiatives that make practices in the GLC more sustainable.

-Monika Gibson

Director of Student Services

Graduate School

B. How does this initiative help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution and Sustainability Plan?

This proposal can help achieve many of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment fundamental goals. Firstly, the underlying idea behind these changes is to insure the GLC can be a model for other buildings across campus. The fixtures, designs and strategies we are committed to testing and applying will help lead other faculties into the direction of sustainability. This is in line with the Climate Action's first commitment: *Virginia Tech will be a Leader in Campus Sustainability*. Virginia Tech as a whole is only as good as the sum of its parts and the GLC can play a significant role in improving those components. Secondly, in this proposal we are specifically targeting recycling, amongst other things, by adding recycling receptacles where needed. This will edge VT closer to its eighth commitment: *Virginia Tech Recycling will adopt a goal of 35% recycle rate by 2012 and 50% by 2025*.

Thirdly, the bottle filling station will not only help reduce waste which lies within the eight commitment, it will also contribute to the tenth; *Virginia Tech will engage students, faculty and staff through education and involvement to reduce consumption of energy, water, and materials in academic and research buildings, dining and residence halls, and other facilities*. This fixture employs an eco-feedback approach which provides users with information subtly educating and involving them in the process of reducing plastic waste. Its location in the GLC, a building that hosts a number of different clients that vary in age, education and affiliations, is very beneficial.

C. What is the cost of your proposal? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your cost estimate.

1. **Elkay EZ H2O Bottle Filling Station:** \$350 purchase price + \$500 installation
2. **Recycling containers:**
 - 6 x 366= \$ 2196 (3x paper + 3x bottles), *Graduate School*
 - 4 x 39.96= \$ 159.84 (4x bottles), *Meeting Rooms*
 - 4x 10.49= \$ 41.96 (4x covers), *Meeting Rooms*
3. **Total Cost:**
 - 1 Bottle Filling Station: \$850
 - 6 Steel recycling receptacles: \$2196
 - 4 plastic recycling receptacles: \$201.80
 - Grand Total: \$3247.80

D. Will your proposal produce cost savings for the University? If so, how much? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your savings estimate.

There are two types of benefits this proposal will produce for the university; quantifiable (cost related) and non-quantifiable (behavioral and moral). Both are equally as important and both produce monetary savings, one quicker than the other. In the case of the light sensors, a monetary benefit can be seen in utility bills. The increase in recycling may mean a decrease in trash which leads to the university having

to pay less for its waste disposal. As Virginia Tech is a jurisdiction member of the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA), it is charged \$51/ton for municipal solid waste brought to their transfer facility, \$32/ton for bottles & cans, and \$0 for mixed paper recycling. Consequently, capturing bottles & cans and mixed paper for recycling saves the university money, it directly contributes to our goal to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2025, and it demonstrates our commitment to Virginia Tech being a leader in campus sustainability. The water cooler may not produce immediate monetary savings but it produces environmental savings and encourages behavioral change that can be applied in other initiatives (conserving water when washing hands for instances) that can lead to monetary reductions.

E. Is this funding request an Ongoing or One-Time change (please check one)?

One time

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.)

Not at the moment

Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Prepared by (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

Danya Hakky

Reviewed By (Name of Office of Energy and Sustainability Representative)

Denny Cochrane

NOV 28, 2012

Websites:

- Meeting room bottle receptacles:
<http://www.grainger.com/Grainger/RUBBERMAID-Recycling-Container-3U630>
meeting room bottle receptacles' covers:
http://www.grainger.com/Grainger/TOUGH-GUY-BottleCan-Recycling-Container-Top-5DMY7?cm_sp=IO- -IDP- -RR_VTV70300505&cm_vc=IDPRRZ1
- Graduate School Recycling receptacles:
<http://www.chdist.com/browse/products/2394-ex-cell-recycling-receptacle-33-gallon-capacity.html>