Green Fund Project

Final Report

Name of person(s) completing report: Karen Midden (for William Winter who graduated)

Department: College of Agricultural Sciences

Contact Phone and email address: 618 453-2469

Faculty Advisor (if applicable): Karen Midden (originally Leslie Duram)

Project Title: Agriculture Building Elkay

Project ID #: 16SP137

Award Date: April 26, 2016

Completion Award:

Total Funds Used: $1008.72

1. Please provide a write up of your project/project experience. (This may be used on the SIU sustainability website.)

2. Please provide a summary of your results (environmental, social, and/or economic) including quantifiable data as appropriate (ex. # of individuals reached, lbs. diverted from landfill, energy saved, etc.).

3. Summarize how your project promoted the Green Fee/Sustainability on campus including, but not limited to, flyers created, screenshots of website, signage, etc. Please include website links, if applicable.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to do a similar project in the future? If so, please describe.

5. Please attach a minimum of 5 digital images –these will be images used to promote interest in sustainability projects on campus. These can be photos of the progress of the project or the completed project.

6. Optional: Do you have any suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund Award Process?

1. First I would like to say that William Winter wrote the proposal for this Green Fund Proposal but graduated in May 2016 before this project could be completed. I agreed to see the project to completion and write this report. This project proposal was generated from a class assignment in GEOG 470 "Contemporary Issues in Environmental Studies". The task was to write a Green Fund Proposal for a need identified that was appropriate related to campus sustainability. It was very easy for William to decide on his topic. William was a Forestry major who spent the majority of his time in the agriculture building. He was aware that students, especially going in and out to labs in the field or the woods or working on the green roof and landscape drank a lot of water. The water quality was poor in the agriculture building's outdated water fountain. It tasted bad, was often discolored and typically had an unpleasant odor. At one time, a soybean was growing out of the drain. The agriculture building has been at the forefront of the environmental movement on campus earned by the installation of sustainable features as the green roof, rain garden and the green wall. One thing that William thought was left out of the sustainability efforts was an Elkay water fountain that has the sensor activated water bottle filler to improve the water. Many students who attend classes use reusable water bottles but were hesitate to fill their containers in the agriculture water fountain. William understood that students, as well as faculty, staff and visitors, would benefit greatly from having one of these drinking fountains installed. He also knew that the installation would reduce the use of plastic bottles, encourage students and others to drink more water, and to use reusable bottles/containers. Briefly, Elkay is an American owned company and started by a former SIU Graduate. So why Elkay's "ezH20" solution. Elkay provides easier filter changes, easy energy savings, a smart system that tracks savings and monitors all the stations, an easy installation, a nice graphic display showing how many bottles saved, and a low-energy LED light. One Elkay filter lasts for 3,000 gallons, which is about 24,000 16-ounce bottles. The Elkay filter reduces aesthetic chlorine, taste and odor, particulate class I and lead (http://elkay.com). All of the anticipated benefits that William proposed is proving to be true. (This project was installed at the end of the summer 2016 available for the start of Fall semester 2016). The new fountain is highly used and appreciated.

   In addition, William included the design of an interpretive sign, created by the Environmental Interpretative class, FOR 423, to be placed adjacent to the fountain explaining the environmental and health benefits of the Elkay filling system and practice of using reusable water bottles versus throw away bottles (personal bottles also is a savings for students versus buying water constantly) and to propose the SIU Sustainable Council.

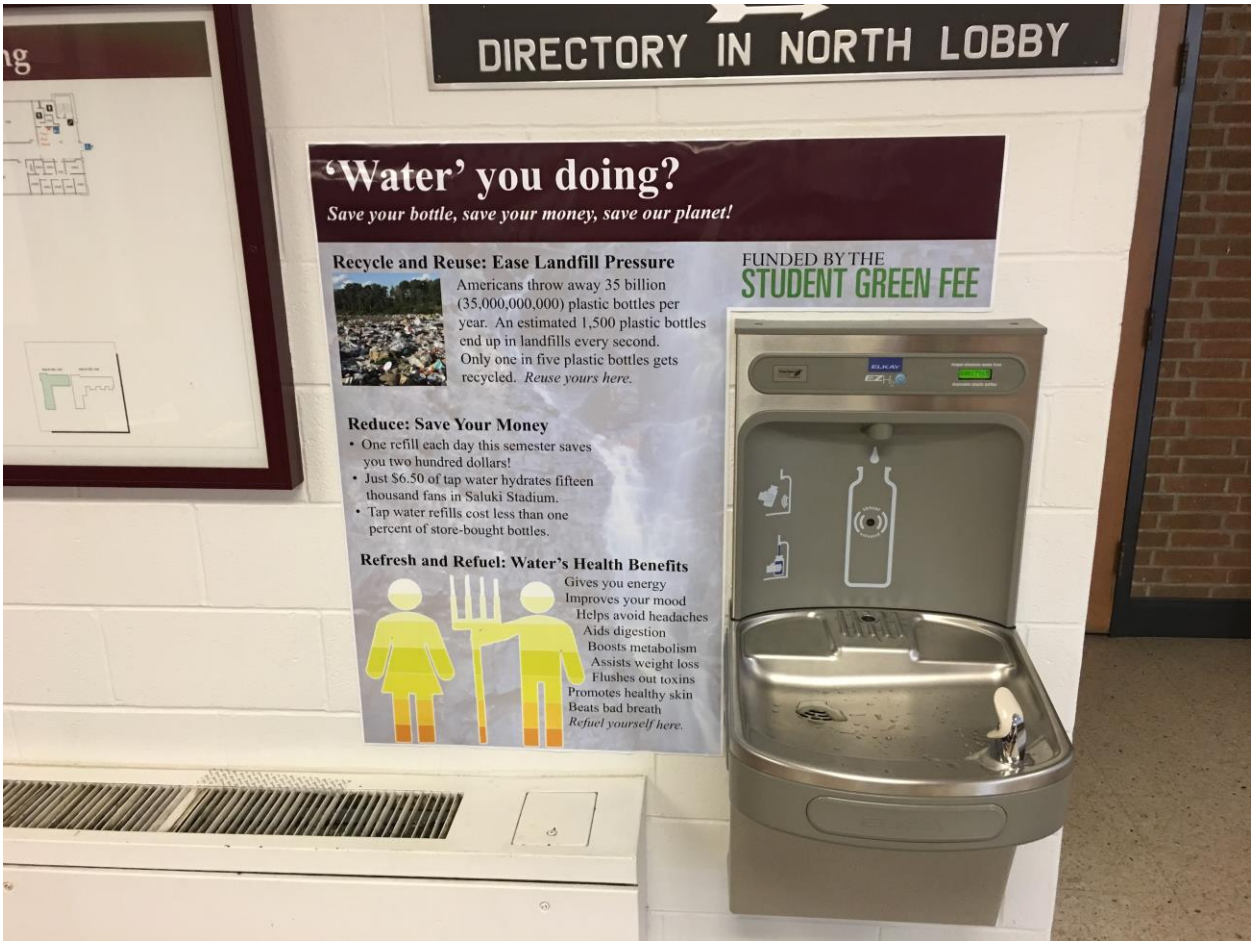
   There were several valuable experiences gained from this project. For William, the first was the experience of writing a proposal. Learning how to organize it, write clear objectives, conduct a literature search and complete a budget. Writing the proposal also required having to 'sale' the idea to administrators in the college and to obtain financial matches from them (each department and the dean's office), all of which he successfully

accomplished. The literature review taught William some of the facts about wasted plastics and the detriment of throw away bottles used to extreme. He also learned about the facts of the Elkay water system. As I am now writing this, since I agreed to when William graduated, I have learned about the water system. The poster designed and posted by the Environmental Interpretation class provides education to everyone who uses that fountain about the Elkay water system and encourages use of personal refillable water bottles.

2. In summary, you can taste the results. The water quality is immensely better tasting and smelling and there is no discolor to the water. Students, faculty and staff are very excited for this fantastic improvement. Since the installation with usage beginning at the beginning of Fall semester 2016 to date (April 2017), the counter on the Elkay fountain reads that 14,180 disposable plastic bottles have been saved. That speaks loudly to the popularity of this fountain. I frequently observe students lining up to the fountain before going out for field labs. The location of the Elkay fountain is adjacent to a seating area in the building as well. Students lounge there waiting for class, or to study and/or eat. I see a lot more personal refillable water bottles now in those groups as compared to throw away plastic bottles prior to the new fountain.

3. As part of this proposal, FOR 423, Environmental Interpretation class designed an interpretive sign that is placed adjacent to the fountain. The purpose is to educate the user regarding the sustainable aspects of the Elkay fountain. It stresses the quality of the water and how using it reduces waste by persons consuming water to drink using their reusable personal water vessels versus throw away plastic. This fountain encourages that practice by offering a quality water and an easy dispenser to fill vessels. Additionally, the sign promotes the Sustainable Council and praises/acknowledges the Green Fund. (please note that as of June 1, 2017, the sign is designed by the class and will soon be printed and posted. The image of the sign sent in a separate email shows the design that the class completed. The "black" space is for the cut out where the water fountain will be. In other words, the sign will surround the fountain. Once it is installed, an up to date image will be sent.)

4. There are no changes that can be suggested for this project. It is deemed as being successful and appreciated by many. The interpretive sign is a great addition for sharing information regarding the benefits of this system as well as the appreciation of the green fund.


DIRECTORY IN NORTH LOBBY
'Water' you doing?
Save your bottle, save your money, save our planet!
Recycle and Reuse: Ease Landfill Pressure
Americans throw away 35 billion (35,000,000,000) plastic bottles per year. An estimated 1,500 plastic bottles end up in landfills every second. Only one in five plastic bottles gets recycled. Reuse yours here.
FUNDED BY THE
STUDENT GREEN FEE
Reduce: Save Your Money
• One refill each day this semester saves you two hundred dollars!
• Just $6.50 of tap water hydrates fifteen thousand fans in Saluki Stadium.
• Tap water refills cost less than one percent of store-bought bottles.
Refresh and Refuel: Water's Health Benefits
Gives you energy
Improves your mood
Helps avoid headaches
Aids digestion
Boosts metabolism
Assists weight loss
Flushes out toxins
Promotes healthy skin
Beats bad breath
Refuel yourself here.