

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	08/03/2014
Project PI & Dept/School	4266178 University of Minnesota Duluth
Project Title:	Water Faucet Project
Grant Amount \$:	\$3,000.00

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

The purpose for the Ion-E grant was to get people from all different parts of the school working together. We brought together people from the UMD Housing Office, Facilities Management, The Office of Sustainability, UMD Health Services, and from the Net Impact student group.

The objective for this team was to give students living in the residence halls more access to places to fill refillable water faucets and water bottle filling stations. Water is a basic need for everyone, and many students found it difficult to find a place to refill their water bottles near their dorm rooms. Even in the bathrooms previous faucets were too low to even fit a water bottle underneath to refill. This resulted in students buying large amounts of disposable plastic bottles creating a large amount of plastic waste.

The work completed was done over the summer before the 2013-2014 school year. 66 gooseneck faucets were installed in residence halls bathrooms for easy water bottle refilling and six water bottle filling stations were installed throughout the residence halls. This was not all covered with the \$3,000 grant, but UMD Housing put another \$25,000 towards the project to make it all possible.

The outcome of the project has been a decrease in the number of disposable water bottles being used on campus. One quantifiable piece of data is the decrease in the number of disposable water bottles being purchased from the school store. The year that the project started, 7,535 bottles were purchased from the school store. And this past year, after all the faucets and filling stations were installed 6,445 bottles were purchased from the store. We are still working on finding out the numbers for water bottles purchased from vending. Students in the residence halls have a much greater ability to find a place close to their room to refill their water bottles attributing to not only stay more hydrated but to also reducing the amount of plastic waste from the residence halls.

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.