



Tufts University GREEN FUND

Tufts University Green Fund Initial Idea Submission

Applicant Information:

Name:

Maria Brouard

Role at Tufts (e.g. Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, Faculty, Staff):

Graduate Student (MD/PhD)

Email and Phone # of Lead Submitter:

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Campus:

Boston

Project Title:

Save the Fishes and Do the Dishes

One Sentence Description (*This is how your project will be described on the Green Fund website*):

Providing reusable, portable silverware to Boston Health Sciences Campus students to DECREASE silverware waste and usage (since takeout from Chinatown is quite popular and delicious).

General Application Questions:

1. What project would you like to fund with a grant from the Green Fund?

Many students in labs and in the medical school are ordering takeout or often plastic silverware in bulk. With students being in a rush, it is very common to order food within a mile radius of campus and running back to lab or the library. I have seen so many sets of plastic silverware wrappers left in study rooms or have seen labs order huge sets of plastic silverware for events. For this green project, I would like to provide all Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) students (and if possible all Boston campus students) with reusable, plastic silverware kits. These kits can be as cheap as \$5 each, and they include a spoon, fork, knife, and chopsticks. This is a great way for all students to have silverware in their backpacks AND to decrease the need to use and buy single-use plastic utensils. This would also decrease the waste produced by takeout food. Moreover, it can allow students to have their own utensils, which is great for COVID-restricted events since meals need to be individually-packaged and served. This small act of giving students a set of reusable, dishwasher-safe silverware reduces plastic waste, encourages thoughtful food/catering ordering, and provides a pandemic-friendly solution to constantly needing separate silverware for ANY food event.

2. **Who would you work with on this project? Who would need to be involved?** *(For example: are there departments you would need to reach out to for help implementing or facilitating your project? If you are hosting an event, you might need someone to help you set up and help clean up afterwards. Do you need permission from anyone to complete your project? Include their role (collaborator, advisor, vendor, resource) and whether they have been confirmed their involvement in the specified role.*
Undergraduate students must have a faculty/staff advisor submit a letter of support for their project which indicates their willingness to mentor the proposed project.

Name and Title	Role	Status
Dan Volchok	Provide # of Students and GSBS Information	Supports Project
Alex Tafoya Israel	Help with Distribution and Ordering of Kits	Supports Project

3. **What costs would be involved in your proposal? Please provide a rough budget.**

There are about 150 students at GSBS and including some staff (and extras), we would probably need to order around 200 sets of cutlery. At \$4.48 a kit (https://www.amazon.com/Sistema-Collection-Cutlery-Received-4-Piece/dp/B004T2ZXQQ/ref=sr_1_26?dchild=1&keywords=plastic+silverware+reusable&qid=1630633428&sr=8-26), the total cost would be \$896 for 200 sets of reusable cutlery.

4. What steps would you take to accomplish this project?

I would keep Dan and Alex in the loop. If my project was funded, I would order the silverware kits online and work with Alex to make sure the full roster of GSBS students is covered. I would then host office hours or drop-in orders on campus for students to pick up the silverware kits.

5. How would your project help or benefit the Tufts community?

We would SIGNIFICANTLY reduce our plastic waste because graduate students would minimize seeking out plastic silverware for meals. Labs would also decrease their silverware buying frequency, which saves money and plastic. Moreover, in a world with a seemingly endemic virus, it is important to minimize spread by decreasing communal utensils. However, this usually leads to people using more plastic and single-use cutlery. With this initiative, we can keep Tufts on its zero-emission goal AND allow students to have their own, cleanable silverware that can last years. This avoids getting sets of plastic utensils for lab or social gatherings on campus. Overall, this initiative would decrease plastic waste and get Tufts students thinking about what they are ordering and the waste they can avoid producing with reusable utensils while being safe during a pandemic.

What can I expect next?

The Green Fund committee will meet in early October and decide which projects will advance to the next round. These projects will be asked clarifying questions about details specified in this application. The committee will meet again and review the responses to its questions and vote to advance proposals based on those answers. Projects that advance past the clarifying questions stage will then be asked to fill out a more complete application (which can be found at go.tufts.edu/GreenFund) including a budget and a Gantt chart with accompanying letters of support from necessary collaborating entities at Tufts.

When finished with this initial idea submission, please save as a PDF and email to GreenFund@tufts.edu. Thank you!