

**Project:** Electric Hand Dryers

**Name:** Michelle Bravatti

**School:** Medical School

**Role:** Staff

**Description:** I would like to propose a pilot in the M&V Building (where I work) to: 1) Remove paper towels and trash cans from every restroom in the building 2) Install air jet hand dryers (Exlerator Eco) Currently, most restrooms at the Health Sciences campus, with the exception of Sackler 4th floor, have paper towel dispensers installed. Paper towels in these restrooms are not composted, and end up in landfill. Just to put into context, in the U.S. alone, 6 million tonnes of paper towels end up in landfill every year. Contrary to older versions of hand dryers that use hot air to blow dry hands, air jet hand dryers do not use hot air, but rather use opposing flat jets of air to squeeze water from hands. This technology has been shown to be very energy efficient and to have less of an environmental effect compared to recycled paper towels, even if they use electricity. This change would reduce labor (changing paper rolls and taking out trash in restrooms), reduce paper waste, reduce costs (the average cost of running a hand dryer is \$28/yr), and reduce Tufts' carbon footprint.

**People Involved:** 1) Tufts Facilities: Gain support for this initiative and obtain input on how this could be done and what would be feasible. The idea is to be able to change all restrooms in one building to see substantial savings in this building compared to those that use paper towels. In terms of reduced labor, we could survey workers responsible for emptying trash cans in bathrooms. 2) Office of Sustainability: Gain support for this initiative and to approach the proposal with Tufts Facilities together in order to figure out how this pilot can be implemented. 3) Excel Dryers: Speak to point person to see if we are able to get dryers at wholesale price or if they can even sponsor the dryers for this initiative.

**Budget:** M&V building has 2 bathrooms per floor \* 8 floors. • At retail price: 16 air jet hand dryers @ \$400 each + sales tax (6.25%)= \$6,800 16 installations @ 100 each= \$1,600 Total 16 air jet hand dryers with installation= \$8,400 • Whole sale price: 16 air jet hand dryers @ \$200 each + sales tax (6.25%)= \$3,400 16 installations @ 100 each= \$1,600 Total 16 air jet hand dryers with installation= \$5,000 • Sponsored dryer: 16 air jet hand dryers @ \$0 each + sales tax (6.25%)= \$0 16 installations @ 100 each= \$1,600 Total 16 air jet hand dryers with installation= \$1,600

**Timeline:** 1. Create Powerpoint presentation to present proposal with Tufts Office of Sustainability and Tufts Facilities. 2. Schedule meeting or phone call with point person at Excel Dryers (Local company). 3. Obtain hand dryers and coordinate with Tufts facilities the installation of hand dryers. 4. Survey workers to see if there has been reduced labor in bathrooms and increased efficiency in other areas of their work 5. Gather numbers from Tufts Facilities to see if there has been any savings over time (in terms of materials)

**Benefit to Tufts Community:** This project will help Tufts community become more green and even more in line with their values towards sustainability. Although it will come with an infrastructure change, it will ultimately reduce the amount of paper waste that goes into landfill and reduce Tufts environmental impact, while reducing costs in materials and labor. Air jet hand dryers can be seen as a Tufts investment for the environment and the future for all jumbos.