

Name: Lauren Gawel

Is this a project that you will work on alone, or will you collaborate with others? If you are collaborating with others, list their names, their Tufts affiliation, and their contact emails. Please indicate which member of your team will be the principle contact.

John Mauro at Elm's - johnmauro62@gmail.com

Please provide a 300-350 word description of your project

This program would be modeled after the Tufts Meal Plan Takeout at the main campus and be called the Tufts Green Dining Program. To join: Pay \$5 for a lunch kit keychain clip. To participate: Give the keychain clip to an Elm's employee in exchange for a container w/utensil. Fill the container, and take it all with you for lunch. Return the container/utensil empty and rinsed to Elm's in exchange for a new keychain clip to hold onto. Keep the clip. Exchange it for a container/utensil when you are ready to get another meal at Elm's. - People using this program would be told the following: Don't reuse the container. It's NOT sanitary and Board of Health compliant. We sanitize all containers! Avoid cross contamination for yourself and others! Do let us know if a container is damaged. We will exchange it. Don't lose the clip or container or utensil. If you don't have the clip or the container/utensil, you will be charged \$5.00 for a new one. Know the containers are fully recyclable and that the Tufts Green Dining Program is sustainable!

What is the problem that you are looking to solve?

This program would significantly reduce waste from our Elm's Cafe dining service, including many non-recyclable plates and plastic utensils. Currently, roughly 100 people visit Elm's for food each day, creating a waste load of at least so many plates and utensils each day as well.

Has this been done before at Tufts? When? By whom?

Yes, It is currently being done by Tufts Meal Plan Takeout at Tufts Dining in Medford/Somerville

How is this project different than the ones done in the past?

It would be on the Grafton campus, which does not have such a program. It will be different in ways to make it work on our campus

Is this a pilot project? How would you sustain or expand the project after the pilot has ended?

We would expand the inventory of meal kits and keychain clips, if need be. This would be possible as the program would have a small buy-in of probably \$5.

How will you measure success?

We will measure success by percentage of customers to Elm's that enroll in the program.

How many people would this project impact? Please categorize them as students, faculty, staff, and other

It would impact everyone that wished to enroll in the program who dines at Elm's on Grafton campus, which is about 100 people per day with a mix of students, faculty, and staff.

What is the environmental impact?

This will reduce ~100 plates and sets of utensils being thrown in the trash per day.

What are the educational impacts of this project?

We will have prominent signage for the program, which will raise awareness of the importance to reduce waste!

What is the social impact (excluding educational aspects)? (e.g. alleviating climate injustice, community resiliency, culture change, equity, etc)

This will help create a stronger green community on the Grafton campus, which is currently budding! It will create an opportunity for everyone to get involved easily and conveniently and perhaps be more willing to do get involved in future sustainable movements.

Will it help Tufts meet its sustainability goals? If so, how? (See Tufts sustainability goals here: <https://sustainability.tufts.edu/sustainability-at-tufts/our-commitments/commitments/>)

Yes - it will contribute to the Tufts sustainability goals of reducing waste by at least 1.5% each year.

What are the life cycle cost savings or the immediate cost savings, if applicable?

Based on my research, for 100 people per day, Elm's is probably paying ~\$8/day for plates and \$4-12/day for silverware. With this program, Elm's would have to buy fewer plates and silverware and the lunch kits would pay for themselves through the program.

Provide us with a timeline of planning and implementation of the project. (This question is for optional additional information not included in the Gantt chart)

February - buy the 100 kits and keychain clips, design and print/order signage, begin rolling out the program and informing campus. Keep track of who is enrolling for the semester. April - Meeting check-in, adjust program if necessary. May - Review pilot program and see if it needs changes/should be continued.

How much funding are you requesting from the Green Fund? Are you seeking funding from other places?

I am requesting about \$750 for this program in order to buy the first personalized kits and keychain clips and the signage for the program. I am not seeking funding elsewhere.

If the committee asked you any further questions, please answer them here: