

# CUS Sustainability

## **Undergrad Lounge Suggestion: Reusable Dishware**

(accompanying "CUS Sustainability – Reusable dishware proposal and dishware PRESENTATION" pdf)

### **Price Quotes:**

#### **Plates**

- Fargrik 18 Piece Dinnerware Set (IKEA): Includes 6X11" plates, 6X8" side plates, 6x6" bowls.  
Cost: \$29.99
- Dinera 18 Piece Dinnerware Set (IKEA): Includes 6x10" plates, 6x8" side plates, 6X5.5" bowls.  
Cost \$29.99
- Ethan 12 Piece Dinnerware Set (Canadian Tire): Includes 4Xdinner plates, 4Xside plates, 4Xcereal bowls.  
Cost: \$24.99
- Debbie Travis Soho 16 Piece Bone China Dinnerware Set (Canadian Tire):  
Cost: Regular \$79.99, Sale \$49.99

#### **Flatware/Cutlery**

- Bonus 16 Piece Flatware Set (IKEA): Includes 4xknife, 4xspoon, 4xfork, 4xteaspoon.  
Cost: \$4.99
- Natt 20 Piece Flatware Set (IKEA): Includes 4Xknife, 4xspoon, 4xfork, 4xteaspoon, 4xsalad fork  
Cost \$18.99 (A bit better quality than last)
- 20 piece Gourmet Setting New School Flatware Set (Canadian Tire). Includes: same as above.  
Cost \$29.99
- Hampton Silversmith's 20 Piece Flatware Set (Canadian Tire) Includes: same as above.  
Cost \$19.99

#### **Mugs (Hot & Cold Liquids)**

- FÄRGRIK ceramic mug (IKEA) <http://www.ikea.com/ca/en/catalog/products/60143992>  
Cost: \$0.99 (To purchase 30-50, price range is \$33.26 - \$55.44)
- **Alternate Sourcing**
  - Source mugs from companies, UBC, or the Sauder School of Business who already have unused mugs that they may be interested in donating to our sustainability-related initiative and cause.
  - Seek sponsors for this sustainability-related initiative and offer their logo to be printed on the mugs.

**Purchasing reusable dishware to serve as communal goods, freely to be used by any CUS-affiliated club/conference for their on-campus events that serve food or drink.**

<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-time expense</li> <li>• Minimal replacement cost</li> <li>• Reduces cost of events for CUS Clubs/Conferences (no longer need to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to damage</li> <li>• Wear and tear over time (years)</li> <li>• Costly</li> <li>• Need to implement a sign-out system</li> </ul>

<p>purchase plates/cups/cutlery that will only be used to be thrown out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient if stored in the CUS Lounge and is thereby accessible by Sauder students</li> <li>• Promotes sustainability within the CUS</li> <li>• Enhances environmentally responsible image of the CUS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to speak to CUS Clubs/Conferences to promote the use of these communal resources.</li> </ul>
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## Proposal: Dishwasher

CUS Sustainability understands that single-use products such as Styrofoam plates and plastic cups are both convenient and affordable. To ensure that the communal dishware will actually be used by CUS Clubs/Conferences, it is imperative that we continue to speak to the needs of convenience and affordability. By having the CUS or the Sauder School of Business make the purchase of the communal dishware and allowing CUS-affiliated clubs to rent the equipment for free, we are eliminating the need to purchase any single-use plates/cups. In order to convey the convenience of the suggestion, the cleaning of the communal dishware has to be simple. We've laid out three options to consider:

### OPTION 1: Purchase a Dishwasher for the CUS Lounge

#### Dishwasher requirements

We will need a larger-sized dishwasher to wash 30-50 units of dishes and mugs. Many larger dishwashers are around 80 cm (height) by 60 cm (width) by 60 cm (depth). There will need to be space in the lounge to accommodate this large appliance.

The dishwasher should also have an Energy Star certification. Such an appliance works with increased energy efficiency, which will also save operating costs in the long term. On average, new Energy Star dishwashers use 10% less energy and 33% less water than new non-certified models. Energy Star models use less than or equal to 324 kWh/year, compared to non-certified models that may use more than 467 kWh/year (<http://energy.star.supportportal.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=23018&task=knowledge&questionID=22147>).

Smaller dishwashers with a depth of around 45 cm are available. The benefits of a smaller dishwasher are less space and a less expensive price. However, the smaller size may mean that students cannot wash the cutlery in one cycle, so a smaller dishwasher may discourage students from using reusable plates or mugs as they may view it as less convenient. More cycles will lead to increased operating costs in the long term with extra water use and detergent.

#### Price Ranges

The price of a dishwasher varies according to brand and desired quality. For dishwashers of a certain reliability with an Energy Star rating, **most will start at a price that is at least \$400 or higher.**

Supplier	Price range	Comments
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Futureshop	\$300 - \$700	Judging by user reviews, a decent dishwasher is at least \$400 or higher with the Energy Star label.
Costco	~\$500 home use dishwasher ~\$2000-\$3000 for commercial dishwasher	Commercial washer likely not needed for our purposes.
Sears	\$400 - \$650	Lower end models
The Brick	\$400 - \$700	“Commercial sales” may be available.
Trail Appliances	\$350 - \$700	Quotes are from “clearance” prices.

Dishwasher use

A survey of the CUS website shows that we have 14 clubs and many more events. Each club regularly hosts a number of small events throughout the year. For example, a club’s Annual General Meeting will benefit from reusable CUS-owned plates and mugs. Large conferences held off campus often have associated workshops on campus that may serve food and make use of reusable cutlery. There will be many opportunities for students to use the reusable plates and dishwasher.

Having a dishwasher will mean higher utility costs with the extra use of electricity and water. The CUS will also need to purchase biodegradable detergent regularly. However, other electronics and appliances proposed for this lounge include televisions and gaming consoles. These electronics will also consume extra energy. Although having entertainment devices would be nice, the energy used by the dishwasher is not wasted. The dishwasher has a more sustainable objective as it will help reduce waste going to the landfill.

Students and dishwasher use

Will students actually agree to wash dishes after events? We understand this is a major concern but we believe that many sustainability-aware students will use reusable cutlery if there is a reliable dishwasher available. Furthermore, it is partially the responsibility of CUS Sustainability to ensure that students are aware of the communal dishware resources available and that the dishwasher is the cleaning implement to be conveniently used to wash the set of dishes.

To ensure the dishwasher is used properly, a brief notice can be put up near the washing up area with instructions. For those students who have no experience washing dishes, we can provide a copy of the dishwasher’s manual or scan instructions to be available on CUS Sustainability’s website.

Several other problems may arise. First, there will likely be students who decide that cleaning is not worth their time. These students will continue buying and using disposable plates and cutlery, and the dishwasher will not be used frequently. This problem can be addressed by publicizing the availability of a dishwasher and giving clubs the incentive to use the dishes. It is in their interest not to buy disposable plates if they can save money by using the reusable pieces provided. If time is the issue, we will need to make a stronger effort to convince

them of the harm in single-use cutlery. These efforts can take the form of raising awareness about sustainability in general within the faculty.

Second, it is possible that students may use the CUS' reusable cutlery and then neglect to wash them. A log book can be used to keep track of which clubs or students have used the dishes and are responsible for cleaning. Still, cleaning up may be hard to enforce, though we think that most students will not act irresponsibly and leave their dishes dirty.

Having a dishwasher will encourage students to wash their dishes, as it saves time and work by doing the cleaning for them. We can address sanitary concerns by ensuring that the dishwasher is used properly with the right detergent.

### **OPTION 2: Use another dishwasher in the Henry Angus Building**

An alternative to buying a dishwasher for the lounge is to use another room's dishwasher. For example, we could arrange to use the dishwasher in the staff lounge (CLC/Dean's Office). Students will not be going in-and-out of staff rooms to use the dishwasher, if this is the most cost-effective and preferred option, then there will need to be an efficient system in place to ensure that the dishware can be cleaned without disrupting staff space. The benefits of this alternative are that no purchase and upkeep of a new dishwasher is required and there would be more space in the lounge for other items.

There would also be drawbacks to this option. Students would need to find a way to transport dirty dishes a longer distance to an alternate dishwasher. This inconvenience would also discourage students from using the reusable dishware, which would decrease its usefulness.

### **OPTION 3: Hand Wash**

Another option would be to encourage students to hand wash the dishware and mugs. The benefit to this option is that the CUS would save money and the problem of transporting dirty dishes would not be as big of an issue. The only monetary costs would be any extra water used, dish soap, and some towels for washing and drying.

However, there are possible sanitary problems with hand washing. The dishware and mugs are meant to be communal items and some students may not wash as thoroughly as others might. This option would also be inconvenient for many students, who may not be willing to spend the time washing. The many drawbacks of hand washing dishware would discourage even more students from using the reusable dishware and make it harder to fulfill sustainability objectives.

### **Other Suggested Alternatives:**

While the purpose of communal dishware is to:

- a. **Reduce** the amount of wasteful single-use plates/cups/cutlery used at CUS events over many years, while saving repeat expenditures spent by various CUS clubs on their single-use products.
- b. **Replace** the need to purchase an expensive single-use biodegradable and compostable option that no CUS Club currently purchases.

- c. **Promote** the use of reusable, sustainable products that divert unnecessary waste into landfills; promote responsible consumption and awareness about the “truth behind plastics” or disposable products.

CUS Sustainability understands that our suggestion may not be deemed as feasible. Our suggested alternative is to purchase the biodegradable/compostable plates, cups, and cutlery that UBC Food Service currently is implementing on-campus. According to the current CUS policy, we cannot enforce clubs or conferences to purchase sustainable serving products – because of this, we suggest purchasing these products in bulk for free use to CUS clubs/conferences.

**Biodegradable/Compostable Plates:**

BioSelect: biodegradable, compostable products made with renewable resources

- Bagasse (100% compostable, 100% biodegradable)
  - 6” Bagasse Plates: 1000 for \$49.19
  - 9” Bagasse Plates: 500 for \$52.84
  - 10” Bagasse Plates: 500 for \$59.00
  - 12 oz bowls: 1200 for \$66.75
- PLA (100% compostable, 100% biodegradable)
  - 9” Plates: 400 for \$73.86
  - Bowls: 1000 for \$79.55

**PROS** of compostable/biodegradable dish set: relatively affordable for large quantities, can be ordered in very large quantities, no need to invest in a dishwasher

**CONS** of compostable/biodegradable dish sets: waste must be disposed of appropriately to ensure sustainable practices, biodegradable options are still single-use and thus do not promote the consumer shift towards promoting the reuse of products.