

Installing Water Refill Stations at CWU: Reducing Waste and Improving Student Access to Filtered Water

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Introduction

The current infrastructure Central Washington University has provided students for their residential hydration methods are inadequate. Many residence halls lack water bottle refill stations. This may affect how much water students drink and the convenience at which students have access to it. Students on campus who experience a lack of access resort to buying bulk water bottles from grocery stores or using vending machines for their hydration. This increases single use plastic wastes on campus. It is important to Central Washington University to increase student access to clean drinking water and decrease plastic wastes to improve campus sustainability.

Summary

Installing ELKAY ezH2O water bottle refill stations will improve campus sustainability by:

- Reducing single use plastic waste.
- Conserves natural resources.
- Promotes healthy habits.

What Issues Will this Project Address?

This project addressed student need for improved hydration stations in residence halls. Students who reside in residence halls without adequate infrastructure for hydration have expressed a need for water bottle refill stations. Beginning to install these stations is a good start, to equitably meet these students' needs. This will increase student satisfaction and hydration overall.

Conclusion

This project shows the significance of developing infrastructure to serve communities with clean, filtered water, and the long-term benefits of doing so. The outcomes of this project demonstrate that improving access to filtered water in residence halls on campus decreases single use plastic waste on campus and promotes student health. This project offers valuable insights that can assist and inform future efforts in expanding this infrastructure on campus, and even in Kittitas county, Paving the way for continued innovation in this area.

UN Sustainable Development Goals



Acknowledgements

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References

Figure 1: Enhanced ezH2O® Floor Standing Bottle Filling Station Filtered Refrigerated Stainless Steel. Model DSSBF8SP (Accesses 5/7/2025). Snip Of ELKAY ezH2O. [Image]. <https://www.elkay.com/products/category/drinking-water/filters/floor-standing>
Figure 2: CWU Map. (Accesses 5/5/2025). Snip Of CWU Map. [Map]. <https://www.cwu.edu/admissions-aid/visit/campus-map/index.php>



Figure 1: ELKAY Enhanced ezH2O® Floor Standing Bottle Filling Station Filtered Refrigerated Stainless Steel. Model DSSBF8SP

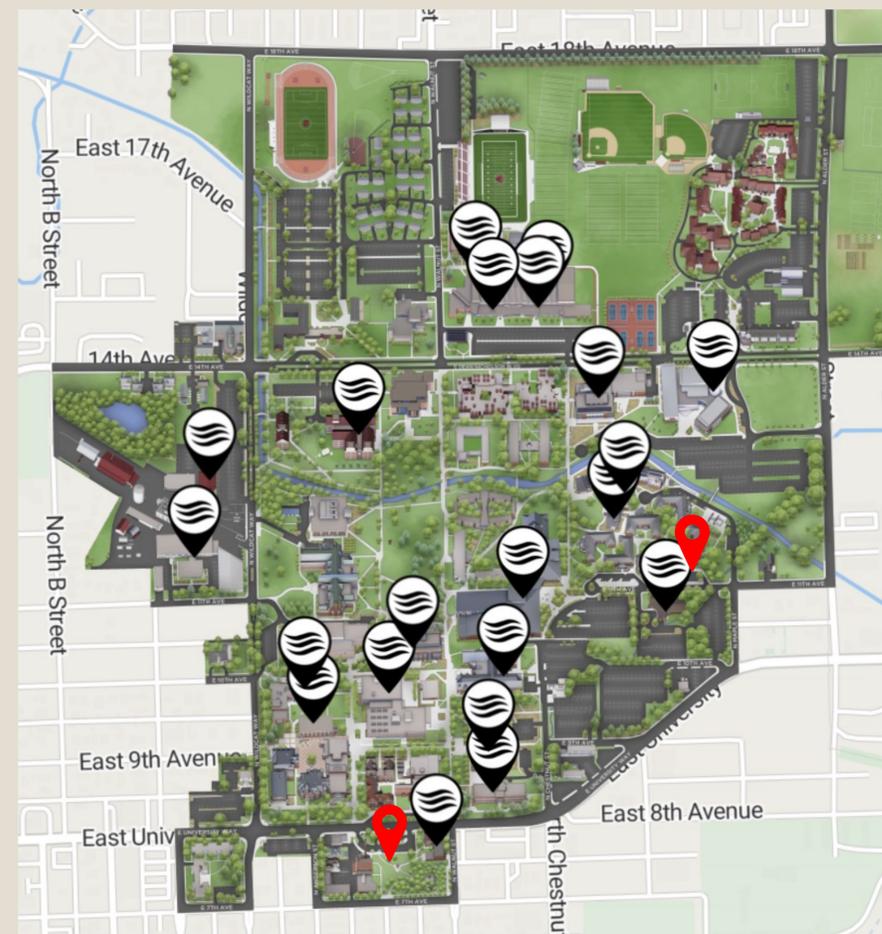


Figure 2: CWU campus map identifying the location of water refill stations (white), and Kamola and Quigley Halls (red) where new water refill stations were installed.

Development and Infrastructure

There was placement of two ELKAY ezH2O water bottle refill stations on campus. One in Quigley Hall, and another in Kamola Hall. Students residing in these halls expressed a high need for this development.

Both Kamola Hall and Quigley Hall have pre-existing water fountains, allowing easy retrofitting access to electrical and water when installing the new units.