

Tulane University Reusable Container Program Proposal

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Project Idea:

Reusable foodservice containers are a win/win innovation for both Sodexo and Tulane University. When implemented, they will phase out the widespread use of disposable to-go containers that are responsible for substantial amounts of our campus waste stream. Research indicates that the “OZZI” brand reusable container system best suits Tulane’s dining system and student body. The OZZI system has been successfully implemented with excellent reviews across numerous college campuses throughout the US. The OZZI system is a leader in cost effectiveness, with huge savings for the dining service provider through increased efficiency since the system operates with little employee supervision, while offering a user friendly alternative based on already familiar swipe card access. This waste solution is leading the movement toward sustainability that colleges are spearheading across the nation. The time is ripe for Tulane and Sodexo to be partners in achieving higher standards of sustainability that institutions and companies of such distinguished caliber and leadership potential aspire to in today’s urgent environmental context.

Goals:

1. Reduction and gradual elimination of the use of disposable to- go containers on campus through the OZZI dispenser solution.
2. Eliminate the waste created by **1,372,880** disposable containers used each year by Bruff- to-go alone.
3. To promote and foster the habit, mindset and consciousness among Tulane University students and staff of using reusable containers to reduce their consumption and therefore their environmental impact.
4. To be a leader by demonstrating a model that will inspire other institutions to form cooperative partnerships aimed at driving positive change and sustainability practices.

Project Design:

Reusable Container System of Choice: OZZI Enterprises Products

The OZZI is a machine that dispenses clean reusable to-go containers, students simply put in their dirty ones and a food service worker collects them at the end of the day and washes them. The OZZI system is a means of collecting reusable eco-containers in an organized, convenient, efficient and controlled manner. The OZZI was developed to help eliminate disposable take-out containers from colleges, businesses and all establishments that utilize traditional take-out containers. The OZZI is capable of making food service operations more environmentally conscious and profitable by eliminating the purchase of 1,372,880 disposable take out containers every year by Bruff-to-Go. By eliminating this waste you eliminate hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of trash from being dumped into our landfills and oceans.

This system suits Tulane the best because it eliminates the need for purchase of carabineer style tokens that many other systems require. Students frequently lose these container swap, which undermines the effectiveness and potential of the reusable container program. By investing in vending machines in centralized locations on campus

such as the lobby of Bruff, students now have the utmost access and easy use of reusable containers. Easy, efficient use and access promotes the largest participation, growth and success of the program. The OZZI is a self contained, low maintenance system that minimizes staff monitoring of the container receptacles and only requires initial investment and minimal non- intensive attention from dining services. After the initial investment both Sodexo and Tulane save the costs of purchasing disposable items and continue to further both the President's Climate Commitment and Sodexo's Better Tomorrow Plan and commitment to sustainability.

OZZI Enterprises already has a working relationship with Sodexo. Sodexo and OZZI have previously been successful partners on similar sustainable venture projects on several other campuses across the nation including The University of Maryland and The University of California, Merced. Pepperdine University is an example of a campus where Sodexo and OZZI have partnered to not only make the initial mission of converting one food service area to be reusable container friendly but also to help grow the use of the OZZI system to begin phasing out disposables in as many dining serve locations as possible. As a result of the success of the OZZI system at Merced, they received the Energy Efficiency Partnership Best Practice Award for 2013 from the State of California.

Sample OZZI Machine:



Usage Process:

- Container is placed in slot
- OZZI scans container and releases a token
- Customers exchanges token at the foodservice line for a clean container

Maintenance: 3 Simple Steps

- Unlock door and fill token hopper
- Open the door of the OZZI remove the bag of collected used containers and run them through the dish machine (same process as washing traditional plates/glassware used for regular operation)
 - The containers are then placed back on the line for reuse.
 - Each container can have up to 300+ uses

Sanitation Costs:

- The cost to wash the containers is more than offset by the savings from not purchasing disposables and the savings in waste carting reduction.

Sample Eco- Takeouts:



Implementation: Swipe System Accountability Model

As all other food service operations at Tulane run off the blackboard swipe system the OZZI Company has communicated that it can work with the Tulane tech team to easily set up the machines to run off the same swipe platform. This has been done at other universities and OZZI Enterprises ensures the ease and capability of this method. Therefore, the swipe accountability model makes it possible for a student to simply insert a dirty container into the OZZI vending machine at their convenience and swipe their Tulane Splash Card to get a freshly sanitized container while the containers are easily digitally accounted for. The swipe system will be set up to restrict the number of containers a student can check out as well as to bill the student for non- returned containers at the end of the year.

Which OZZI Vending Machine is For Us?

There are a variety of different vending machines that have different features and options that can be reviewed for pricing and function.

Purchase Option:

- One OZZI 480# \$13,999.00
- Online maintenance \$109.00 per month
- Re Useable Eco containers \$3.90 each add .50 FOR LOGO
- OZZI Tokens BOX OF 1000# \$200.00 PER BOX
- **Estimated inclusive total price of purchasing one OZZI (including initial purchase of 100, Eco- Takeouts): \$14,699**

Rental Option:

- One OZZI 480# included-\$399.00 a month
- Online maintenance included each year
- Re Useable Eco containers \$3.90 each add .50 FOR LOGO
- 100 ECO Containers included each year
- OZZI Tokens BOX OF 1000# \$200.00 PER BOX
- 1000# included each year
- Inclusive total price is adjustable
- **Estimated inclusive total price of renting one OZZI for one year: \$4,988**
- **Additional initial one time cost of 100 eco-takeouts: \$390**

Current Disposable System:

- Currently Sodexo is purchasing **1,372,880** disposable containers every year.
- This is costing Sodexo an annual cost of **\$124,358.3.**
- This cost would be eliminated completely by the implementation of the OZZI system. The implementation would cost a fraction of this savings and would in as little as 3 years completely pay for the initial investment.
- These numbers were calculated as shown below in Figure 1. All data for these calculations was sourced directly from Sodexo.

Figure 1:

Item Description	Units/Case	Price/Case	Price/ Units	Units/Case- Annual	Price/Case- Annual
(wrap Label)	400	\$ 10.59	\$ 0.03	104,800	\$2,774.58
(Jello Cup Label)	300	\$ 5.46	\$ 0.02	78,600	\$1,430.52
(Jello Cup Back Label)	300	\$ 5.51	\$ 0.02	78,600	\$1,443.62
(Sandwich Label)	600	\$ 10.95	\$ 0.02	157,200	\$2,868.90
(Sandwich Box)	300	\$ 39.11	\$ 0.13	78,600	\$10,246.82
(Wrap Box)	300	\$ 37.08	\$ 0.12	78,600	\$9,714.96
32 oz Salad Container Transparent W/Lid	240	\$ 54.81	\$ 0.23	62,880	\$14,360.22
24 oz Salad Container Clear Plastic W/Lid	200	\$ 54.05	\$ 0.27	52,400	\$14,161.10
9 oz Clear Plastic Squat Cup (Pudding)	500	\$ 39.02	\$ 0.08	131,000	\$10,223.24
9 oz Dome Lid No Hole (Pudding Lid)	900	\$ 63.50	\$ 0.07	235,800	\$16,637.00
Container Plastic Hinged Clear 3 Compartment (Hot Food)	200	\$ 48.72	\$ 0.24	52,400	\$12,764.64
Fork Plastic Refill Black	960	\$ 25.61	\$ 0.03		
Spoon Plastic Refill Black	960	\$ 25.61	\$ 0.03		
Knife Plastic Refill Black	960	\$ 25.61	\$ 0.03		
Vegware Compostable 12 oz Soup Cup	500	\$ 53.13	\$ 0.11	131,000	\$13,920.06
Vegware 12 oz Soup Container Lid	500	\$ 52.72	\$ 0.11	131,000	\$13,812.64
TOTAL UNITS				1,372,880	
TOTAL COST					124,358.30
Total Wrap paper Cost	\$ 0.15				
Total Sandwich Paper Cost	\$ 0.15				
Total Jello Cup Paper Cost	\$ 0.19				
Total SideSalad Paper Cost	\$ 0.30				
Total Entrée Salad Paper Cost	\$ 0.26				
Total Soup Paper Cost	\$ 0.24				
Total Hot Meal Paper Cost	\$ 0.30				
Note: All costs are without shipping and handling.					
** 262 days in the school year of service. Annual cost calculated by multiplying each column by 262 days.					

* Information supplied by Sodexo employee.

The following is a sample list of American colleges and Universities that have instituted various systems of reusable containers:

- Williams College
- University of Vermont
- Iowa State University
- University of Michigan
- Dickenson College
- University of Oregon
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Duke University
- University of Alabama
- New York University
- University of Florida
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Maryland
- University of California, Merced
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Clarkson University

Distribution and Marketing to Participant Strategy:

To kick off the introduction of the OZZI system and its containers in the Tulane community the Bruff weekly email update should include an explanation of how the OZZI system works and how students can begin participation in the beginning of the year. To get the containers/tokens in to as many student and staff hands as possible a table in the Bruff lobby next to the OZZI machine will be manned to pass out tokens/containers and explain the system to interested students and staff. The cost to give out the first token to a student cost pennies VS issuing a eco container so far to get the containers in the hands of students initially tokens would be a good starting point that will be phased out as students attain containers.

Conclusion:

Sodexo on Sustainability:

“We recognize that we have a responsibility to use our resources wisely and to protect them for future generations. Natural materials, foods, and packaging, proper farming and trade practices, and innovative recycling programs are just a few of our sustainable practices.”

*Sodexo is committed to developing and implementing new and more effective ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, **promote responsible waste management**, and reduce the use of toxic chemicals. We're also working to create and advance new models of sustainable community development. “We have a responsibility to use our resources wisely and to protect them for future generations.”*

Sodexo’s Own: The Better Tomorrow Plan

Sodexo has already made big progress toward more sustainable practices, in their development of The Better Tomorrow Plan. The Better Tomorrow Plan is a blueprint for the group’s sustainable development. The plan, launched in 2009, contains the company’s commitment to environmental protection. The materials and waste section of the “Environment” piece of the plan commits the company to taking action to reduce both “organic” and “non-organic” waste. The plan itself states, “ We encourage the implementation of recycling programs”, and “We will continue to support initiatives to recover non organic waste”.

This speaks directly to the mission of our project. The implementation of the OZZI reusable container system acts in complete alignment with Sodexo’s mission and goals and helps the company follow through on the standards in sustainability it has both lead the industry in and for which it has won awards. Tulane students are asking Sodexo to take immediate action on this cost effective environmentally sound proposal. Doing so will enable the company to integrate best sustainability practices in the high-end services it provides. The implementation of the OZZI system clearly serves the best interests of both Sodexo and the Tulane University community. **Using the OZZI system, our project is designed to help you improve already progressive standards and achieve your goals in The Better Tomorrow Plan and your mission statement on sustainability.**