

University of Delaware Graduate Student Government

SR-1920-08

Sponsors: Senator Nicholas Butler (Geography and Spatial Sciences), Senator Elizabeth Davis (Earth Sciences, Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee), Senator Julie Giannino (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), and Senator Thomas Benson (Political Science and International Relations)

A RESOLUTION in Favor of Replacing Conventional Hand Dryers with Energy-Efficient Hand Dryers in University of Delaware Buildings

WHEREAS the University of Delaware (“the University”) published the UD Climate Action Plan in 2009 announcing a goal to reduce campus-wide carbon emissions by 20% by 2020;¹ and

WHEREAS the installation of energy-efficient appliances, such as hand dryers, in campus facilities will decrease electricity use and resulting carbon emissions to help reach the Climate Action Plan target by the end of the year; and

WHEREAS the use of conventional hand dryers and/or recycled paper towels is less efficient than energy-efficient hand dryers;² and

WHEREAS paper towels require energy with every use for their production, transportation, and disposal — factors that hand dryers do not require on a per-use basis; and

WHEREAS hand dryers are an effective hygienic practice;³ and

WHEREAS numerous models of hand dryers are commercially available with Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), an internationally recognized standardized method to analyze and communicate the life-cycle environmental and health impacts of products or services; and

WHEREAS numerous models of hand dryers are commercially available with Health Product Declarations (HPD), which provide a full disclosure of the potential chemicals of concern in products; and

WHEREAS EPD and HPD certified energy-efficient hand dryers help qualify for several Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credits, which benefit the University in terms of its sustainability goals;

¹ University of Delaware, *UD Climate Action Plan*, n.d. https://sites.udel.edu/green/?page_id=165

² Joseph, T., Baah, K., Jahanfar, A., & Dubey, B. (2015). A comparative life cycle assessment of conventional hand dryer and roll paper towel as hand drying methods. *Science of the Total Environment*, 515, 109-117.

³ Huang, C., Ma, W., & Stack, S. (2012, August). The hygienic efficacy of different hand-drying methods: a review of the evidence. In *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (Vol. 87, No. 8, pp. 791-798). Elsevier.

Snelling, A. M., Saville, T., Stevens, D., & Beggs, C. B. (2011). Comparative evaluation of the hygienic efficacy of an ultra-rapid hand dryer vs conventional warm air hand dryers. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, 110(1), 19-26.

Suen, L. K., Lung, V. Y., Boost, M. V., Au-Yeung, C. H., & Siu, G. K. (2019). Microbiological evaluation of different hand drying methods for removing bacteria from washed hands. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 1-7.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Government encourages the University to integrate the replacement conventional hand dryers with energy-efficient hand dryers in all University building design plans.