Washington University in St. Louis eliminated the sale of bottled water on campus in 2009 in an effort to reduce waste and encourage the use of reusable mugs and bottles. This past fall, in response to requests from the student body, we began a project to retrofit drinking fountains on the university's campuses to allow for the easy refilling of reusable water bottles.

More than 20 initial locations at which to pilot these retrofits were chosen based on a number of factors, including:

- Estimates of student, faculty and staff foot traffic through the buildings
- Variance of fountain manufacturer and model type
- Level of difficulty and feasibility of retrofit

This has proven to be an interesting learning experience as we found ourselves ahead of the curve in terms of demand for bottle-filling options at the time. Given the myriad of water fountain manufacturers and the various model types we have on our campuses, no universal solution was available on the market. With each location, we had to consider the type of fountain we were working with (and whether it was still being manufactured), specific site concerns (such as potential for vandalism) and often the aesthetic needs of the department in question.

We started out striving to be as consistent as we could with these retrofits, but we discovered that this was not as feasible as we had hoped, given the many types and ages of fountains we were working with on our campuses.

It is encouraging to see the market catching up, however. Most every major manufacturer now offers some kind of retrofit for those drinking fountain models still being produced, and many companies now offer *bottle-filling stations*, which we are also piloting at Washington University. These more elaborate options come with all manner of extras from an infrared censor to a digital counter indicating the number of bottles "saved from the landfill."

This initiative is just one way that the Washington University campus community is encouraging more environmentally responsible behavior in our operations. Our hope is that as this project moves forward, people will take notice and continue to look for the many ways in which we can all "cut back" in order to live increasingly sustainable lifestyles.

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