

CASE STUDY



ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF
CHICAGO GOES GREEN WITH
THE HYDRATIONSTATION™.



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*School of the Art Institute
Chicago, Illinois*

BACKGROUND

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is a dynamic and innovative art and design college founded in 1866. As a comprehensive liberal arts college that is associated with the world-renown Art Institute of Chicago, SAIC emphasizes not only the importance of art in everyday life but also the importance that everyday life has on art. In recent years, SAIC staff and students have taken a strong stance on sustainability and have implemented numerous "green" measures to ensure their environmental impact is minimal.

OBJECTIVE

SAIC staff and administration took a proactive approach in choosing and implementing green initiatives that would help the school environmentally, culturally and financially. Such measures include a single stream recycling campaign "Recycle Mania," light retrofitting, replacing building materials with renewable resources, nighttime setbacks, green cleaning materials and water conservation. Part of the water conservation plan is implementing a campus wide Ban-the-Bottle campaign. With several solutions presented including water coolers and public water stations, SAIC staff felt dissatisfied with their initial solution because of the mess created from water overflow, the un-appealing design and over-all inconvenience of replacing the water barrels.

SOLUTION

After facilities staff members saw a photo of the HydrationStation in a magazine, the choice was clear. The HydrationStation provided a quick and easy resolution to their water cooler predicament. The installation of the revolutionary HydrationStation truly started the execution of the Ban-the-Bottle campaign at SAIC. "Bottled water is unnecessary. That's why we implemented Recycle Mania to help do anything to decrease waste," reported Tom Buechele Associate Vice President of Facilities & Operations. "The HydrationStation was received well. It has a drain, so there isn't water all over the floor...and other ideas were too expensive." In addition, the HydrationStation provided a visually appealing solution because of the clean, artistic design consistent with the Art Institute fundamentals.

RESULTS

The HydrationStation hooks up to the municipal water line and provides users with filtered water at a rate of .8 gallons per minute and each filter lasts approximately 6 months or 2,500 gallons. To further promote the unit and the Ban-the-Bottle campaign, SAIC provided all first-year students with branded multi-use water containers as their welcome gift. Currently SAIC has installed one unit but have allocated money each year to further promote their sustainability plans. "Staff and students love it!" exclaimed Mr. Buechele.

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