**Project Title:** Creating a Reusable Dishware Loan Program

**Project Description:** Design a program for student organizations to use dishware from UI Housing and Dining/IMU for events where single use paper or plastic plates, forks, knives, and cups would otherwise be used.

**Background Information:** Student organizations across campus often host socials, meetings, or other events where food and drinks are served. To put on these events, student organization leaders often choose the low-cost option of single use plastic cups for drinks, paper or plastic plates, and plastic silverware. Recyclable waste from these events sometimes ends up in trash receptacles and vice versa.

To reduce the waste volume and contamination issues, some have proposed a reusable dishware loan program where student organization leaders/event hosts can check out dining hall dishware. Some precedents at other colleges and universities exist for this (find below in “Resources”). In this project, you will propose the site(s) from which student organizations can check out, justify rules on use policy, how to assure its wide use, consider and determine cost (if any), how dishes should be returned, and assess the overall environmental impact of this policy if it were adopted and widely used. Think about and potentially propose/design the form that would be needed to place an order.

Deliverables of this project can include a written report and/or a PowerPoint presentation to Housing and Dining or IMU Services. The deliverables should be designed with the idea in mind that this program will be in place, so be thorough.

**Desired Outcomes:**

* Develop a structure for student organizations to check out (rent) dishware from the school. Prepare a written document and/or a PowerPoint presentation appropriate for an official presentation to the target audience.

**Target Audience:**

* UI Housing and Dining
* UISG
* IMU Services
* UI Office of Sustainability

**Collaborators/Stakeholders:**

* UI Office of Sustainability

**Resources:**

Lehigh University’s Reusable Dishware Program <https://sustainability.lehigh.edu/reusable-dishware-program>

Washington University – St. Louis Greenware Program <https://sustainability.wustl.edu/get-involved/event-greening/greenware-program/>

Reusable Dish Program University of Alberta <https://su.ualberta.ca/services/sustainsu/projects/reusabledish/>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Green Schools Case Study: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/case-study-schools-move-reusable-utensils>

**Goals:** Designing a system for ordering, acquiring, and returning dishware, considering impacts, eligible locations, use policies, etc. in a written or PowerPoint presentation. Apply knowledge of other university models to create one that would work specifically for the University of Iowa.

**Evaluation:**

* Is the proposed structure reasonably thorough enough that it could be implemented by the intended audience? Does the report include elements of other successful models? Is a use policy established and well thought out? Is the system efficient and safe? Does the student adequately address or estimate the financial and environmental impact of the transition?

**Course Relevance:**

* ENVS 1080: Introduction to Environmental Science
* GEOG 2013: Introduction to Sustainability
* EVNT 3185: Topics in Event Management (when topic is Sustainability)
* MKTG 4250: Marketing and Sustainability

**Keywords Tags:**

* Topics: Waste Management, Reusables, Sustainability, Plastic Reduction