

Sustainable Menstrual Products for the Cal Community

Project Lead: Rosa Kwak & Xander Paul

Sponsor: The LEAD Center

TGIF Grant: \$2,049

Project Theme: Waste Diversion and Reduction

Project Location: MCC, GenEq, and the Food Pantry

Status: In Progress

Project Description: The idea of free menstrual products on the UC Berkeley campus began with Students for Reproductive Justice (SURJ), who released a survey gauging the support of the campus community for such a project and where accessible locations for menstrual products might be. The project leadership has since shifted to the Office of ASUC Senator Rosa Kwak, who, after meeting with SURJ, elected to restart the project with a 'Reverse' Drive of menstrual products from April 24th to May 5th. Products are located at MCC, GenEq, and the Food Pantry, with follow-up surveys released to students and staff members taking down data in order to assess the impact of the initial program. A flyer demonstrating the environmental impacts of using sustainable products is also provided for students. In the future, the project aims to promote the institutionalization of the provision of menstrual products on campus for students, with the added goal of providing the even more environmentally-friendly cups if financially feasible.

Goals:

1. Promote an understanding of the environmental impacts of using menstrual products and how this use affects a menstruating person's waste footprint
2. Combat the stigma against menstruation and ease the financial burden that inherently comes with menstruating
3. Institutionalize the distribution of sustainable menstrual products on campus.