

Reuse Enthusiasts: Update on the Shop Campus First Program!

Recent progress includes:

- In partnership with @Leslie O'Rourke-Garrett, conducted School of Engineering kitchen assessment & set up reuse dishes in three kitchens
 - Reviewed 23 locations across 14 School of Engineering buildings and identified 21 active kitchens, coffee stations, or break areas. Most did not report routinely stocking single-use serveware, and 19 of the 21 lacked a dishwasher. Reusable-dish availability was uneven or not documented, although several kitchens already had reusable items and 15 stocked dish soap. One high-use kitchen reported spending approximately \$500 per month on disposable cups and cutlery. This was one of the kitchens where we recently set up reusable dishes, suggesting that avoided purchasing costs could be an attractive benefit of reuse programs!
 - Dishes and drying racks collected from R&DE give and go move-out donations (see photo below of my bike-transported drying racks!). Set up reusable dishes in a kitchen in MERL, Durand, and Huang!



- In partnership with @Moira Zbella, Installed dishes in FMS office kitchen in Redwood City (these were also donated by Stanford campus affiliates!)
- Presented to Stanford project managers July staff meeting
 - Opportunities for demolition reuse (building materials and items inside the buildings)
 - Showed results from pre-demo 'shop the building' open house pilot events (thanks @Paul Joseph Forti for your collaboration!)



- Collected reuse pilot user survey feedback:
 - Stanford-property-reuse Slack channel
 - BMI building users (dishes and OfficeSwap shelves pilots)
 - EH&S building users (dishes and swap shelf pilots)
 - Pre-demo open houses (February & March events)

Key findings:

- **EH&S shared dishes and SwapShelf — 26 responses:** Eighteen respondents used the shared dishes at least occasionally, including 13 who used them several times per week or daily. Eight had contributed to or taken something from the SwapShelf, but 12 did not know it existed. Respondents valued sustainability and convenience while requesting clearer cleaning expectations, microwave-safe dishes, improved signage, and clearer SwapShelf guidelines.
- **BMI shared dishes and OfficeSwap — 12 responses:** Only three respondents reported using shared dishes, and there were no confirmed OfficeSwap users. Eleven respondents did not know OfficeSwap existed. Nevertheless, 11 identified waste reduction as a benefit of shared dishes. Feedback suggests that limited floor coverage, awareness, cleaning infrastructure, and operational ownership—not opposition to reuse—were the main barriers.
- **Property Reuse Slack channel — 47 responses:** Thirty-six respondents browse the channel, 33 look for or claim items, and 17 list items. Twenty-six said items are claimed too quickly, demonstrating strong demand, while transportation and pickup logistics were the second-largest barrier. Among 21 respondents reporting a posting outcome, 17 said all claimed items were picked up. Suggested improvements included listing templates, item categories, keyword alerts, clearer claim-status updates, campus-use reminders, and transportation support.
- **Pre-demolition open houses — 29 responses:** The events received an average rating of **4.45 out of 5**. Twenty-five respondents rated them four or five, 25 would definitely participate again, and 25 obtained all the items they intended to take. The main improvement opportunities were faster checkout, better tagging and instructions, moving support, more flexible pickup windows, building-condition disclosures, and holding reuse events earlier in the relocation process.

Across the pilots, several common lessons emerged:

- There is strong demand and positive sentiment toward reuse.
- Awareness and convenient access strongly influence participation.
- Successful programs need clear operational ownership and user guidance.
- Transportation, pickup, and temporary storage are recurring system-level barriers.

Next Steps for me:

- Analyzing Slack channel data
- Reminders to all PIs in Doerr School of LabSwap shelves
- Distributing all remaining dishes into existing dish pilots across campus
- Drafting summary report on 'lessons learned' across reuse categories and formats (ie., swap shelves vs. events)

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