



## Hand Dryer Pilot

Green Fund Grant Spring 2012  
Completed Fall 2013  
Amount \$50,000

### Project Overview

The student-led hand dryer pilot project investigates the replacement of paper towels with electric hand dryers in 20 bathrooms in Ware College House. This project targets Penn's *Climate Action Plan* Goals of reducing its carbon footprint and minimizing waste. The goals of the project are to model the feasibility of using electric hand dryers and identify the impacts on the triple bottom line—people, planet, and profit.

Implementation of this project included careful selection of two dryers, the Dyson Airblade, and Mitsubishi Jet Towel installed in Ware College House to compare cost, user feedback and energy performance. The target bathrooms were selected in a variety of conditions – from both old and new parts of the building, with walls adjacent to dorm rooms, and for each gender to provide a balanced perspective.

### Lessons Learned

Project leaders found that electric dryers have a smaller carbon footprint and save on maintenance and operational costs when compared to paper towel use. Despite the comparatively high up front cost for electric hand dryers, the long term cost of supplying, transporting, and dealing with trash created by paper towels is much higher.

Noise, bathroom cleanliness, and sanitation were common concerns about switching from paper towels to hand dryers, and the project team noted user preference and feedback. The team also noted the scalability of this project and the importance of effective stakeholder engagement for replication.

### Press

Penn News – [Read More](#)



**Photos**



Mitsubishi Jet Towel hand dryer installed in Ware College House.



Dyson Airblade hand dryer installed in Ware College House.