

Reducing Waste at UW Tacoma: Introducing Husky Thrift

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Husky Thrift is a student-driven project at the University of Washington Tacoma designed to tackle environmental challenges linked to excessive consumerism. The initiative creates a welcoming, campus-based thrift marketplace where students, faculty, and staff can easily donate, exchange, and repair second-hand items like electronics, clothes, and small furniture. Drawing inspiration from successful programs like the ReUse Room at Lewis & Clark University and SWAP at Washington University in St. Louis, Husky Thrift was developed through student surveys and peer collaboration. Quick online surveys gathered feedback from over 200 students, with more than 74% expressing eagerness to participate, especially valuing the affordability and convenient access. Features like an on-site repair station and seasonal swap events promote sustainable behaviors by extending the life of everyday items, ultimately conserving resources and reducing carbon footprints. Husky Thrift is launching as an ongoing campus resource, with future seasonal events planned to maintain engagement. Through dynamic marketing strategies and volunteer involvement, Husky Thrift aims not only to reduce campus waste but also to foster a culture of environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic practicality.