

**Cover Sheet:**

Waste Reduction: Alter Follet's Receipt Paper Policy

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Introducing Follet, the corporation that runs our HSU Bookstore. This company is nationwide, with over 1,200 stores, they are the leading textbook distributor's in America. This company provides paper receipts for every transaction taking place. With our motivated and resourceful community, I believe we could change the Follet receipt policy to either optional or electronic receipts- potentially opting out of receipts all together.

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With my experience of working with the Follet company for several weeks, as a temporary sales associate, I have come to discover the excessive amount of paper being wasted due to these unnecessary receipts. Playing the role of a cashier, I had a first hand perspective on the issue taking place. More than common, students run into the store to grab a scantron (common scantron: thirty three cents, including tax) and reject the receipts. This forces the employees to keep and throw away the paper, (although employees are told to ALWAYS give the paper to the customer, students often dismiss many of the distributed receipts). Unfortunately, producing an accumulation of bags and bags filled with wasted paper. With a dedicated and whitty team, I trust we could appeal to the company's headquarters and suggest such amendment.

This project addresses our stretch to achieve a renewable school and an overall more sustainable environment. My proposal appeals to the second goal:

- *The HEIF will require accountability by measuring and reporting quantitative and qualitative results, as well as levels of involvement by students and other participants, in all its projects.*

By addressing this community issue, we are not only improving the quality of our school's environment, but waste reduction on our Earth as a whole. I am a witness of these plentiful trash bags and I believe it is about time we take another step forward to ensure our school is as imperishable as we may achieve. Humboldt State is our school., and we must put in quality work to take a stand against anything or anyone who may cease these achievements from being met. This fifth rule applies to the popularity that the school bookstore carries. Mentioning the bookstore throughout my first semester to

anyone, I found all students, and staff, are fully aware of the bookstores presence- little do they know, it is ran by the Follett company:

- *The HEIF will seek to publicize accomplishments and experiences associated with its program and projects through a variety of media.*

By publicizing this type of environmental solution would catch many, if not all, HSU community member's attention. Reaching out to this new era of technology, social media is the strongest form of youth outreach. Applying these strategies to reach out to the locals provides awareness and appreciation of the environmentally-forward actions we accomplish when we come together to work as a community, as well as the action HEIF performs.

Why this project seems to go above and beyond HEIF's general goal to improve the sustainability around Humboldt State's campus, is because there is potential to make this a nationwide movement. With Follett being a national corporation, simply changing the programming which distributes the receipts involuntarily would outreach to the other physical stores within 1,200 universities that I am sure encounter the same issue of unnecessary trash! This solution seems obvious when looking to not only help our school, but our world. I was iffy about this idea due to the lengths we would have to go in order to achieve such feasible results, but I later asked myself: why limit ourselves to just one community? Our community is our planet, and we must stand together to accomplish any sort of act, small or large, to protect Mother Earth. As a student striving for a higher education, I want to help improve the lives of all members of this shared goal; together, we can make a change.

With this proposal, I walk in alone. Although faced with this single perspective, I predict we could involve the local organization: Humboldt Zero Waste. I have reached out to this corporation about this potential project, yet no response was received. With the help of Humboldt's Energy Independent Fund, we could accommodate for leading partners to accompany this challenge. This local organization specialized in this area of interest, appealing to their goal of no waste. With our shared intentions, partnership does not seem like a far reach.

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<http://zerowastehumboldt.org/home/slide1/>

