

To: Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board
From: Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Date: August 17, 2020
Subject: Status report on SBT-funded water bottle filling station installation

Overview

The Office of Sustainability and Environment's 2020 budget includes a \$140,000 one-time allocation from Sweetened Beverage Tax revenue to install water bottle filling stations in Seattle Public Schools (SPS). This budget will support roughly 30-35 installations. In order to prioritize the locations of these new water bottle filling stations, the City and SPS developed criteria based on recommendations from the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB), the Council Budget Action (CBA) that provided the funding ([CBA OSE-2-D-1](#)), and the race and social justice goals of the City and school district. In addition to these criteria, the school's existing water fixture infrastructure also informed the order of prioritization.

We anticipate installations to begin in September with the goal of completing by December 2020. Uncertainties related to COVID-19 may extend construction into 2021, but we are working with the school district to have as many installed this year as possible. Since students will not be in school this fall, promotion efforts will wait until January or when students return to school buildings.

School Prioritization

In order to identify schools that serve low income families and communities of color, per [CBA OSE-2-D-1](#) and the goals of the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), we developed primary and secondary prioritization lists (see Attachment A). The first focuses on SPS schools with higher than a 50% free/reduced price meal rate (FRPM) and the second focuses on schools with a 25% or higher FRPM.

Within each list, high schools were given first priority, as recommended by the CAB in your [2020 budget recommendations](#). Middle schools were given second priority, as studies show that sweetened beverage intake is higher among adolescents (10-19),¹ and increased access to water could help reduce that consumption². Moving into elementary schools, we first prioritized the 13 schools identified by the SPS Superintendent and School Board as high priority for closing the black male opportunity gap, followed by the remaining elementary schools. Within each grouping (high school, middle school, elementary), schools without existing in-wall stations were prioritized first, and then from highest to lowest FRPM rate.

We anticipate installations at most of the 31 schools on the primary list and 2-5 on the secondary list (both are included in Attachment A). While it is the goal to reach all the schools on the primary list, in some cases building infrastructure issues may make installation too costly for the funds available at this

¹ See studies referenced on [CDC website](#).

² Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/wateraccess.htm>



time. The order of installation may also change based on construction needs at each school, and a couple larger high schools may receive two installations.

Student Engagement

Our original plan was to pair installation of new filling stations with student engagement, but COVID-19 and remote learning shifted what was possible. Even with these constraints, we were able to incorporate student input into water bottle filling station locations at select high schools, and we are pursuing partnerships for promotion once schools open. This includes:

- SPS is using input gathered by FEEST students at Chief Sealth and Rainier Beach high schools to determine location of stations at those schools.
- Seattle Public Utilities is providing at least 2,500 water bottles to distribute at schools with water bottle filling stations. A portion of these will go to FEEST students to use as part of any campaigns they develop to promote use of the stations.
- We are in discussion with Earth Service Corps about additional ways to promote use of stations at schools that have student clubs.

Promotion

Promotional efforts for this project will include:

- Each station will include a sticker promoting that it was funded by the SBT and incorporating the design and messaging from the community-driven *Be Ready, Be Hydrated* campaign. A community coalition and young Seattle-area students drove the messaging and design of this campaign (led by The Vida Agency and funded by SBT) to reduce demand for sugar-sweetened beverages and promote healthier alternatives.
- The Vida Agency is providing *Be Ready, Be Hydrated* stickers that can be distributed with water bottles when students are back at school.
- The City and SPS will do a joint announcement promoting installation of the stations and will mention that SBT funding made this possible.
- We may pursue donations of additional water bottles to provide to more students.



Attachment A: Primary and Secondary Prioritization Lists

Note: Order may change due to infrastructure and construction limitations at some schools.

Primary List

CRITERIA	SCHOOL
High schools with higher than 50% FRL, prioritizing those with no in-wall station, then from highest to lowest FRL rate.	Cleveland
	Chief Sealth
	South Lake
	Seattle World School
	Rainier Beach
	Franklin
Middle schools w/higher than 50% FRL, prioritizing those w/no in-wall station.	Aki Kurose
	Denny
	Mercer
13 priority elementary schools, prioritizing those with no in-wall station, then from highest to lowest FRL rate.	West Seattle
	Martin Luther King
	Van Asselt (Wing Luke students currently in this building)
	Bailey Gatzert
	Rainier View
	Thurgood Marshall
	Emerson
	South Shore
	John Muir
	Broadview Thomson
	Olympic Hills
	Leschi
Rising Star (at the African American Academy)	
Elementary schools with higher than 50% FRL, prioritizing those no in-wall station, then from highest to lowest FRL rate.	Northgate
	Roxhill (Interagency)
	Lowell
	Sanislo
	Dearborn Park
	Graham Hill
	Dunlap
	Highland Park
	Concord



Secondary List

CRITERIA	SCHOOL
Remaining schools with 40% or higher FRL	Beacon Hill Elementary
	Kimball Elementary
	Madrona Elementary
	Meany Middle School
High schools and middle schools with 25% or higher FRL	Washington Middle School
	Louisa Boren STEM K-8
	ORCA K-8 School
	Jane Addams Middle School
	Garfield High School
	Nathan Hale High School
Elementary schools with 25% or higher FRL	John Rogers Elementary
	Viewlands Elementary
	Olympic View Elementary
	Hawthorne Elementary
	Stevens Elementary
	Laurelhurst Elementary