



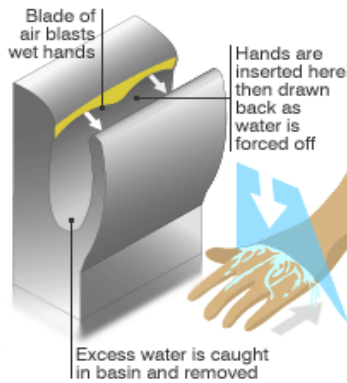
# San Diego Community College District

## PROPOSITIONS S & N PROJECT FACT SHEET

### Benefits of Using Hand Dryers Vs. Paper Towels

Research shows that in addition to saving any given facility upwards of 90% in operational costs compared to paper towels, electric touch-free hand dryers are proving to be the more environmentally-friendly option. Hand dryers also alleviate the majority of the maintenance element in the restroom. As part of its Building Design Standards, the San Diego Community College District now specifies Dyson Airblade hand dryers as a standard fixture in all restrooms.

#### DYSON AIRBLADE HAND DRYER



### Environmental Benefits

Reports show that, annually, Americans use more than 2.5 million tons of paper towels – a product that takes energy to manufacture, deliver to the end user, and then haul away for disposal. The average person uses 2-2 ½ paper towels to dry his or her hands. It takes significantly more energy to make paper towels than it does to power a hand dryer. A study by Environmental Resources Management shows the manufacture of paper towels required nearly two-thirds more electricity over a five-year period, and generated 35% more acid rain and 286% more greenhouse gas emissions.

### Financial Benefits

There are significant financial benefits to the use of hand dryers instead of paper towels, primarily involving the reduced cost of maintenance and custodial services:

- There are no paper towels to restock. The cost savings to the District is in excess of \$1,000 per year, per dryer. With no used paper towels to dispose of, the associated costs of replacing trashcan bags or liners is also reduced.
- Hand dryers eliminate the problem of paper towels being thrown into toilets, causing problems with clogging and requiring extra and unbudgeted maintenance time.
- Modern hand dryers are faster and more energy efficient than conventional dryers. They draw as little as 1150 watts compared to the 2300 watts of earlier models.
- Today's hand dryers are built for economic durability and long-term use.

Used paper towels cannot be recycled or reused, contributing to the approximately 35% of today's landfill paper waste. A typical fast food restaurant which uses paper towels will go through the equivalent of nine fully grown trees each day. The waste from these paper towels is equal to 1,000 lbs. of landfill waste.

As many as 20,000 gallons of water are used to produce a single ton of paper towels.



### Sanitary Benefits

The use of hand dryers has been shown to help restrooms stay cleaner and more sanitary. Their use means there is no waste for anyone to handle and no risk of spreading germs.

The use of a warm hand dryer can help reduce bacteria left on hands by insufficient towel drying. The District's new hand dryers will dry hands in 12 seconds, with HEPA filters that remove 99.9% of the bacteria from the air used to dry hands.

The Airblade dryer's exterior has an anti-microbial additive to help protect the surface.

