

**Final Report on Completion of a Project Funded by the
Office of Sustainability Initiatives 2023-2024 Incentives Fund**

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Department Head: Lars Meyer (Access & Resource Services)

Office Building & Number: Robert W. Woodruff Library, Building #1980

Project Title: Sustainable Tote Bags for Woodruff Library 2.0

Amount Awarded & Total Amount Spent: \$1000.00

Brief Description of the Project: In 2021-2022, the Library Service Desk at the Woodruff Library received an OSI grant to move from a reusable but not biodegradable material to a more sustainable cotton tote bag. Unfortunately, the price of providing those complimentary bags at the Library Service Desk has steadily risen over the years. The more sustainable cotton tote bags we purchased with the assistance of the previous OSI grant were \$2.05 each. Now, the price of a comparable cotton tote bag is \$2.77 each. In accordance with Emory's sustainability goals, we determined to do our best to continue offering a tote bag made of a renewable resource and ask for the help of the OSI team for supplementary funding.

Objective: The objective of our project is to make a permanent change toward a more sustainable material in the tote bags offered to library patrons at the Library Service Desk. In our case, a move from tote bags made of plastic or polypropylene to tote bags made of cotton. Additionally, we hope that once the bags are positively received, regular departmental funding will be forthcoming.

Results: We were able to purchase a cotton tote bag from the university supplier Pinnacle. With the additional funds from the 2023-2024 Incentives Fund, we were able to purchase the more sustainable product. The bags are attractive and have been well received by the University community.

Lessons Learned: A new two-color design from the Emory Communications and Marketing office was approved and the result was a bag with both the Emory Libraries logo and the green leaf logo of the OSI. So, in addition to making a change toward a more sustainable tote bag, the bag itself promotes the value of a

more sustainable Emory. Also, the artwork on the bags identifies the bags as a product of a collaboration with the OSI.

Additional Materials: The move toward a more sustainable tote bag and our partnership with the OSI team is currently publicized on the digital signage within the library.

Image on the digital signage:



**New tote bags
have arrived!**



An Emory Libraries and Office of
Sustainability Initiatives
Partnership



Lastly:

As team members of this project, we deeply appreciate the kind support and encouragement that we received along the way toward its completion. We are grateful for your funding this project a second time, but even more so for how you have made our collaboration such an enjoyable experience.

Thank you,

Mark Johnson, Lyndon Batiste, and Kim Copenhaver

