



CASE STUDY

ENHANCING HYDRATION & SUSTAINABILITY AT **FedEx**® DISTRIBUTION CENTER

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

In an effort to improve employee hydration, reduce plastic waste, and enhance operational efficiency, FedEx implemented five FloWater Refill Stations at its Corpus Christi, TX Distribution Center. The initiative aimed to provide clean, great-tasting, and fast-dispensing water to employees working long shifts in a high, physical activity environment.

CHALLENGE

Prior to FloWater's implementation, the FedEx Distribution Center relied on 5-gallon jugs and single-use plastic water bottles delivered by a local company, Everest Water. This presented several challenges:

- + **Poor Water Quality:** The 5-gallon jugs had a bad taste, discouraging employees from drinking enough water.
- + **High Plastic Waste:** The center went through approximately 2,500-3,500 plastic bottles per month, leading to excessive waste pile-up in recycling containers and sometimes on the warehouse floor, creating a safety hazard.
- + **Tripping Hazard:** Employees often capped and discarded partially filled bottles, which trapped air. When stepped on, these bottles created pushback, increasing the risk of falls and injuries.
- + **High Costs:** FedEx was spending \$3,000 per month on bottled water and 5-gallon jugs, including delivery and storage expenses.
- + **Employee Dehydration:** Due to the high physical demands of transporting, packing, loading, and unloading heavy packages, employees were feeling lethargic and fatigued throughout the day. The excessive heat in South Texas further exacerbated dehydration concerns.
- + **Exploring Costly Alternatives:** FedEx considered providing Liquid IV performance powder (\$1.25 per packet) to every employee daily in addition to the bottled water and 5 gallon jugs, which would have significantly increased costs.



SOLUTION

FloWater Refill Stations To address these issues, FedEx decided to test, at no cost, the 7x Advanced Purification refill station from FloWater. The process was seamless.

- + The local Account Director visited the distribution center to collaborate with facilities on where the trial Refill Station should be implemented (best access to the employee base for feedback and observation).
- + A representative from FloWater's implementation team reached out and worked with Fed Ex Facilities to schedule an install date that worked for us.
- + On the date of the implementation of the free trial, the Technician called ahead of time to verify that the day and time still worked for the Fed Ex team.
- + The Technician installed the unit with no assistance necessary from the Fed Ex team, in just under an hour.
- + The Technician walked through the components i.e. hot water dispense, cold water dispense, display monitor and plug in with the facilities manager.
- + Employees immediately began using the Refill Station.

These Refill Stations required only a water line and power connection, making installation simple. The Refill Stations provide:

- + **Advanced Purification Technology:** Removes contaminants, enhances taste, and provides ultra-purified, electrolyte-enhanced water.
- + **Rapid Dispensing (1 Gallon/Minute):** Minimizes wait time and keeps workers hydrated efficiently.
- + **Sustainability Impact:** Eliminates plastic bottle waste, aligning with FedEx's corporate environmental goals.
- + **Cost-Effective Performance Water:** With electrolytes, alkalinity, and trace minerals, the refill stations provide hydration comparable to performance-enhancing beverages without the additional expense.





After two weeks passed with the free refill station trial, the facilities team was convinced that this was a homerun for the Distribution Center and decided to have an additional 4 FloWater Refill Stations installed strategically throughout the facility.

Implementation & Service FloWater collaborated with the FedEx facilities team to determine optimal placement for the additional 4 refill stations in high-traffic areas. The installation process included:

- + A walk-through of the facility to identify ideal locations.
- + Scheduling installations over a time period acceptable to Fed ex (occurred within a week of identifying the ideal locations)
- + A FloWater technician arriving on time with proactive communication.
- + The additional 4 units installed in under a day, fully operational upon completion.

LEARNINGS

A few days later, one of the refill stations stopped working. FloWater's service team responded immediately, diagnosing the issue as a tripped breaker—not a problem with the unit itself. Once the breaker was reset, the station resumed normal function.

Results & Impact Since implementing FloWater, FedEx has experienced measurable benefits:

- + **Employee Hydration & Wellness:** Increased water intake has led to higher energy levels and productivity.
- + **Elimination of Plastic Waste:** In just one month (Sept 26 - Oct 28), FedEx saved 6,800 plastic bottles—and during the summer, this number is expected to double.
- + **Annual Cost Savings:** FedEx reduced hydration expenses by \$27,000 per year at this location alone.
- + **Scalability Across FedEx DCs:** If implemented across all 136 FedEx distribution centers, the estimated 5-year savings would exceed \$18 million.
- + **Positive Employee Feedback:** Employees love the convenience, taste, trust, reliability and positive health aspects of the stations.



"FloWater has been a game changer! Pedro Martinez got these installed at our terminal. All of my drivers enjoy the clean-tasting water. Everyone brings their containers, and it eliminates all of the plastic water bottles that were being used. Plus, it's convenient for my coffee!"

— Danny Cabrera (Operations) from FedEx Corpus Christi

"Great experience working with FloWater and seamless setup getting the equipment in the workplace. Staff enjoys the taste of the water and we never have to worry about running low on water or having to carry and change water jugs."

— Joe Doria, Fed Ex Facilities