



Bottled Water – Municipalities Factsheet

These municipal governments have decided to set an example by introducing policies that limit or end the use of bottled water or promote the consumption of tap water

United States:

- Office of the Mayor of *San Francisco, California* passed an Executive Directive phasing out the use of City funds to purchase single serving bottles of water and switching to bottles-less water dispensers for city departments and agencies occupying city or rental properties.
- Mayor Greg Nickels of *Seattle, Washington* signed an executive order in ending the purchase of bottled water for city buildings and events. Environmental impacts and Seattle's high-quality municipal water supply were cited as reasons for the order.
- The Board of Directors for the *Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose California*, passed a resolution promoting the economic and environmental benefits of tap water over bottled water. This ended the use of district funds to purchase bottled water and banned the sale of bottled water on district facilities.
- As part of its sustainability campaign, the *City Santa Barbara, California*, ended the purchase of bottled water using City funds for City meetings and events.
- *U.S. Conference of Mayors* passed a resolution encouraging mayors to phase out city spending on bottled water and to promote the importance of municipal water.
- Bottled water will no longer be available at *New York City Council* functions and events.

Canada:

- City of *London, Ontario* passed a resolution that "single-use bottled water will no longer be sold in the City Hall cafeteria, from City-owned or city administered concessions and vending machines in public facilities...". This resolution also included provisions for a public awareness campaign and an assessment of tap water availability in these locations.
- Office of Mayor Derek Corrigan in *Burnaby, British Columbia*, stopped buying bottled water for council and committee meetings and opts instead for pitchers of tap water and glasses.
- Mayor and City Council of *Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island*, stopped purchasing bottled water.
- *City of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario* approved a resolution adopting a policy of not purchasing bottled water for the Civic centre; bottled water was previously provided for Council, Public or Committee meetings.
- *City of Toronto, Ontario* approved a motion to encourage the distribution of City of Toronto tap water in City facilities or the facilities of its agencies, boards and commissions and discourage the distribution of bottled water.
- Town of *Blue Mountains, Ontario*, passed a motion to ban bottled water at town events and meetings.
- Town of *Altona, Manitoba*, has decided to get rid of water coolers and bottled water in its offices
- City Council of *St Catharines, Ontario* made a decision not to purchase bottled water for city departments, meetings and events that was non-essential.
- City Council in *Nelson, British Columbia* banned the provision of bottled water in city-owned and operated buildings.

For More Information visit, www.insidethebottle.org.

Container deposit systems:

Also known as bottle bills, this method of recycling has proven to be a highly effective means to cutting down the amount of plastic beverage bottles piling up in landfills

- As of January 2009 the *Oregon bottle bill* will be expanded to include bottled water.
- *Nova Scotia* has a comprehensive container deposit system which involves all beverage containers including PET plastic water bottles; most containers have a 10 cent deposit.

Caraffes and glasses:

- Provision of tap water using carafes and glasses has been adopted for City Council and Committee. Meetings in cities such as *Santa Barbara California* (also uses biodegradable cups), *Toronto Ontario*, *Burnaby British Columbia* and *Charlottetown Prince Edward Island*.

Water fountains:

- Water fountains have been an important means for people to keep hydrated with publicly provided tap water, yet increasingly fountains seem to be few and far between. Many people report that fountains are not being maintained to a satisfactory level. Repair existing fountains and install new units in municipal facilities.
- Consider that the costs related to water fountains are offset by savings associated with ending the use of municipal government funds to purchase bottled water.
- Cities are responsible for delivering safe affordable water to their residents.

Bottle-less water dispensers:

- Bottle-less water dispensers can be countertop or free standing units, they connect to a cold water line
- Approximate cost of a bottle-less water is \$400.00USD plus an installation cost (typically an additional \$100.00USD) which correlates to the proximity of water supply

CASE STUDY: CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

The City of San Francisco worked with U.S. Pure Water Solutions to provide free standing dispensers offering hot, cold and 'neutral' tap water after the Mayor passed an Executive Directive ending the use of city funds for bottled water

- Audits were performed by staff in collaboration with a representative of each Department familiar with their owned/leased space(s) on the viability of switching to bottle-less water dispensers
- Audits included determining where bottled water dispensing units are located and whether bottled water delivery services had been used. Each department was then responsible to remove bottled water and identify locations for the bottle-less water dispensing units
- Departments choose to lease or buy dispensers with the option of having free-standing and/or counter-top units
- Installation of dispensers was arranged by departments and was either company or city installed
- Waiver of exception is available for extraordinary reasons; it must be signed by the Department Director in order to be considered by the Mayor's Office, San Francisco Public Utilities, Real Estate, the Purchasing Department Controller's Office and the Department of the Environment

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