



Campaign for a Bottled Water Free
U of G Campus
Action Toolkit

- 1) Email the designated group (visiting them personally for 5min is more effective). You can use this template to approach the individual. I suggest also speaking to a professor with whom you may have good relations. The department will be more likely to help you out proposing the pledge if you have a faculty member supporting your proposal.

I would like to propose for the _____ (name of group you are addressing) to create a zone that is free of bottled water. Polaris Institute and CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) have launched national campaigns to reduce to the use of bottled water on campus. As members of various groups on campus, such as GSEC (Guelph Students for Environmental Change), OXFAM, NDP Youth and others, we hope to realize this goal at the University of Guelph. First we would like to gain support from individual student groups, councils and faculty departments to encourage alternatives to bottled water. In this regard, we would like for each entity to sign a pledge removing the offer of bottled water during their respective events and meetings. You can visit www.gsec.ca for an updated list of signatures. Ultimately, we would like the University Administration to encourage alternatives to the use of bottled water. The list of groups will be used to show the wide ranging support on campus.

What would be the best way to propose this to the _____ (name of group you are addressing)? Would you prefer we make a proposal during a meeting?

- 2) Once you have a meeting scheduled, the presentation shouldn't be longer than 5min. A quick intro, some facts about bottled water, successes with campaign so far and explanation of what you are asking them can be the general structure. You can speak with Louise, the secretary at the CSA (2nd Floor UC) to have a transparency sheet made. Make sure to have a copy of the bottled water facts to leave with them after your presentation. You will want to print two copies of the pledge: One for our record and one for their organization.
- 3) Explain the pledge first, if they are reluctant, you can also explain the 'endorsement'.
- 4) If they sign the pledge. Offer them the "bottled water free zone" poster and take a picture of it. Polaris Institute is collecting these zones for their nation wide campaign.

***Please note that individuals may sign the pledge by visiting the following link:
www.petitiononline.com/44turkey/petition.html**



BEST OF LUCK!!!!

University of Guelph- Pledge to be Bottled Water Free

Given that:

- bottled water is a waste of the scarce natural resources needed to manufacture them.
- bottled water harms the environment through the improper disposal of unnecessary waste.
- bottled water is less stringently regulated than municipal tap water, despite misleading advertising by the bottled water industry.
- bottled water is packaged in plastic bottles which are suspected of leaching toxic chemicals.
- bottled water is sold at a much higher price than city water - up to ten thousand times more expensive
- to ensure water remains a fundamental human right, it requires standing up for public water systems at a local level.
- the University of Guelph has been a forerunner in bringing environmental awareness to students and now has an opportunity to continue this tradition by pioneering the struggle against bottled water.

We/I

_____ *(Insert organization, department, affiliation, individual name)*

pledge that bottled water will no longer be purchased, distributed or sold in vending machines, retail spaces, at meetings, events and/or conferences and in replacement, if deemed appropriate, water jugs with tap water will be made available.

(Name of Signatory)

(Signature)

Date

(Position within Association)

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www.petitiononline.com/44turkey/petition.html***

University of Guelph- Endorsement for the Reduction in Bottled Water Use

Given that:

- bottled water is a waste of the scarce natural resources needed to manufacture them.
- bottled water harms the environment through the improper disposal of unnecessary waste.
- bottled water is less stringently regulated than municipal tap water, despite misleading advertising by the bottled water industry.
- bottled water is packaged in plastic bottles which are suspected of leaching toxic chemicals.
- bottled water is sold at a much higher price than city water - up to ten thousand times more expensive
- to ensure water remains a fundamental human right, it requires standing up for public water systems at a local level.
- the University of Guelph has been a forerunner in bringing environmental awareness to students and now has an opportunity to continue this tradition by pioneering the struggle against bottled water.

We/I _____

(Insert organization, department, affiliation, individual name)

endorse the campaign which promotes alternative water sources to bottled water. This will mean a reduction in bottled water purchased, distributed or sold in vending machines, retail spaces, at meetings, events and/or conferences and in replacement, if deemed appropriate, water jugs with tap water will be made available. We will aim toward becoming bottled water free.

(Name of Signatory)

(Signature)

Date

(Position within Association)

****Please note that individuals may sign the pledge by visiting the following link:
www.petitiononline.com/44turkey/petition.html***

Bottled Water Facts

Health and Environmental Perspective

According to independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies, toxic chemicals such as arsenic, mercury and bromides have all been found in bottled water samples.

The bottled water industry suggests that their product is more pure and healthy than tap water, when municipalities test their water more stringently than bottling plants (Natural Resources Defense Council, NRDC).

Plastic bottles release toxic chemicals and contaminants into the air and water. They contribute to environmental degradation when they are manufactured and again when they are burned or buried.

Bottled water requires oil based transportation and contributes to global warming while tap water is more energy efficient in its delivery.

According to an Environment and Plastics Industry Council (EPIC) study, in 2002, Ontario had a 35% recycling rate for plastic beverage bottles, one of the lowest rates in the country. As a result, over 33,000 tonnes of plastic was burned or buried that year alone, releasing toxins into the ground and atmosphere.

Ontario, Manitoba, and Quebec are responsible for about 63% of the plastic beverage bottles generated in Canada (non-soft drinks), where deposit return programs do not exist (EPIC).

Corporate - Public Perspective

Beverage exclusivity contracts between companies and schools or municipalities are typically negotiated in secret with little meaningful debate, thus limiting the opportunity for conscious consumer choices to support local businesses and public water supplies.

Bottled water is 240 - 10,000 times more expensive than water from the tap, even though more than 25% of the water originates from the municipal tap system.

Commercial bottlers pay little or nothing in fees to access water, making it one of the most unregulated resources in Canada.

The bottled water market erodes confidence in our public water systems, paving the way for higher prices and corporate control of water resources.

Accessing bottled water is no more convenient than reaching a tap to fill a reusable bottle.



Alternatives to Bottled Water

****When I / we stop using bottled water, what are the possible alternatives?***

- 1) Purchase or make reusable water bottles available for your group or department (stainless steel canteens for example):
 - Mountain Equipment Coop sells Guyot canteens which are stainless steel and the company assures fair wages to employees producing the bottles in China
- 2) Purchase a few glasses and water jugs to be used for speakers, events and meetings.
- 3) For small events, on-campus cafeterias may be able to lend you a few plastic glasses and jugs:
 - Creelman (ext.53040)
 - Mountain Hall (ext. 56227/52809)
 - Centre 6 (ext. 53029)
- 4) For larger events, Hospitality services can offer water in a large canister. Call the Catering Manager (ext. 53350).
- 5) For very large outdoor events, a milk tanker filled with municipal water can be arranged with Wark Milk Transport Ltd.
 - Tanks filled from City of Guelph sources
 - Water quality tested to ensure safety
 - Tank is well insulated, keeping the water cool
 - Estimated costs:
 - 60\$/day for the use of truck
 - 250\$ to fill a tank to 10'000L (max 15 000L)
 - Potential labour costs for manning the truck during service (free if volunteers do this job)
 - **Contact: Wark Milk Transport Ltd.,** RR2, Port Elgin ON, N0H 2C6
Phone: 519-389-6914, email: t.wark@bmts.com
- 6) Most campus buildings have outdoor water hookups. Contact the Grounds Department (John Reinhart, Manager) at ext.52053 to determine which is closest to your outdoor event. These water sources are all potable, but you may need to buy your own small hose to ensure water quality is maintained. You may borrow canteens from Hospitality Services or purchase your own.
- 7) Across campus there are housekeeping closets with large sinks in them. These sinks are appropriate for filling or refilling large water canteens for indoor events. If you are interested in this option, please contact the Sustainability Program at least a week in advance for assistance. Call ext. 58129 or sustain@ioguelph.ca.