

Bishop's Bottled Water Free Campaign



What's the point?

Bottled water is deeply embedded in an unsustainable industry that creates a massive amount of unnecessary waste, relies heavily on fossil fuels, and creates a number of other social, and environmental issues.



Sustainability

While everyone in the meeting may not agree with bottled water free campaign, it is important to keep in mind that Bishop's University is moving into the future and the future of Bishop's is sustainability.

Banning the sale of bottled water is a crucial step in increasing the sustainability of our campus and community.



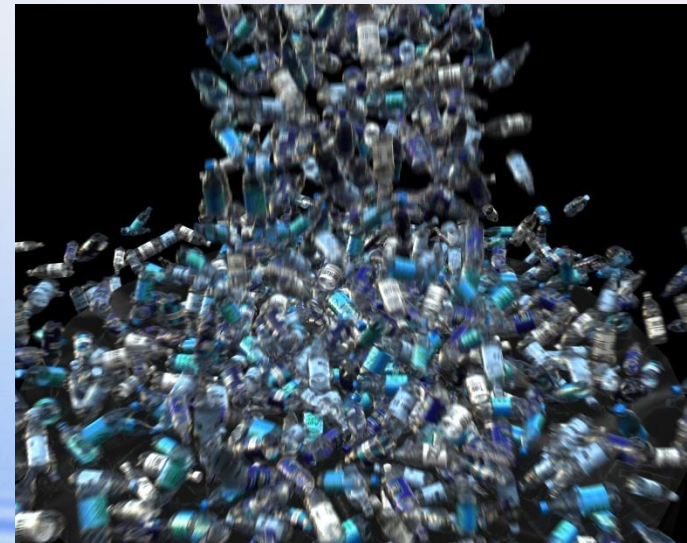
Environmental Impacts

- The 31.2 billion liters of bottled water consumed annually in the United States, uses more than 17 million barrels of oil to produce it's packaging, caps, and bottle.
- The two primary raw materials in polyethylene terphthalate (PET plastic, used in most single serve bottles) are terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG), are toxic chemicals that are derived from crude oil.
- When considering the lifecycle of a bottle of water, its energy costs are the equivalent, on average, to filling up a quarter of each bottle with oil



Environmental Impacts

- Twice as much water is used in the production on bottled water than in what is sold in the bottle.
- The water industry relies on container ships, trucks and cars to transport raw materials to the plants and finished products to where they are sold.
- Bottled Water is shipped from other countries to Canada over large distances (Fiji water from Fiji, San Pellegrino from Italy). This all seems ridiculous since Canada contains some of the freshest and cleanest water on Earth



Environmental Impacts

Recycling...or lack there of!

- In Toronto alone, as few as 50% of water bottles are recycled meaning that 65 million empty plastic water bottles fill Michigan landfills.
- Canadians consume more than two billion litres of bottled water a year despite living in one of the most water-rich countries in the world.
- Quebec is the second-highest producer of single-use plastic bottles in Canada, generating 34,880 tonnes of plastic beverage bottles per year, and recovering just 44 per cent, or 15,264 tonnes.
- The reason for the lack of recycling lies in the convenience of it. Because most bottled water is consumed away from the home more plastic bottles end up in the trash.



Environmental Impacts

•The bottle recovery rate in Canada is significantly higher than in the US at almost 48% (some would argue its lower at 30%) where as the recovery percentage in the US is just 36%. This means that the majority of plastic bottles go to the landfill or end up in the environment and our oceans.



For more information about the environmental impacts of bottled water and the associated social and economic impacts please visit:

www.insidethebottle.org

www.syc-cjs.org/sustainable.../bottled-water-free-zones

<http://www.bottledwaterblues.com>

<http://www.canadians.org/water/index.html>

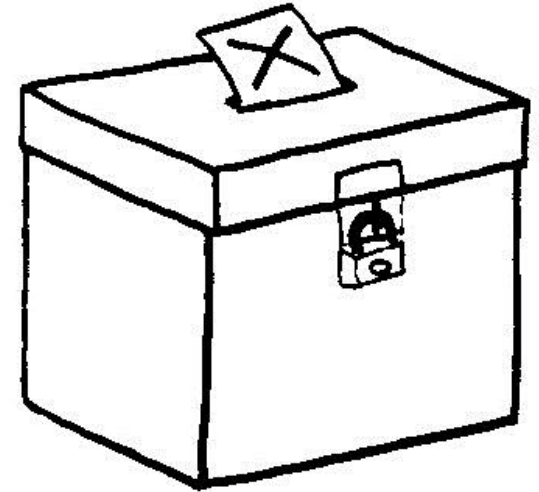
Blue Gold by Maude Barlow

Who in the Bishop's Community Supports going Bottled Water Free?

- **BUEC**
- **Bishop's Biology Club**
- **Social Ecology Club**
- **Terra del Fuego**
- **The Sustainable Development Intern**
- **Sherbrooke has also recently banned the sale and purchase of bottled water in their administrative buildings and other recreation buildings**

The Plan

- The intention is to have a student *referendum* in the month of March after an intensive campaign directed towards the students, faculty and administration of the Bishop's community.
- We are planning to present our plan with all the faculty in order to support the students.
- If the referendum draws a No response we will go back to the drawing board to develop a better strategy or find an alternative



If Yes

These are just some ideas!

- Because we would be one of the few university campuses to impose a ban like this in Canada we would be free to develop an effective strategy to remove bottled water from the campus.
- The removal of bottled water would not be abrupt.
- There is the possibility of asking Sedexo to sign a contract that states that they will no longer purchase bottled water.
- Creativity and new opportunities!
- Your suggestions and ideas would be incorporated into the development of a custom fit strategy for Bishop's University



Conclusions

Bishop's talks a great talk when it comes to sustainable development. It's time to starting walking the walk. Removing bottled water from our campus is an easy way to increase our sustainability and reduce our ecological footprint.

It's also a great way to encourage creative, sustainable thinking in terms of generating new money making opportunities for the campus.

Please help Bishop's increase its sustainability by supporting the Bottled Water Free Campaign!