

Dalla Lana School of Public Health Bottled Water Policy

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health has a commitment to develop, ensure and maintain environmentally sustainable practices. As a result, effective October 1, 2008, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health will no longer participate in the purchasing of individual disposable bottles of water. This policy applies to all school sponsored events, meetings and purchasing.

Production of bottled water is very resource intensive and has worldwide impacts. Research has shown that the City of Toronto tap water is just as safe as bottled water, and in most cases, undergoes more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring.

Supporting Facts:

- In 2004, the total global consumption of bottled water was 154 billion litres (41 billion gallons), a 57 percent increase from the 98 billion litres consumed in 1999.
- We are also learning that the stuff in plastic water bottles may be more harmful than anything in our tap water. Bisphenol A is just one chemical that's found in many plastic bottles.
- Bottled water is expensive, costing more than a comparable amount of gasoline.
- It takes close to 17 million barrels of oil to produce the 30 billion water bottles that U.S. citizens go through every year.
- Unlike tap water, bottled water uses up oil and other fossil fuels to be produced and shipped, fills up landfills, represents wasted money, and does not go through nearly as rigorous filtering and cleansing processes.
- If a container of water holds 1 litre it requires 3 to 5 litres of water in its manufacturing process
- It is estimated that producing the bottles for American consumption in 2006 required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil. The manufacture of every ton of PET produces around 3 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Bottling water thus created more than 2.5 million tons of CO₂ in 2006.

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/about_us/Dr_David_Suzuki/Article_Archives/weekly05160801.asp

<http://www.pacinst.org/>

<http://www.earth-policy.org/Updates/2006/Update51.htm>