



Take the Plunge: Bottled Water Action Options for Ontario Municipalities

Phase out the sale and distribution of bottled water in City/Town facilities

- Prohibit the use of municipal government funds to purchase or distribute bottled water. Why not start with City/Town Hall (Council meetings, bottled water available in department offices) and develop a strategy to phase out bottled water in city facilities and sponsored events
- Begin dialogue with vendors in City/Town owned and leased space towards ending the sale of bottled water
- Remove bottled water sold in vending machines in City/Town owned and leased space (develop a provision regarding bottled water for upcoming agreement renewals)

Providing and promoting alternatives to bottled water

- Establish a municipal policy that mandates a cross-departmental team to audit the viability of switching to bottle-less water dispensers in City/Town owned and leased spaces.
- Provide access to municipal water in City/Town owned and leased spaces by maintaining, and installing new municipal water infrastructure, such as water fountains and well water systems.
- Commit to providing water-dispensing units (stationary or removable, such as water trucks that connect to fire hydrants) at City/Town organized and sponsored special events.
- Start a municipal water awareness campaign that encourages municipal water consumption in City/Town buildings. Work towards extending this awareness campaign to the broader public of the community.

'Right-to-know' policies

- Ensure that residents can access information about companies using municipal tap water or groundwater in the area (where jurisdictions apply) including the number of water bottlers in the municipality, company names, amount of water extracted and rates charged on a daily basis.

Foster accountability

- Develop and implement policies that enhance accountability including transparency and public consultation around the approval of the use of water for water bottling.