

WHY IT IS TIME TO TAKE BACK THE TAP!

1 SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Water privatization occurs when the control of water utilities is transferred from the public sector to private corporations. Privatization is dangerous because corporations are motivated by profit. This gives corporations incentive to raise fees and reduce paid employees.[1]
- Often privatization occurs when locally run utilities are under extreme financial pressure and do not have money for improvements in water quality or distribution. This pressure leads to hasty contracts for private corporations who end up being poorly regulated. Under lack of regulation corporations can get away with unaffordable price increases, poor environmental and water quality standards, over harvesting, and serving only the rich in areas where the poor have little access to safe water.[1]
- Commodification occurs when companies package and sell water which is a free natural resource. Often companies harvest water faster than nature can replenish it. When the land goes dry, the surrounding community suffers (especially those dependent on farmland).[2]
- By choosing not to buy disposable water bottles you are saying no to water privatization and commodification. In effect you are helping stop the violation of human rights around the world.[3]



2 SUSTAINABILITY



- In 2007, the energy equivalent to an estimated 32-54 million barrels of oil (1.3-2.2 billion gallons) was used in the production and distribution of bottled water in the U.S. alone, with the world-wide production using the equivalent of 64-162 million barrels of oil (2.7-6.8 billion gallons).[1]
- Of over 50 billion PET water bottles produced in the U.S. alone, only 17% were recycled. The rest litter our land and waters.[2]
- Bottled water use contributes to the estimated 3 million tons of plastic debris floating on the sea surface in the North Pacific Central Gyre (Eastern Garbage Patch).[2]
- It takes 3 liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water.[3]
- Lane Community College's students using the new filling stations have saved 77,437 water bottles over the last 10 months, cutting down on LCC's waste output and carbon footprint.

3 HUMAN HEALTH

- Reusing #1 PET plastic water bottles can promote bacteria.[1,2]
- Drinking water from #7 Polycarbonate plastic water bottles can expose you to BPA, an endocrine-disrupting chemical.[2,3]
- Stainless steel bottles avoid these problems.



4 ECONOMICS



- What comes out of the LCC water fountain is FREE for students!
- Bottled water costs more per gallon than gasoline.[1]
- Tap water in Eugene costs \$0.0018 per gallon. That means that bottled water costs as much as 10,000 times more than tap water.[2]
- If you used a refillable bottle every day instead of buying one bottle of water a day for \$1.99 you would save more than \$700 a year!

CITATIONS:

1

1. Budds, J., McGranahan, G. (2003). Are the debates on water privatization missing the point? Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America. *Environment & Urbanization*, vol. 15 (2), 87-114.
2. Barlow, M. (2001). The Crisis. In *Blue Gold: The global water crisis and the commodification of the world's water supply*. Retrieved from http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Water/Crisis_BG.html
3. Opel, A. (1999). Constructing Purity: Bottled Water and the Commodification of Nature. *Journal Of American Culture* (01911813), 22(4), 67-76.

2

1. Cooley, H., Gleick, P. 2009, Feb. 19. Environmental Research Letters. "Energy Implications of Bottled Water." <http://m.iopscience.iop.org/1478-9326/4/1/014009>
2. Moore, Charles J., 2008. "Synthetic Polymers in the Marine Environment: A Rapidly Increasing, Long Term Threat." Environmental Research. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001393510800159X>
3. Pacific Institute. http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water_and_sustainability/bottled_water/bottled_water_and_energy.html

3

1. Heath, L., Smith, S., Fitzgerald, J. (2007). Bottled water: Some health considerations. *Water and Public Health* Volume 4, Number 2, July 2007, 13-17.
2. Karlstrom, S. (2007). Tapped Out: The True Cost of Bottled Water. *Green Guide* 121.
3. Canville J., Luu, H., Bassett, L., Driscoll, D., Yuan, C., Chang, J., Ye, X., Calafat, A., Michels, K. (2009). Polycarbonate Bottle Use and Urinary Bisphenol A Concentrations. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Volume 117, Number 9, September 2009, 1368-1372.

4

1. Bottled water: pouring resources down the drain. (N.D.). Bottled water: pouring resources down the drain. Retrieved May 29, 2012, from <http://www.ecomail.com/green-shopping/safewater32.htm>
2. Environmental Issues Committee Jumping on the (Bottle) Ban Wagon! | Climate Justice League. (n.d.). Environmental Issues Committee Jumping on the (Bottle) Ban Wagon! | Climate Justice League. Retrieved from <http://www.climatejusticeleague.org/2011/04/21/environmental-issues-committee-jumping-on-the-bottle-ban-wagon/>

END OF THE PLASTIC ERA



TAKE BACK THE TAP!

Look for these icons on
a map or a refill station
near you!



Brought to you by Lane Honors students: Chris Morris,
Alex Way, Chance Aumuller and Lindy Comrada.