



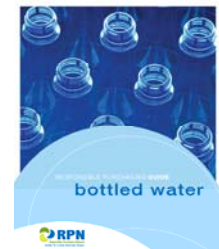
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Mayors Vote to Phase Out Government Use of Bottled Water

The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution this week encouraging mayors to phase out government use of bottled water in favor of clean, affordable municipal water. The resolution was authored by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and sponsored by mayors from 17 major cities.

This resolution comes on the heels of recent industry data showing the first ever dip in US sales of bottled water. The resolution and the sales slump come just months after the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) of the Center for a New American Dream published a Responsible Purchasing Guide for Bottled Water, designed to help public procurement officials save money and reduce waste by eliminating unnecessary bottled water use. Last year, New Dream also got nearly 14,000 individuals to pledge to break the bottled water habit through its Carbon Conscious Consumer campaign.



The US Mayors resolution emphasized the economic and environmental impacts of bottled water, noting that:

- Bottled water often costs 1,000 to 10,000 times more than tap water;
- Up to 40% of bottled water on the market comes from municipal water systems anyway;
- Bottled water often travels many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of massive amounts of fossil fuels, releasing carbon dioxide and pollutants into the atmosphere;
- Plastic water bottles are one of the fastest growing sources of municipal waste; and
- In the U.S. the production of plastic bottles for bottled water currently requires the energy equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil per year – enough to generate fuel for over a million cars for a year.

RPN is offering pro bono assistance to help three public jurisdictions reduce waste, save money and conserve water by eliminating or reducing unnecessary bottled water purchases. **[The deadline to apply is June 30th.](#)**

RPN will also publish **[Think Outside the Bottle: A Guide to Bottled Water Alternatives](#)**, a new and expanded Responsible Purchasing Guide that will provide purchasers with all the information and resources needed to go bottle-less, including:

- Sample policies and specifications from municipalities, organizations, and companies that have already broken the bottled water habit;
- Analysis of the costs, quality, and supply of bottled water alternatives;

- Tips and strategies for moving beyond the bottle.

The guide will be introduced via a free August 26 webcast. Interested parties may sign up now to attend the [Think Outside the Bottle Webcast](#)

About the Center for a New American Dream

The Center for a New American Dream helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice. We work with individuals, institutions, communities, and businesses to conserve natural resources, counter the commercialization of our culture, and promote positive changes in the way goods are produced and consumed. Visit us at www.newdream.org.

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