



**WAIT!** Before you buy bottled water, *think twice...*  
***Drink tap water instead!***

### ***Tap water is SAFER...***

Cornell produces its own drinking water using Fall Creek as a source. The water is treated and regularly tested at the campus Water Filtration Plant. The US federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of tap water than bottled water. Cornell's yearly water quality report is available at <http://energyandsustainability.fs.cornell.edu/util/water/drinking/reports.cfm> .

### ***Tap water is CHEAPER...***

400,000-550,000 single-serving bottles of water are sold on the Cornell campus annually. In addition, approximately 22,000 five-gallon carboy bottles of water are purchased for use in office water coolers. This costs the campus community an estimated \$785,000. The same volume of tap water would have cost about \$920! If you don't like the taste, buy a filter for your tap or a filtering bottle – it will quickly pay for itself.

Did you know that many bottled water companies just fill their plastic bottles with municipal tap water? Check the label!

### ***Tap water is MORE SUSTAINABLE...***

It takes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil to meet America's demand for bottled water each year (Earth Policy Institute). 80% of water bottles consumed in the US end up in a landfill rather than recycling (<http://cdn.front.moveon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/BW1.jpg>).

Public water systems in the United States are facing challenges in providing affordable water for their citizens. When beverage companies take water from municipal or underground sources and charge exorbitant prices for it, they are profiting on water that local people need.

Over the last 40 years, federal funding for public water infrastructure has gone from 70% to less than 5% of the total costs. Those that cannot afford bottled water will be most affected by the results of aging infrastructure. <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/sites/default/files/Getting-States-Off-the-Bottle-2nd-ed.pdf>

In response to these issues, New York State [Executive Order No. 18](#) was issued by Governor David A. Paterson in May 2009. Executive Order No. 18 prohibits expenditures on bottled water using state funds.

*"Taxpayers have spent billions of dollars to ensure that we have clean drinking water supplies. If we are going to make such significant investments, we should reap the benefits and use that water."*

New York Governor David A. Paterson



Free your office, lab, dorm room, or event from bottled water! For more information, contact the Campus Sustainability Office [sustainability@cornell.edu](mailto:sustainability@cornell.edu) or the student Take Back the Tap club [takebackthetap@gmail.com](mailto:takebackthetap@gmail.com) [www.takebackthetapcornell.wordpress.com](http://www.takebackthetapcornell.wordpress.com).

- **Stop buying single-serving bottles; fill a reusable cup, bottle, or pitcher instead.** All CU Dining locations have tap water available for free. All CU buildings have drinking fountains, many with convenient bottle fillers. Water bottles are available for purchase from The Cornell Store and many CU Dining locations.
- **Exchange your office's 5-gallon carboy-style water cooler for one that is plumbed in to the building's tap water supply.** The CU Office for Supply Management Services has awarded a contract to Mister Koffee <http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/supply/supplierlist/beverages/mrkoffee.cfm> to provide this service on campus.
- **Work with your caterer to host bottle free events.** The CU Sustainable Events Planning Guide has checklists and contact information for staff and volunteers that can help you. <http://www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/docs/SustainableEventsPlanningGuide.pdf>