

USING WATER RESPONSIBLY - SUPPORT PACKAGE



Water Bottle Refill Station

Most Canadians are privileged to have reliable drinking water sources, and we don't need to rely on bottled water most of the time. However, Canadians still purchase over 2.4 billion litres of bottled water a year. This bottled water uses a massive amount of energy to extract, filter, package, transport and store. After the water has been drunk there are billions of plastic bottles left for disposal. Some Canadian school boards are implementing a Ban the Bottle Campaign, which encourages everyone to use refillable water bottles and add water bottle refill stations to their schools. The benefits of this Water Bottle Refill Station initiative are numerous, and meanwhile students are getting prepared for a more sustainable and #WasteLess future.

Action Plan

Seek support. Talk to your school administrator to find out if the school and various school board departments will support the installation of water bottle refill stations. These departments will have the details and permission required to move forward with this initiative. Once the details have been finalized the initiative can begin!



Educate. Get teachers and students excited by sharing this support package or the resources below. Each classroom can learn about why using refillable water bottles is a more sustainable option. Invite your Green Schools NS Engagement Officer to do a virtual engagement to help get your school started. If you want to do student-to-student education, check out the great [Green Schools NS - Using Water Responsibly P-2](#) and the grades [6-8](#) slideshows too. You could also show videos such as [Water Bottle Filling Station](#) or the [Story of Bottled Water](#). Ask your Green Schools Engagement Officer for the Calculating Your Water Footprint Support Package or the World Water Day Support Package for more background on this topic.

Fundraise. Ask your school administration and your school board's Operations Department if they have funds to support this initiative. Also ask how other schools in their school board have funded this initiative. Ask your Engagement Officer for information on available grants or how other schools have fundraised (ask your Engagement Officer for the Green Fundraising Support Package). For example, fundraisers could include bottle drives, reusable school water bottle sales, [upcycled water bottle art sale](#), raffle tickets on a green gift basket or a local food sale such as apples. Your school administrator can sometimes match funds raised, too! Request financial support from the school parent group, school advisory council, or organizations or business in the local community that are interested in protecting the environment.

Refill station set up. Make a school-wide announcement when the water bottle refill stations are being installed. Do some education around proper water refill station etiquette. Each classroom can visit the new water bottle refill station to get familiar with how awesome it is! Another idea is to make a video to show each class on how to use the station properly. Encourage everyone to wear blue the first day the water refill stations can be used. Another fun idea is host "[The Great Gulp](#)", everyone gulps tap water together, for example during morning announcements, in an effort to promote and celebrate tap water!

Use it. Spread the word that the new water bottle refill station has been installed. It's time to bring your reusable water bottles to school everyday! Include an announcement on the school website, and in the school newsletter, or make weekly announcements highlighting the initiative:



Example announcement: “(Your school name) is excited to #WasteLess energy and water! We are fundraising for a water bottle refill station. Did you know? It takes three litres of water to produce one litre of bottled water. The energy we waste because of bottled water would be enough to power 190,000 homes. Drinking bottled water is 240 to 10,000 times more expensive than drinking tap water. It is estimated that one disposable plastic water bottle will take over 1,000 years to biodegrade ([Ontario Ecoschools Water Awareness and Action Campaign Kit](#)).”

Example announcement: “Did you know? Add a fun fact! Announce that the water bottle refill station has been installed we have avoided (#) water bottles. So please remember to bring your reusable water bottle every day to #WasteLess energy and water. Thank you from the Earth.”

Water Taste Testing. Are you wondering which water tastes best? Host a blind taste testing with tap water, bottled water and water from the refill station. Make sure all waters used are the same temperature, ask students which one tastes the best, give the option that the students can all taste at the same. Consider doing an event around [World Water Day](#).



Resources

[Green Schools NS Pinterest - Using Water Responsibly](#)

[Green Schools NS Facebook page - search for water bottle refill station green stories](#)

[Green Schools Cape Breton Highlands Academy - Water Bottle Filling Station news story](#)

[National Bottle Water Free Day](#)

[National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)

[Canada Water Week](#)

[Back the Tap Campaign](#)

[Elkay Bottle filling Stations](#)

[Ban the Bottle](#)

[Chris Jordan - Running the Numbers Bottle Picture](#)

[The Tap App - Halifax, CBC story](#)

Videos

[Green School Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Water Bottle Filling Station Video](#)

[Source Water ACAP Cape Breton-From the Source to the Tap](#)

[Tapped the Movie](#)

Books

The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: A Story About Recycling - by Alison Inches

Why Should I Save Water? - by Jen Green



CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Grade 2 Science

Outcome 1: Students will investigate air and water in the environment.

Grade 2 Social Studies

Outcome 3: Students will give examples of how we make decisions as consumers.

Outcome 4: Students will demonstrate an understanding of sustainable development and its importance to communities (local). Indicators: ask questions about sustainable development, and identify a sustainable topic/issue & develop a plan, as a class or in small groups, to support a sustainability issue in the community

