



Take Back the Tap



Today, Chair Cogen and I are proud to announce that Multnomah County will affirm our commitment to environmental responsibility, public health, sound business practices and saving tax dollars by changing our policies related to bottled water. We are asking the employees of Multnomah County to join us in this effort and "Take Back the Tap".

Please join with us to eliminate bottled water in our workplace.

The evidence to support this shift is urgent and compelling:

- People who live in Multnomah County enjoy some of the cleanest and best drinking water in the nation from the Bull Run watershed and other sources.
- Facilities and Property Management staff ensures that every Multnomah County building has safe, drinkable tap water by routinely testing and rapidly responding to complaints and concerns.
- The vast majority (86%) of empty plastic water bottles end up in landfills* in the U.S. instead of being recycled. That's two million tons of plastic!
- Manufacturing America's water bottles consumes 17.6 million barrels of oil each year*.
- The production and transport of bottled water consumes a great deal of energy, pollutes the environment, and contributes to global climate change.
- Bottled water is a far more expensive than tap water.

We're asking you to use a refillable water bottle in place of individual bottles of water or water coolers in your workplace. These refillable bottles come in an array of sizes and styles and cost anywhere between \$5 and \$25.



[Take The Pledge](#)

Visit the website:
www.multco.us/water

Film/Taste Test Events:

Multnomah Building
Aug. 13th - 11:30 - 1:30

Central Library
August 23 - 12:00 - 1:00

Multnomah County East
Date/Time TBD

Lincoln Building
Date/Time TBD

Project Partners:



They'll pay for themselves very quickly.

The water in our buildings is safe to drink. Numerous studies have proven that tap water is just as clean, safe and healthy as bottled water. Tap water also doesn't contain hazardous chemicals like [Bisphenol A](#) (BPA) or [Phthalates](#) that can leach from plastic bottles into water. Bottled water is subject to far less regulation than municipal water sources like Bull Run.

Getting enough water every day is important for your health and we are committed to ensuring access to safe, free tap water for employees to drink. The water in our buildings is safe to drink. We know this because Facilities and Property Management has monitored and ensured water quality in our buildings for years. In coming days, they will post additional signage to indicate where filtered water is available in our buildings, for those who might prefer that to unfiltered tap water (again, both are safe to drink.)

In October, we will ask our colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners to enact a new policy to disallow the use of county funds for bottled water, except in cases of emergency or when no other viable alternative exists. Our Facilities and Property Management staff will post signage where filtered water is available in our workplaces and will respond quickly to issues or questions.

Click [here](#) to learn more about bottled water and to [take a pledge](#) to say you're on board. Watch your email for future updates and information. We're working with [Food and Water Watch](#) to bring you a range of interesting information and activities along the way. Watch for information about taste tests and screenings of the movie [Blue Gold](#).

We look forward to working with Multnomah County employees on this exciting new effort.

Jeff Cogen, Chair
Barbara Willer, District 2 Commissioner

* Source: Food and Water Watch



**MULTNOMAH
COUNTY**

**Facilities and
Property Management**

