



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	11/19/2015
Type of Action:	Sense of the Body
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #27  
2 Ending Bottled Water Sales on Cornell Campus

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to end the purchase, sale, and distribution of bottled water on  
5 Cornell University campus and sanctioned events.

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7 Sponsored by: Emma Johnston '16  
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9 **Whereas**, the Cornell Climate Action Plan, which seeks to “provide a model for solutions that will engage,  
10 educate, and inspire our state, nation, and our world,” identifies energy conservation as one of the  
11 five recommended action areas and promotes “active leadership” and “campus engagement from  
12 faculty, staff, students, and alumni  
13

14 **Whereas**, President Garrett said that she and campus leaders “agree that moving toward greater sustainability  
15 is a priority,” emphasizing the necessity of Cornell’s campus to act as a living laboratory for  
16 sustainability  
17

18 **Whereas**, 870+ Cornell students, faculty, alumni, and staff have signed a petition in support of ending  
19 bottled water sales on campus  
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21 **Whereas**, all incoming students receive free reusable water bottles  
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23 **Whereas**, Cornell has installed more bottle filling stations designed for reusable water bottles since 2010  
24

25 **Whereas**, Cornell’s design standards for new buildings and renovations now include bottle filling stations  
26

27 **Whereas**, Cornell Water Filtration Plant filters Cornell’s tap water, which consistently exceeds EPA standards  
28

29 **Whereas**, public tap water is safe and significantly more affordable, accessible, and environmentally  
30 sustainable than bottled water  
31

32 **Whereas**, Cornell annually sells 350,000-400,000 single-serving water bottles and purchases more than 30,000  
33 five-gallon carboy water bottles for campus water coolers  
34

35 **Whereas**, the Cornell community spends an estimated \$640,000 on bottled water per year, but the same  
36 volume of tap water would cost \$1,000  
37

38 **Whereas**, Cornell’s annual consumption of bottled water causes nearly 115,000 kg of CO2 emissions, which  
39 is equivalent to 265 barrels of oil  
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41 **Whereas**, plastic water bottles enter Cornell’s waste stream which increases campus’ greenhouse gas  
42 emissions as well as contributes to the larger landfill crisis  
43

44 **Whereas**, over 90 Colleges and Universities have banned or are restricting the use of bottled water on their  
45 campuses, including Harvard University and Brown University  
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47 **Whereas**, Cornell has an opportunity to be a leader in environmental stewardship  
48

- 49 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the University take concrete steps to  
50 slowly end the purchase, sale, and distribution of bottled water on campus and at University  
51 sanctioned events, specifically refusing to sell bottled water through Cornell Dining and vending  
52 machines, and including a significant tax-based phase-out for at least one year, and a strategic  
53 marketing campaign of the tax and the bottle phase-out  
54
- 55 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that President Garret issue a directive to all  
56 departments, facilities, and functions discouraging the purchase of bottled water for their offices or  
57 events  
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- 59 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the University encourage the use of and,  
60 where possible, give out reusable bottles at University sanctioned events and functions for free  
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- 62 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the University continue investing in  
63 drinking fountain infrastructure by increasing the number of and, where possible, retrofitting  
64 drinking fountains on campus with bottle filling stations for reusable water bottles  
65
- 66 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends pairing the campus phase-out of bottled  
67 water with educational campaigns to aid the transition and bring awareness to Cornell's contribution  
68 to global waste streams  
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- 70 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recognizes the importance of sustainability and authorize,  
71 endorse and facilitate efforts to educate, via various media, the University community regarding the  
72 value and benefits of tap water  
73
- 74 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends reviewing current and negotiating future  
75 beverage contracts  
76
- 77 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the President's Sustainable Campus  
78 Committee (PSCC) includes a timeline of specific measures pertaining to decreasing the consumption  
79 of bottled water into its "annual progress report on Cornell's campus sustainability initiatives and  
80 commitments" as part of the Climate Action Plan  
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82 Respectfully Submitted,

83  
84 Emily Dong '18

85 Chair of Environmental Policy and Planning Commission, Student Assembly

86  
87 Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)

88  
89 Take Back the Tap

90  
91 KyotoNOW!

92  
93 Society for Natural Resources Conservation (SNRC)

94  
95 *(Reviewed by: Environmental Policy and Planning Committee, 14-0-0, 11/16/15)*