GREEN COMMITTEE

TURN ON THE FAUCET AND REDUCE BOTTLED WATER WASTE

FACT: The 8 glasses of water you're supposed to drink daily for good health will cost you $0.00135 a day, or $0.049 cents a year, if you take the water from the NYC tap in your kitchen. Or, if you buy and drink water from a plastic bottle, you can spend $1,400.00/year or 2900 times as much. (NYTimes, July 15, 2007)

FACT: NYC officials say that NYC water is the envy of municipalities throughout the world, using little or no filtration, saving energy and avoiding chemicals, an example of a major benefit with very little environmental impact. (NYTimes, July 15, 2007)

FACT: Nonetheless, the popularity of bottled water is growing daily, yearly, at the expense of every other beverage category except sports drinks, including coffee, milk and it is closing in on beer. (NYTimes, July 15, 2007)

FACT: In the United States, the two most popular brands of bottled water, Coke's Dasani and Pepsi's Aquafina with 24% of the market, are actually bottled, purified municipal water. (Fishman, Charles, "Message in a Bottle", Fast Company Magazine, July 2007)

FACT: In the United States, Americans send 38 million water bottles a year to the landfills Considering the !.5 million barrels of oil needed to make those bottles, the environmental impact of plastic bottle waste is truly staggering. (Fishman, Charles, "Message in a Bottle", Fast Company Magazine, July 2007; Arnold, E. And Larsen, J., "Bottled Water, Pouring Resources Down the Drain:, Earth Policy Institute, 28 June 2007)

FACT: A survey of 20 litter sites in New York State taken in October and November, 2007 by the New York Public Interest Research Group showed that beverage containers of all kinds accounted for 35% of the volume of litter at these sites. Even more interesting, of the 35% of plastic bottle litter, 61% was composed of non-deposit bottles. (NYPIRG report, February 2008)

WHAT CAN I DO?

Kick the disposable bottle habit. Need a bottle of water in your backpack or your pocket? Buy a reusable bottle and refill it, as needed.

Go to FILTERFORGOOD.COM: **If you are concerned about drinking tap water, go to FILTERFORGOOD.COM and learn about a filtration and reusable bottle system. Average yearly cost: $70. Take the pledge: *No More Plastic Water Bottles.***

Support NYPIRG efforts to amend the 1982 NYS Returnable Container Act ("the bottle bill) to place a 5¢ deposit on non-carbonated beverage containers, such as water bottles.

Ask the NYC Dept. Of Parks and Recreation to put bottle containers in the city parks.

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