



CASE STUDY

Bottled Water

SNAPSHOT

Who: Public Safety

What: Replace bottled water with filtered water

Why: Save money, water, waste, and energy.

When: Fall 2009

RESOURCES

Spectrum Water Filter

GreenStripe Cold Cups from Eco-Products

GREEN CRED

LEED: O+M MR CR7

STARS: OP CR17

BPI certified: compostable



ACTIONS

MANDATE

In 2009, AU's Office of Public Safety decided to cease the purchase and delivery of water in plastic containers and to eliminate petro-based plastic cold cups.

BUY LESS

The office eliminated the purchase of 504 five gallon water carboys by installing a Spectrum inline water filtration system.

BUY BETTER

Instead of petroleum-derived plastic cups, Public Safety now uses plastic cups made from corn starch, certified by BPI as compostable.

BREAK BARRIERS

Bottled water is sometimes perceived as better looking, smelling, and tasting, as well as safer, than tap water. But the fact is nearly half of bottled water is simply bottled tap water. A double filtration system addresses these safety and aesthetic concerns with tap water. The filtered water system has received positive feedback from Public Safety employees for its taste and drinkability.

KEEP GETTING BETTER

Next, the department plans to eliminate Styrofoam hot beverage cups by distributing reusable, recycled-plastic mugs to every employee.

BENEFITS

SOCIETY

Bottled water is often perceived as being safer than tap water. But according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), "22% of tested bottled water brands contained chemical contaminants at levels above strict state health limits." While tap water is required to be tested for e.coli and other contaminants, bottled water typically escapes government testing. Tap water also gets a bad rep for smell and color. As a result of these safety and aesthetic perceptions, many people have come to expect bottled or filtered water. By installing a tap water filter, Public Safety is providing clean, safe, aesthetically appealing beverage water as a new employee benefit.

ENVIRONMENT

Bottled water has many hidden environmental costs. Average impacts from consuming 100 single-serve water bottles:

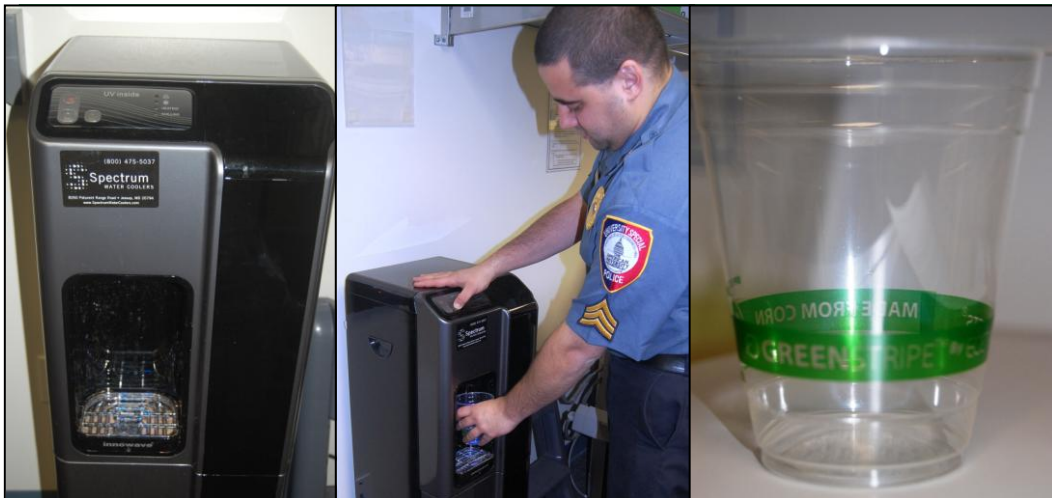
Water consumed.....	16 gallons
Water used in production.....	31 gallons
Energy used in manufacturing.....	10 mega joules
Oil used to produce plastic bottles.....	2 gallons
CO ₂ e emitted by bottle production.....	19 pounds

In addition to saving the above, the inline filter also:

- ▶ Avoids emissions from water delivery trucks
- ▶ Reduces plastic bottle waste
- ▶ Reduces Styrofoam cup waste

ECONOMY

On average, the inline water filter saves \$81.68 per month compared to bottled water jugs.



From left to right
Spectrum water filter provides clean, cool water. Sergeant Gregory Solomon dispenses water from the Spectrum cooler. GreenStripe cups from Eco-Products, made from plant-based compostable materials.