

1 point

FS Credit 4.4**Reusable & Non-Reusable Products:
Bottled Water Elimination & Public Drinking Water Access****Intent**

Support environmental stewardship of virgin resources by purchasing reusable and non-reusable products.

Health Issues

Water is essential to life. As such, access to water is a human right. Increasingly, commercial bottled water sales are supplanting public access to public water supplies, while 40% of commercially sold bottled water in the U.S. and Canada is derived from municipal tap water. Bottled water travels many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of fossil fuels during production and through transport and contributing to global greenhouse gases and other emissions. Bottled water also contributes to the billions of plastic bottles deposited annually in landfills and to the plastic contamination of the marine environment. Bottled water also erodes support for public water supply and infrastructure and may restrict drinking water access in some areas from populations with reduced economic means.

Credit Goals

- Eliminate single-use bottled water sales throughout the facility including vending/meetings and conferences.
- In cafeteria provide easy access to water derived from local public water supply and through signage clearly indicate its availability.
- In cafeteria provide reusable water containers (for purchase or free) and through signage or shelf space clearly indicate their availability.
- In vending areas and break rooms provide clear signage indicating nearest local publicly accessible water fountain.

FS Credit 4.4 continued

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Suggested Documentation

- ❑ Document the facility's purchasing policy to eliminate single-use bottled water sales throughout facility including vending/meetings and conferences.
- ❑ Demonstrate through documentation such as photographs and purchasing/sales records that the cafeteria provides easy access to water derived from local public water supply, availability of reusable water containers, and appropriate signage in the cafeteria and next to vending machines in accordance with Credit Goals.

Reference Standards

There is no reference standard for this credit.

Potential Technologies & Strategies

- **Credit Synergies:** *Coordinate implementation of this credit with GGHC IO Prerequisite 1: Integrated Operations & Maintenance Process; GGHC WM Prerequisite 1: Waste Management Plan; GGHC WM Prerequisite 2: Waste Generation Profile and Measurement; GGHC ES Credit 1.1-1.2: Environmentally Preferable Cleaning: Policy Development; GGHC ES Credit 1.3-1.5: Environmentally Preferable Cleaning: Sustainable Cleaning Products and Materials; GGHC ES Credit 3: Indoor Integrated Pest Management; GGHC FS Credit 1: Sustainable Food Policy and Plan; GGHC FS Credit 2: Sustainable Food Education and Promotion; GGHC FS Credit 3: Local, Sustainably Produced Food Purchasing; GGHC FS Credit 5: Hospital Supported Agriculture: Food and Farm Linkages; GGHC FS Credit 6.1: Food Donation and Composting; GGHC FS Credit 6.2: Food Services Recycling; GGHC FS Credit 7: Food Vendors; GGHC FS Credit 8: Chemical Management for Food Services.*
- For meetings, provide pitchers and reusable glasses.
- At nursing stations provide pitchers or consider installation of water filters at taps in nursing stations.
- In the cafeteria, provide easily accessed and publicly identified public water source.
- Install water fountains throughout the facility.
- Sign the Think Outside the Bottle Institutional Pledge <http://www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org>

Resources

Think Outside the Bottle Campaign, <http://www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org>

Blue Ocean Society resources on Marine Plastic <http://www.blueoceansociety.org/plastics.htm>

Food and Water Watch <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/bottled>