

Water Bottle Fact Sheet



Steps in the Life Cycle of a Water Bottle

Step 1: Oil Extraction

17 million barrels of oil are used in the production of water bottles annually



Step 2: Oil transported to an oil refinery

17 million barrels of oil could fuel 1 million cars for an entire year



Created by Anne Marie Raymondi

Sustainability Science for Sustainable Schools, a National Science Foundation funded program

Step 3:
Oil processing
Bottling water created more than 2.5 million tons of CO₂ in 2006



Step 4: Oil processed at a chemical plant to produce plastic
Plastic water bottles heated in the sun can leach chemicals into the water



Step 5: Plastic bottle production and bottling
30% of all bottled water is taken from tap water sources



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Step 6: Transport to store

In contrast to tap water, which is distributed through energy-efficient infrastructure, transporting bottled water involves burning fossil fuels.



Step 7: Consumer purchase

The price of bottled water is up to 1,000 times the cost of tap water



Step 8: consumption

The average american consumes 167 bottles of water a year, which amounts to 28 billion bottles of water consumed in America per year!



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Step 9: bottle discarded as waste
Only 1 in 5 water bottles are recycled.



Step 10: Trash pickup and transport to landfill
The other 4 contribute to 3 billion pounds of waste a year.



Step 11: Landfill
Plastic bottles take 700-1000 years to start decomposing.



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