

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is it important to move away from single-use plastic water bottles?

A: This reduces carbon emissions. In 2006, the energy used to make the 900,000 tons of PET (most common container for bottled water) consumed in the United States is equivalent to 17 million barrels of oil. That comes out to 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, or approximately the same as 400,000 cars produce in a year (1).

Q: Is the tap water safe to drink?

A: Yes, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) tests the water annually to ensure it is safe to drink. About 44% of bottled water actually comes from the same local resources as tap water, but bottled water is less regulated by the FDA compared to tap (1).

Q: Is it practical to move away from single-use plastics water bottles on campus?

A: Yes! The UCLA Center for the Study of Women has gone green since November 2010. Learn more about their Green Policy at <https://csw.ucla.edu/about/green-policy/>. As of July 2020, UCLA has also officially banned the purchase of single-use plastics such as bottles, bags, and foodservice items.

Q: How can I reduce the consumption of single-use water bottles in my office/department?

A: There are a variety of options to help departments move away from single-use water bottles. For more information, please review our Sustainable Water Dispensing Charts at (add link)

Q: What if I personally want to use a reusable water bottle, where can I refill it on campus?

A: You can find a map of all the refillable stations at <https://map.ucla.edu/?f=12>. If a refillable station is not available nearby, you can work with your department/office to switch to one of our sustainable water dispensing options.

Q: How much will removing plastic water bottles really make a difference?

A: Removing plastic bottles drastically reduces plastic pollution and carbon emissions. There is significantly less waste and limiting the transportation and idling of delivery trucks also improves air quality and reduces traffic congestion around campus.

Q: Are reusable water bottles and water dispensing stations sanitary?

A: Yes, as long as you wash the bottle and straws regularly! Bottles can be washed with soap and water to eliminate bacteria. Water dispensing stations are designed with antimicrobial materials and some have motion sensors so you never need to touch the station to refill your bottle.

Q: I already use a reusable water bottle, can I still help reduce plastic consumption?

A: Yes! Encourage others to use reusable water bottles as well. Share the benefits of plastic reduction with your friends and work with your department to go bottle-less with one of the sustainable water dispensing options.

1. <https://sustainability.umd.edu/get-involved/staff/terps-heart-tap/bottled-water-facts-did-you-know#fn9>