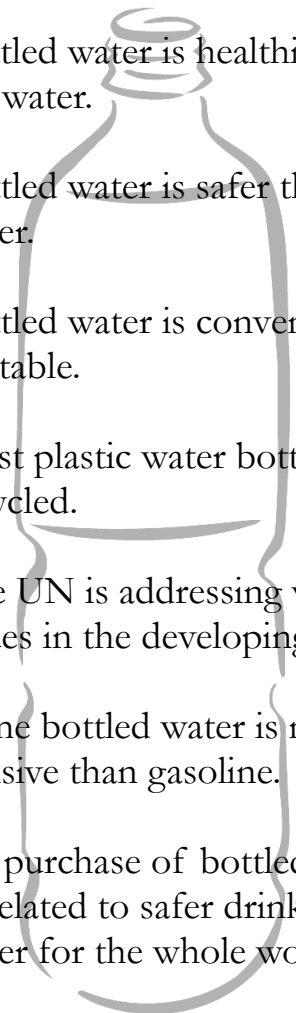


Bottled Water Quiz

True or False?

1. Bottled water is healthier than tap water.
2. Bottled water is safer than tap water.
3. Bottled water is convenient and portable.
4. Most plastic water bottles are recycled.
5. The UN is addressing water issues in the developing world.
6. Some bottled water is more expensive than gasoline.
7. My purchase of bottled water is unrelated to safer drinking water for the whole world.



Answers on the reverse side

Presbyterians for Earth Care

is a nationwide network that cares for God's Creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring.

www.presbyearthcare.org

What You Can Do

- Sign the Bottled Water Pledge and invite others to sign.
- Drink water from a reusable bottle, travel mug or canteen.
- Encourage your church to provide water pitchers rather than individual bottles at meetings & events.
- Engage in water issues through education, worship, advocacy (resources below), and service.
- Encourage municipal officials to keep your water utility in public control.
- Insist on safe standards and affordable access for all.
- Conserve water (fix leaky faucets, use low-flow showerheads, etc).

Further Resources

For Worship, Education and Advocacy

www.pcusa.org/environment

www.pcusa.org/oghs

www.pcusa.org/trade/thirst

www.pcusa.org/peacemaking

www.presbyearthcare.org

www.livingwatersfortheworld.org

www.churchworldservice.org

www.ncccojustice.org

www.water.oikoumene.org

H₂O:

How To Overcome The Bottled Water Habit



Environmental Ministries

Created by Presbyterians for Earth Care and co-sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Environmental Ministries, Peacemaking and Hunger Programs, and by Living Waters for the World

*To the thirsty, I will give water as a gift
from the spring of life.
Revelation 21:6*

Answers

Bottled Water Quiz

(see reverse)

- 1. False.** There is often no difference. Little is known about health risks of water stored in disposable plastic (PET) bottles or effects of additives over long periods at high temperatures.*
- 2. False.** The US EPA sets more stringent standards for tap water than the FDA does for bottled beverages. Roughly 40% of bottled water is actually tap water.*
- 3. True.** But using a refillable bottle is just as convenient and less expensive.
- 4. False.** According to the Container Recycling Institute, only 14% of PET bottles are recycled. The rest end up in landfills or as litter. Millions of barrels of oil are required each year to produce and transport them.
- 5. True.** The UN adopted a resolution in 2003 calling this the “Decade for Water.” The Millennium Development Goals also have an objective to halve the number of people who lack reliable and safe drinking water by 2015.
- 6. True.** Often selling for up to \$2.50 a liter (which translates to \$10 a gallon), bottled water is more expensive than gasoline.
- 7. False.** The UN estimates that if the world took half of what it now spends on bottled water (\$100 billion per year) and invested it in water infrastructure and treatment, everyone in the world could have access to clean drinking water.

**In emergency and special health circumstances, bottled water may be the only safe water available.*

Do you know what your **water footprint** includes and how big it is? Find out at
www.h2oconserve.org

Bottled Water Pledge



I pledge to avoid use of disposable plastic water bottles.



I pledge to drink from a reusable container.



I pledge to ask my church and/or presbytery to eliminate bottled water from church and/or presbytery events.



I pledge to learn more about local and global water concerns.

To sign this pledge, go to

www.presbyearthcare.org

Why This Campaign?

At PEC’s *Sharing the Waters of Life* conference, we were challenged to learn about our local watersheds and global water concerns.

Avoiding bottled water is one way we can take better care of water resources, locally and globally. Water bottles are made from oil, which takes energy to manufacture. Furthermore, transporting bottled water involves greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Most plastic water bottles are not recycled. In this campaign we stand for public control of local water and a lower carbon footprint from water use and against waste, unnecessary production of plastics, and huge profits made from bottled water production and consumption.

What the Bible Teaches:

Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? **Ezekiel 34:18**

Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. **Matthew 25:34-35**

What the Church Teaches:

Humans are making excessive demands upon, and doing reckless damage to, the lakes and streams, the ground water, and even the oceans...

Meanwhile, most Third World nations cannot afford the systems that would provide safe drinking water...

[H]uman beings [must] practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship, after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus.

“Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice” General Assembly 1990

The 218th General Assembly in 2008 adopted overture 09-02 from Heartland Presbytery that requested “congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly Styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable bags for packing items purchased in the commercial market, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles. Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.”

We cannot make God’s Creation a wasteland of things created, used, and then discarded and still expect people or the rest of Creation to prosper. By seeking safer and more sustainable alternatives, all of us and particularly future generations can live a more faithful and just life.

(Background to item 09-02)