

June 16, 2008

In support of Gonzaga University's "Lug a Jug" campaign, please refer to the following information about the usage of bottled water:

- Making and transporting bottles to meet America's yearly demand for bottled water uses more than **50 million barrels of oil** equivalent - enough to run **3 million cars for a year**.
- Manufacturing plastic bottles annually produces more than **2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide** and uses *three times the amount of water* in the bottles.
- The energy America wastes using bottled water could power **190,000 homes annually**.
- Last year, the average American used 167 disposable water bottles, but only recycled 38.
- Americans used about 50 billion plastic water bottles last year. However, the U.S.'s recycling rate for plastic is only 23 percent, which means **38 billion water bottles** - more than **\$1 billion worth of plastic** - are **wasted** each year.
- In the United States, 24 percent of bottled water sold is either Pepsi's Aquafina (13 percent of the market) or Coke's Dasani (11 percent of the market). Both brands are **bottled, purified municipal (tap) water**.
- In the U.S., public water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires multiple daily tests for bacteria and makes results available to the public. The Food and Drug Administration, which regulates bottled water, only requires weekly testing and does not share its findings with the EPA or the public.
- It is estimated that worldwide, \$100 billion is spent annually on bottled water.
- Bottled water costs about 5 cents an ounce, while tap water costs mere pennies per gallon.

Sources: "Bottled Water and Energy: Getting to 17 Million Barrels." Pacific Institute. December 2007.

"Not Disposable Anymore." P.O.V.'s Borders. 2004. PBS

Fishman, Charles. "Message in a Bottle." Fast Company Magazine July 2007: 110.

Burros, Marian. "Fighting the Tide, a Few Restaurants Tilt to Tap Water." The New York Times [New York City, NY] 30 May 2007: Section F, Page 1