

The truth about drinking water: taps, bottles and dispensers



David Sporn

Water, the primary element of everyone's good health, covers 70% of Earth, but less than 1% of it is fresh. The Ralph Nader Research Group's 2005 report found 2,100 cancer causing chemicals in our drinking water.

Reasonable concerns over water safety led to thriving industries in bottling, filtering and dispensers, all promising water purer than free tap water. But is packaged water really any safer?

The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the highly esteemed environmental action group, ran a four-year study of the bottled water industry, finding massive fraud in water labeling and inadequate regulations.

Many bottling companies' labels suggest their water comes from sparkling lakes. But NRDC's investigation found that one such company bottled its water from a well by a hazardous waste dump, despite repeated water contamination. Yet, the FDA exempted up to 70% of all U.S. bottled water from FDA standards.

On the bright side, the NDRC found bottled water to be as good as tap water. But with consumers spending 10,000 times more money on bottles than taps, the NRDC notes that bottled water is not necessarily any better regulated, purer, or safer than tap water.

A California Dept. of Conservation's 2003 report estimated a billion water bottles discarded each year state-wide. Recycling would provide enough raw material to make millions of products. But most bottles end up in landfills and incinerators, damaging air quality and the ozone layer.

The Nader Group recommends the BelKraft water purifiers. The NRDC recommends consumers learn more about the local contaminants in their water, as instructed on its website. Consumers can find the specific filter for the chemicals threatening the local water. Women who are pregnant, intending to get pregnant or with young children are especially advised to do this.

European-based Waterlogic International Limited is a leading manufacturer of top quality point-of-use water dispensers and purifying systems, called "Innowave." Distributed in 50 countries, Innowave's U.S. distributor is Leslie WaterWorks, Inc. Company president Jack Cohen guarantees the freshest, safest drinking water available, based on Innowave's unique 3-stage filtration, reverse osmosis and patented In-Tank UV Systems for highly hygienic drinking water. Its acquired microbial solution provides outstandingly hygienic water standards.

Meanwhile, Innowave's environmentally friendly "Bottle-Less" systems require no plastic bottles, omitting waste and pollution.

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Bosco of JLL appointed to N.Y.C. Buildings Sustainable Board



Michael Bosco

NEW YORK, NY According to Jones Lang LaSalle, Michael Bosco has been appointed to serve a one-year term as a member of the N.Y.C. Buildings Sustainability Board. He serves as portfolio energy manager with the company's Energy and Sustainability Services (ESS) group.

The Buildings Sustainability Board, a division of the N.Y.C. Department of Buildings, promotes the use of renewable energy in the city and encourages the use of technologies that leave a minimal footprint on the environment. The 10-member board reviews and evaluates new green technologies that have not been addressed in the city's construction code and makes technical recommendations for their application to current codes and regulations. Board members must be experts with a background in engineering, architecture, green development, or green design and technology, and each serves a one-year term on the BSB.

Bosco has 11 years of experience advising businesses and government agencies on engineering and energy management issues and projects. He is responsible for devising and implementing energy management strategies for Jones Lang LaSalle's clients throughout the Northeast. Bosco directs the procurement of electric and natural gas commodities, identifies and implements new technologies and coordinates demand-side projects for client portfolios.

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Consolidated Carpet installs solar panels

CARLSTADT, NJ According to Consolidated Carpet, the installation of a Solar Photovoltaic System at their warehouse and office location has been completed, furthering the organization's goal of increasing sustainable energy practices.

The system will be affixed to the roof of their 100,000 s/f warehouse. The newly updated roof, consisting of white thermoplastic (TPO), will also aid in the reduction of energy usage by virtue of its high reflectivity which reduces HVAC requirements. The solar array will feature traditional hard panel photovoltaic cells. Consolidated anticipates that over 90% of the energy used in the warehouse and office will be supplied by the renewable energy generated by the solar panels. Construction of the solar panel system is set to begin in mid-November and will be completed by the end of December.

In addition to the solar panel installation and roof replacement, Consolidated is installing new energy efficient lighting fixtures in the warehouse with motion sensors to turn lights off when they are not needed. In the first year alone, emissions reductions will amount to 317,930 kWh, equivalent to 466 barrels of oil or the amount saved by keeping 44 cars off of the road for the year.