

## Tap in to big savings by switching from bottled water

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Gasoline isn't the only liquid draining New Yorkers' budgets - water can cost plenty for those who insist on drinking the bottled variety.

Last year, U.S. consumers purchased \$16.8 billion of bottled water. The cost of drinking the recommended 64 ounces of water a day from bottles could total thousands of dollars for one person. By contrast, drinking a healthy supply from the tap costs just 51 cents a year, according to [The Associated Press](#).

"In [New York City](#), the water is the best," said [Andre Aubry](#), a 61-year-old construction worker from [Bedford Park](#) in the [Bronx](#). "I'm not going to pay anything for water."

Aubry, who fills up a cooler every night from the tap, said there's another good reason to avoid drinking from plastic bottles.

"All bottled water is doing is creating more garbage," he said.

Environmentalists have railed against bottled water for years based on the estimated 17 million barrels of oil used every year to make the bottles, and the fact that they don't break down in landfills. Other efforts such as the Tapping Project and Think Outside the Bottle have urged Americans to choose reusable containers.

In the city, [Mayor Bloomberg](#) is an ardent advocate of tap water, drinking it at home and in restaurants. This weekend, Bloomberg will co-sponsor a resolution in [Miami](#) at the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) to prohibit city spending on bottled water.

The City Council has stopped buying bottled water, joining 30 other cities nationwide. Instead, it has begun to provide water coolers that use filtered tap water. Last year, the Council's downtown offices went through 6,000 bottles of water.

Still, some say bottled water is all they drink.

"All that's in the fridge is bottled water," said [Joseph Acquah](#) of [Flatbush](#), [Brooklyn](#).



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Drinking water from the tap costs pennies a year vs. thousands for the bottled variety.