Bottled Water

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: SU Development
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This Students’ Union notes that 40% of bottled water comes from taps, but costs about 500 times more and producing a bottle uses up to seven times the amount of water it will eventually contain.

This Students’ Union Believes:
1. Many students spend a lot of money on water which should be more freely obtainable.
2. The University of Sheffield, a leading institution, should lead the way in environmental sustainability.
3. The Students’ Union should be active in assisting the global reduction of consumption necessary to avoid irreversible climate change.

This Union Resolves:
1. To continue to ban the sale of bottled water and ensure that reusable bottles are easily available throughout the building.
2. To ensure the maintenance of existing fountains so that they continue to be fit for purpose and that members are aware of where fountains are located.
3. To make students aware of the environmental and economic impacts of bottled water.
4. To lobby the University to replace bottled water sold in its outlets with long lasting, affordable and reusable bottles as well as ensuring adequate provision of water fountains across campus.
5. To work with Commercial Services to provide alternatives to buying bottled drinks.

POLICY HISTORY:

The original policy was passed by Referendum in March 2011 (3325 votes for; 2320 against; 411 abstentions) and renewed by SU Council for one year in October 2013. This new policy was agreed by referendum in October 2014.

This policy was renewed in November 2017 for 12 months with a view to bringing revised policy in this academic year which includes more elements of zero waste and the #reusablerevolution campaign.