

NYU SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE / 2129981073

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first newsletter for NYU Sustainability Advocates. In each newsletter, we will highlight topics and projects for Advocates around a central sustainability theme. The information below will provide a launching point for new projects in your workplace.

This time, we will focus on water sustainability. You will find facts and tips to help you make your office more water-friendly. However, these tips certainly aren't the only things you can do. Your creativity is encouraged!



NYU SUSTAINABILITY  
ADVOCATE PROGRAM

## SOME FACTS ABOUT WATER

### New York Water

In 2006, New York City consumed 1068.7 million gallons per day. That's a per capita use of 133.5 gallons per day. While those numbers seem gigantic, they actually represent a continual decline in annual per capita water usage from the 1980's.

Source:

[http://nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking\\_water/droughthist.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/droughthist.shtml)

### NYU water

Though NYU has not previously tracked total water consumption, we estimate that NYU uses about 400 million gallons per year, or 1 million gallons per day!



## OFFICE CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

**Report leaks.** Be diligent about checking for and reporting leaks in bathrooms and other facilities. To report a leak or other water problem, fill out a work request form here:

<http://www.nyu.edu/fcm/workrequestform.htm>

Let us know if you need help.

Advocate for a **Point-of-Use (POU)** water cooler instead of a bottled water cooler. Currently, several NYU offices are using Watermatic water coolers, which filter and purify NYC tap as a replacement for expensive bottled water. **This is probably the biggest way to positively impact water sustainability in your workplace.** POU water coolers reduce waste by eliminating the heavy plastic jugs that standard water coolers use. You can visit the Watermatic website at <http://www.watermaticcoolers.com/index.php>.

For a less expensive, under-counter alternative, try PureEarth at [http://www.pureearth.com/water\\_filters.html#UC](http://www.pureearth.com/water_filters.html#UC).

If your office is interested in this, please contact the Sustainability Office or **Yvonne Yanes** in the Purchasing Department at [yvonne.yanes@nyu.edu](mailto:yvonne.yanes@nyu.edu) or (212) 998-1352.

**Drink tap water.** Though your office may supply water from a water cooler or bottled spigot, the best way to cut down on waste associated with water is to drink right from the tap.

This 1999 report from the National Resources Defense Council (*[Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?](#)* at [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/nbw.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/nbw.asp)) elucidates some of the factors at play in Americans' decisions between tap and bottled water. The NRDC found that regulations for bottled water are far more lax than those for tap, a common misconception among those who tout the health benefits of bottled water.

If you haven't already, **consider purchasing a refillable water bottle** to make drinking tap water easier. We recommend stainless steel bottles, which won't leach harmful chemicals if heated or after long use.

**Conserving electricity saves water.** Electricity production is responsible for almost half of all fresh water withdrawal in the United States. This water is used for cooling in power plants and either evaporates in a cooling tower or is fed back into the body of water. Millions of fish and other fauna are killed during the intake of the water. The 'waste' water is clean but several degrees warmer. This seriously impacts local ecosystems.

**For more information on reducing energy consumption at NYU, please refer to the Advocate Handbook.**

\*Thanks to Tufts University Eco-Reps Program manual for valuable sources and information

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE  
NEW SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE  
THAT WILL LAUNCH NEXT WEEK!  
THE IMPROVED SITE WILL  
INCLUDE AN **ADVOCATE PORTAL**  
WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS THE  
LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES.\*

740 BROADWAY  
6TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10001

PHONE:  
2129981073

E-MAIL:  
JEREMY.FRIEDMAN@NYU.EDU  
CECIL@NYU.EDU  
KF633@NYU.EDU  
EVRIM@NYU.EDU

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[HTTP://WWW.NYU.  
EDU/SUSTAINABILITY](http://www.nyu.edu/sustainability)

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## ADVOCATE TIPS AND FAQ

We're hoping to build and compile Advocate resources based on tips, ideas and data from you. In other words, it is our hope that Advocate participation will feed the store of information that we can offer at advocate trainings and in publications. We need your help to assemble the contents for the newsletter. If you come across something in your experience that you'd like to share with the rest of the community, please email us at [advocates-help@nyu.edu](mailto:advocates-help@nyu.edu).

### ECO-FRIENDLY EMAIL SIGNATURES

Advocate **Nadine Rached** sent this tip. She suggests that Advocates and others change their Email signatures as an excellent way to raise awareness and get people thinking about sustainability in the workplace.

To configure your email signature in **Microsoft Outlook**:

Tab: Tools, Options

Tab: Mail Format

-Signatures

-Edit

-Advanced Edit

-Yes (Launch)

-Copy (🌱 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.) Or another eco-message you choose.

-Click Save

-Ok

-Ok

-Ok

Close/Open Outlook, the comment should follow your signature.

For **Thunderbird** instructions, look here: <http://www.tech-evangelist.com/2007/10/14/mozilla-thunderbird-signature/>

For **Eudora** instructions, look here:

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2071574\\_make-email-signature-eudora.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2071574_make-email-signature-eudora.html)

### ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: OWEN MOORE

As Director of Dining Services, Advocate Owen Moore is looking for ways in which his division can promote and implement sustainable practices. Among several other sustainability-oriented projects, Dining Services is replacing traditional plastic to-go boxes in dining halls with a biodegradable alternative. Under Mr. Moore, Dining Services is also purchasing all seafood from vendors approved by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program List to ensure support to vendors with safe and sustainable practices. Mr. Moore is engaging Dining and Campus Services in researching best sustainable practices of other universities, and creating cost-effective alternatives to the status quo. Great work!

\*\*Want to be featured in the next newsletter? Let us know what you're up to! Email [advocates-help@nyu.edu](mailto:advocates-help@nyu.edu)