

August 3, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:**

**FROM:** Scott Lupin  
Director, Office of Sustainability

**RE: Water Filling Station Workgroup**

In spring 2011, an undergraduate student proposal was presented to the University Sustainability Council (Council) that sought to reduce the consumption of bottled water on campus. The Council recognized the many issues surrounding bottled water and established a Bottled Water Workgroup to review the matter. This Workgroup consisted of key stakeholders from several campus units and student representatives.

During the spring 2012 semester, the Council reviewed recommendations prepared by the Bottled Water Workgroup. After much deliberation, the Council agreed to four recommendations that include:

1. Forming a Water Filling Station Workgroup that will research, evaluate and make recommendations on the retrofitting of filling stations on campus.
2. Developing an education and outreach campaign for drinking water on campus.
3. Encouraging further evaluation of the use of reusable bottles and containers at athletic events.
4. Reducing bottled water offerings at catered events.

The Council has asked that the Office of Sustainability establish the Water Filling Station Workgroup to begin meeting in September. I have asked Aynsley Toews, who previously served on the Bottled Water Work Group, to serve as Chair. As we know, some campus units have already retrofitted water filling stations. It is the Council's desire that a coordinated plan be developed to guide this effort and that there be consistency in terms of hardware, maintenance, monitoring and signage. As a result, the focus of the Water Filling Station Workgroup is to develop the proposed retrofit plan with timelines and a priorities while weighing benefits, feasibility, equipment, costs and maintenance issues. Furthermore, the plan should include a limited sampling methodology to ensure filters are properly maintained.

You have been previously contacted about your participation on the Water Filling Station Workgroup and I thank you for agreeing to provide your time and expertise. I have attached a copy of the Council's May 2012 meeting minutes as background information and a list of the Workgroup members.

Our intent is to begin meeting in September with the goal of presenting recommendations to the Council by February 2013. I expect the meetings will occur once per month, but this will be a topic for discussion at the first meeting.

Thank you for your interest in campus sustainability.

Cc: Aynsley Toews – Office of Sustainability