



CENTRAL Campaign Headquarters
10 Milk Street, Suite 610
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: 617.695.2525
Fax: 617.695.2626

OFFICES International Policy
Washington, DC
Latin America
Bogotá, Colombia
West Coast
Oakland, CA

www.StopCorporateAbuse.org • info@stopcorporateabuse.org

Date: February, 23, 2011

Re: Brandeis Bottled Water Reduction Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

This letter is being submitted in support of Brandeis University's STARS documentation for an innovation credit for their Bottled Water Reduction efforts.

Brandeis is taking strong actions to reduce bottled water use through a deliberate consensus building process. A committee of students, faculty, and staff submitted a report to the President in October 2008 recommending restricting bottled water use where tap water was easily accessible, but to remain selling bottled water in the "convenience store" locations on campus with room to open discussion for further reductions at a later time. As of Fall 2009, bottled water is not sold in the dining halls and at catered campus events. Brandeis joined a group of 9 other schools including Brown University and Washington University in St. Louis who have instigated such a wide reduction in bottled water sales.

In order to support this transition Brandeis has invested in several logistical measures. Water fountains were upgraded with "water filler" attachments and new sinks were added in dining halls. All undergraduate students received a reusable water bottle in 2008- and incoming students will get a new one. New staff and faculty members now receive a reusable bottle at employee orientation. Dining Services offers water urns and containers for events.

In addition, educational activities concerning bottle water use have been implemented preceding the removal and until this date. Students are encouraged to "Drink Responsibly" with activities including tap water taste tests, contests, and documentary showings.

Our organization commends Brandeis University for innovative practices to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of bottled water, and looks forward to peer institutions taking similar measures in the upcoming years.

Sincerely,

John Stewart

Think Outside the Bottle

National Campaign Organizer

Corporate Accountability International

